



International scientific activity
of the Polish Academy of Sciences
and its scientific centers abroad

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Introduction



The Polish Academy of Sciences, one of the most prominent scientific institutions in Poland, was **established in Warsaw in 1952**. Its roots go back to the Enlightenment - it is a successor to the Warsaw Society of Friends of Learning that was co-founded in 1800 by **Stanisław Staszic (1755-1826)**, an outstanding personality of the Polish Enlightenment, *i.a.* a Catholic priest, a philosopher, a geologist and a political writer.

The PAS is a public research institution continuing the best traditions of Polish scientific organizations. Its activities are regulated by **the Act on the Polish Academy of Sciences** signed on 30 April 2010.

General information on the PAS

The PAS is **an elected body of scholars**, composed of both **national and foreign members**. The number of national members cannot exceed **350**. New members are chosen by the General Assembly from among candidate scholars who have made outstanding contributions to their field and enjoy respect of the scientific community.

The highest governing body of the PAS is **its General Assembly**. It comprises all the national members of the Academy. When the Assembly is not in session, responsibility for all strategic decisions is delegated to **the Presidium of the Academy**.

The Academy is structured into **Divisions, Territorial Branches, Scientific and Task-force Committees**. Another Academy-level bodies are **the Polish Young Academy, the Science Ethics Committee and the Audit Committee**.

The PAS works together with the entire Polish research community. It has been trying to contribute to its integration by fostering public discussion of science-related issues as well as by being a co-organizer of various scientific events.

The Divisions of the PAS

The five Divisions of the PAS draw together scholars representing **separate, broad** fields of science. The Divisions **coordinate the operations** of research institutes and scientific committees that fall under their scope of activity and **oversee the activity** of auxiliary research units.

There are following Divisions in the structure of the PAS:

Division I – Humanities and Social Sciences

Division II – Biological and Agricultural Sciences

Division III – Mathematics, Physics, Chemistry and Earth Sciences

Division IV – Engineering Sciences

Division V – Medical Sciences

The PAS research institutes

The basic scientific unit of the PAS is a research institute. Currently, **69** are in operation. Most of them rank as **leaders in their scientific field** – they usually receive very high marks during evaluation procedures conducted by the Evaluation Committee of the Polish Ministry of Science and Higher Education. **13 PAS institutes** have received **the A+ classification**.

Several PAS institutes **form parts of research consortia and centers** that were set up to carry out concrete research projects. **9** of them have been granted the status of the **Leading National Research Center** by international bodies of experts.

The Committees of the PAS

The committees of the Polish Academy of Sciences represent **various research disciplines**. They gather national members of the PAS, researchers from non-PAS research institutes and from universities as well as representatives of economic and social institutions and organizations.

The committees serve in **an advisory capacity** on various issues. They **draw up position statements and expert studies** for the needs of the Polish public administration and **assist in resolving** specific science-related issues.

The number of the PAS committees is not fixed – new ones are being set up in response to emerging problems. Currently, there are 13 task-force committees and 78 scientific committees.

There are three types of the PAS committees:

1. **scientific committees** – they represent the research community in specific scientific disciplines;
2. **task-force committees** – these are specially-selected teams of experts for addressing specific tasks;
3. **national committees** – they are appointed to develop cooperative ties with International research organizations.

The Polish Young Academy

The Polish Young Academy was **established in 2010**. Its members are elected by the General Assembly of the PAS. Their number cannot exceed 35. At the moment of the selection, a Polish Young Academy member must **not be older than 38** and is required to **hold a PhD degree**.

Among **the tasks of the Polish Young Academy** are the following:

- *providing statements;
- *submitting programs for research projects;
- *organizing debates and conferences;
- *formulating opinions and scientific assessments;
- *promoting ethical standards among young scientists.

International cooperation

The international cooperation of the Polish Academy of Sciences is based on:

- **79 bilateral cooperation agreements** concluded with foreign academies of sciences and other institutions having a similar profile, based in 34 countries all over the world;
- membership in **68 international research organizations**, including the International Council for Science (**ICSU**), the European Academies` Science Advisory Council (**EASAC**), ALL European Academies (**ALLEA**), the European Council of Academies of Applied Sciences, Technologies and Engineering (**Euro-CASE**) and the Inter-Academy Panel: the Global Network of Science Academies (**IAP**);
- **direct cooperative ties** between the PAS research institutes and their foreign partners.

Bilateral cooperation

The cooperation conducted in the framework of **bilateral agreements** that have been concluded by the PAS and its international institutional partners is implemented through joint research projects and participation in bilateral and multilateral scientific conferences, symposia, seminars, workshops and other scientific meetings as well as through research in libraries and archives.

Our bilateral activities **are mainly based** on joint research projects.

The main foreign partners of the Polish Academy of Sciences include: France, Italy, Hungary, the Czech Republic, Slovakia, Romania, Ukraine, Lithuania, Latvia, Belarus and Bulgaria.

Cooperation with international organisations

At the Polish Academy of Sciences, there are **national committees** responsible for the cooperation with international organisations and for carrying out collaborative activities. Their composition ensures **the proper representation** of the whole scientific milieu of the country.

For each international organisation, of which the PAS is a member, there operates a national committee. These are either **specifically established** committees (currently 10) or **scientific or task-force** committees affiliated with the Academy divisions.

Foreign scientific centers of the Polish Academy of Sciences

The PAS foreign scientific centres located in Paris, Berlin, Rome, Vienna, Brussels, Moscow and Kiev undertake various activities aimed at the **promotion of the Polish science abroad** as well as at the **initiation and development of cooperation** with the research communities of their host countries.



Paris



Rome



Berlin



Vienna

PAS Scientific Center in Paris

The PAS Scientific Center in Paris **is the oldest** of all the PAS foreign centers. It was **established as a part of the Polish Library in Paris in 1893** and at the time, it was the only independent research-based Polish institution abroad. Since 1952, it has been a unit of the Polish Academy of Sciences. Its primary objective is to promote Polish science in France which includes initiating contacts between Polish and French research institutions as well as organizing conferences, exhibitions and books` promotions. The most important event organized by the PAS Scientific Center in Paris is **the Polish-French Congress** taking place every year, each time covering a different discipline: this year it was geography, last year – chemistry and 2014 - history. The Center has been also organizing other events that are taking place on a regular basis: **Le Cafe Scientifique and meetings with young Polish scholars living in France.**

The Paris Center of the PAS has been in addition maintaining a researchers` network based on their research interests as well as assisting researchers in establishing agreements between institutions. The library of the center contains at present over **10,000 volumes**. It is going to be transformed into a digital media library in the nearest future.

PAS Scientific Center in Vienna

The Center in Vienna was **opened in 1991** and has been housed in the former „Dom Polski” (Polish house) that had been for over a century a gathering place for the Polish diaspora. It has been promoting Polish science in Austria by organizing lectures, workshops, conferences and exhibitions, either independently or in cooperation with Austrian, German or other Polish institutions. Some of these events are organized on a regular basis: **the Copernicus lectures, the Conrad Celtic discussion forum, the annual military history conference and the commemoration conference on the concentration camps.** The focus of the Center`s activities lies **on the humanities.** An important field of its activities is **establishing and expanding networks of scientists.**

The Center has been publishing various series, such as: its own yearbooks, conference proceedings and monographs.

The library of the Center contains **17,000 volumes.**

PAS Scientific Center in Moscow

The history of the Center goes back to 1995, a year in which the post of **the Permanent Representative** of the Polish Academy of Sciences at the Russian Academy of Sciences was created. The first such representative started his work **in 1997**. The Permanent Representative has been at the same time director of the PAS Scientific Center in Moscow.

The main objective of the Center is the promotion of the achievements of Polish science in Russia as well as the development of the Polish-Russian scientific collaboration. The Center organizes bilateral and multilateral seminars, conferences and lectures. As both countries share an uneasy and turbulent past, **historical topics** are at the focus of the majority of these events. Events having such a focus **usually enjoy a special interest** on the part of the **Russian** audience.

Center for Historical Research of the Polish Academy of Sciences in Berlin

The Center was **established in 2006** as the Academy's first foreign unit **having a historical profile**. Since 2011, it has held the status of an auxiliary research unit of the PAS. The Center conducts projects on both historical and contemporary aspects of Polish-German relations within a larger European context. The main investigated issues have been the following: **history of World War II, collective memory and „politics of memory” in Poland, Germany and Europe, migration** between Poland and Germany and **current historical debates** in both countries.

The Center has conducted an extensive research into the German occupation of Poland during World War II in order **to establish occupation as an analytical category**.

What distinguishes the Center from the remaining foreign scientific centres of the PAS is the fact that its researchers conduct **their own individual** research projects addressing topics that are **part of the mainstream** of academic and public discourse in both countries.

Since its beginnings, the Center has played the major role in the **Joint German-Polish Textbook Commission of Historians and Geographers** with its director Prof. Robert Traba being the head of the Polish side of the Commission.

The Polish Science Contact Agency („PolSCA”) in Brussels

The PolSCA office was established in 2005. **Since April 1, 2006**, it has operated as an independent foreign centre of the Polish Academy of Sciences, acting for the benefit of the whole Polish scientific community. The PolSCA`s mission is to promote, facilitate and foster the participation of Polish researchers in European scientific projects and initiatives, and in particular **to increase the success rate** of Polish applicants **in the Horizon 2020**.

The PolSCA office organizes **PolSCA Meetings** – working meetings on specific topics, aimed at preparing scientists to apply for the Horizon 2020 funding - and **PolSCA Seminars**. It also offers **biographical exhibitions of greatest Polish scientists**. In 2011, the exhibition of Maria Skłodowska-Curie was presented over 40 times on various important premises in Belgium and Luxembourg.

Since 2009, in cooperation with the University of Warsaw, the PolSCA has published 18 statistical analyses on the international position of Polish science in selected areas.

PAS Scientific Center in Kiev

The Center was **established in late 2012** but its official opening took place only in **December 2014**. The activities undertaken by the Center include the initiation of cooperation and information exchange between Polish and Ukrainian scientific institutions, organizing bilateral conferences, lectures and workshops. So far, these events have mainly focused on **basic and technical sciences**. Since its establishment, the Centre has organized over a hundred conferences and seminars.

The Center has maintained cooperation with several Ukrainian **national-level** institution: the Ministry of Science of Ukraine and the Ukrainian academies of science (national, national agrarian and medical) as well as with the Polish Embassy in Kiev.

After the political change in Ukraine, there is **an urgent need** there to develop scientific cooperation with the European Union. Poland is **the most needed partner** for Horizon 2020 projects for Ukrainian scientists.

PAS Scientific Center in Rome

The Center was **established in 1927** as a unit of the Polish Academy of Arts and Sciences (*Polska Akademia Umiejętności*). The main aim of its activities is to represent Polish science and Polish intellectual life in Italy and to support Polish-Italian scientific cooperation. The Center organizes lectures, workshops, scientific conferences and exhibitions. It also offers assistance to Polish researchers visiting Italy.

The Center's library contains over **34,000 volumes**. 370 of them are especially valuable **old prints** (two of them dating back to the end of the XVIth century). The library collection is currently being digitalized.

The Center has maintained close contact with various Italian scientific and educational institutions, as well as with science attachées working for embassies based in Rome.

The director of the Center Prof. Piotr Salwa is a **member of editorial boards** of several Italian scientific magazines.



Thank you
for your attention.

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