



*The **CRE**ation of the Department of Physical Chemistry of Biological Sys**TE**ms [CREATE]*

666295 — CREATE — H2020-WIDESPREAD-2014-2015/H2020-WIDESPREAD-2014-2

Kick-off meeting report

Summary

Warsaw, July 2016



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PARTICIPANTS:

The meeting of ERA Chair Advisory Board for the CREATE project was held in the conference hall of the Institute of Physical Chemistry of the Polish Academy of Sciences (IPC) on July, 4th, 2016. The Advisory Board was composed by representatives of different sectors: science, business and authorities. Such AB composition is a prerequisite of establishment of communication channels with main stakeholders of IPC. Moreover, it guarantees that the course of the project will foster further cooperation.

The following persons participated in the meeting :

ERA Chair holder:

- **Professor Maciej Wojtkowski** – ERA Chair holder, head of Department of Physical Chemistry of Biological SysTEms, Institute of Physical Chemistry of the Polish Academy of Sciences, PL

Authorities representative:

- **Mateusz Gaczynski** – Deputy Director, Department of Innovation and Development, Ministry of Science and Higher Education, PL

Business representatives:

- **Rafał Bator** – Partner, Enterprise Investors, PL
Rafał Bator specializes in technology investments. His most important projects include AVG Technologies and restructuring of AB and Teta. Mr. Bator worked for Prokom Software Systems and Optimus, two Polish leading IT companies, as well as for PwC.
- **Justyna Garstecka** – CEO, Motherhood, PL
Founder and owner of the “Motherhood” company. Businesswoman of the Year (contest “Success Written in Lipstick”). Before setting own company Ms. Garstecka was a Brand Manager at Warner Bros.

Project management and Project-Support-Office:

- **Professor Robert Holyst** – Project Coordinator, head of Department of Soft Condensed Matter, Institute of Physical Chemistry of the Polish Academy of Sciences, PL
- **Agnieszka Tadrzak** – CREATE Project Manager, Manager for R&D funding at the Institute of Physical Chemistry of the Polish Academy of Sciences, PL
- **Dr Patrycja Niton** – member of PSO, Institute of Physical Chemistry of the Polish Academy of Sciences, PL
- **Dr Monika Kuczynska-Wydorska** – member of PSO, Institute of Physical Chemistry of the Polish Academy of Sciences, PL.

Permanent position in ERA Chair Advisory Board will also be held by **Professor Wilhelm Huck** – ERC Advanced grant holder (currently: Institute for Molecules and Materials, Radboud University Nijmegen, NL).

THE COURSE OF THE KICK-OFF MEETING - summary

The main aim of the kick-off meeting was to establish Advisory Board, to acquaint the AB members with scope and aim of the CREATE project, and – in particular – with Professor Wojtkowski.

The meeting started with a short speech of **Professor Robert Holyst**, who introduced all guests participating in AB meeting, explained selection of the respective AB members (science, business & authorities representatives). Subsequently, Professor Holyst introduced persons managing the project (Project Coordinator, Project Manager and PSO members) and gave a short introduction into the CREATE project.



Professor Maciej Wojtkowski (on the left) and Professor Robert Holyst (on the right) delivering the speeches.

The next speaker was **Professor Maciej Wojtkowski** who gave a presentation on his plans and main challenges connected with starting a new department at IPC. Professor Wojtkowski pointed main goals of the project:

- creation of a New chair - Department of Physical Chemistry of Biological Systems within the structure of the Institute of Physical Chemistry of the Polish Academy of Sciences (IPC) led by ERA Chair holder;
- extending research excellency of IPC into the new field (physical chemistry inspired by biology);
- refocusing on researching biological systems to catch up with and provide new ideas for ERA;
- creation of a new department focused on applications of developed techniques in biological systems;
- indication of research directions of modern quantitative biology studies within physical chemistry and consult on possible links of physical chemistry and biology.

Subsequently, Professor Wojtkowski made an introduction into the discussion, identifying barriers and challenges related to the performance of professional activity in research and development from the perspective of further commercialization of their results.

After the speeches discussion followed, which was mainly concentrated on giving clues how to remove barriers specified above. The representatives of the authorities, business sector and key actors in the CREATE project presented their experience on the subject and suggested various practical solutions, e.g.:

- well-defined applicable projects,
- quick reactions while cooperating with business sector,
- process of gaining funds separated from doing science,
- international cooperation,
- adjusting to the new challenges and global competition originating from the inside of the research institution,
- middle-term internships in business sector
- industrial doctorates,
- support office which could support researchers in gaining funds.