

## Registration form for Polish research institution

1. Research institution data:  
**University of Silesia in Katowice,**  
ul. Bankowa 12, 40-007 Katowice, Poland  
ph: +48 32 359 22 22,  
e-mail: rektor@us.edu.pl
2. Type of research institution<sup>1</sup>:
  - 1) higher education institution
3. Head of the institution: prof. dr hab. Andrzej Kowalczyk
4. Contact information of designated person(s) for applicants and the NCN: first and last name, position, e-mail address, phone number, correspondence address: Assoc. Prof. Robert Pyka, Deputy Dean for Research and Internationalisation, Faculty of Social Sciences, University of Silesia in Katowice, robert.pyka@us.edu.pl, ph.: +48-504 388 882, ul. Bankowa 11, 40-007 Katowice, Room 1A
5. Research discipline in which the strong international position of the institution ensures establishing a Dioscuri Centre:

Arts, Humanities and Social Sciences

- Fundamental questions of human existence and the nature of reality
- Culture
- The study of the human past
- Individuals, institutions, markets
- Norms and governance
- Human nature and human society

6. Description of important research achievements from the selected discipline from the last 5 years including a list of the most important publications, patents, other:

The 21st century is called ‘the age of the metropolises and cities’ as they are becoming the predominant living environments of human beings. They are a lens focusing the major challenges of the contemporary world but also laboratories for new models of innovation, from which the shape of the world in the 21st century emerges. Thus, the knowledge of processes occurring in the cities and metropolises, backed up with reliable data and research results, can contribute to the development and better management of cities and metropolitan areas and in consequence the quality of life of their inhabitants. At the University of Silesia, such knowledge is generated by the researchers gathered in: the Research Centre for Public Policy and Regulatory Governance (the university-wide, interdisciplinary unit) and the Observatory of Urban and Metropolitan Processes (the interdisciplinary consortium of seven largest regional universities and research institutes). These two research units focus on the regional development, in particular on the analysis of urban systems, societal and industrial innovations as well as public policies and services. The recent research projects concentrate on urban social innovation as alternative way to promote civic participation and decision making processes at the local and regional level. The acquired scientific knowledge is disseminated to the decision makers and further applied in designing regional, urban and metropolitan public policies. The researchers are directly involved in the process of regional transformation by participating in public bodies, such as the Social and Economic Council of the GZM Metropolis. They have also contributed to the emergence of the first metropolitan

---

<sup>1</sup> As specified in “Addressees of the call”

association in Poland, established on the grounds of the national legislation. Since 2017, as a result of cooperation with local and regional authorities, there have been 15 large scale research projects implemented, as for example:

- Impact of the Congress and Business Events Sector in Katowice on the City's Development and Image, in collaboration with: Katowice City Hall (2018)
- Analysis of the Phenomenon of Intolerance Among Young People in the Katowice City Hall, in collaboration with: Katowice City Hall (2018)
- Analysis on Forms of Cooperation, Functional Connections, Advancement of Urbanization Processes, Description of the Settlement and Spatial System for Seven Municipalities [...] in collaboration with: Upper Silesian-Zagłębie Metropolis (2018)
- Recommendations for the Regional Urban Policy of the Śląskie Voivodeship, in collaboration with: Marshal's Office of the Śląskie Voivodeship (2018)

The research results of the above-mentioned projects are collected in the following examples of publications:

- Pyka, R. (2019) 'The evolution of metropolis status within the federal system of Canada on the example of Toronto and Montreal', *Regional and Local Studies*, no. 3(77)/2019
- Turska-Kawa, A., Wojtasik, W. (2018) Direct democracy in Poland. Between democratic centralism and civic localism, *Journal of Comparative Politics*, July 2018, vol. 11, no 2,
- Pyka, R. (2018) Upper Silesian-Zagłębie Metropolis as an innovation in local government. Chances and challenges of the first metropolitan association in Poland, *Regional and Local Studies* 1(71)/2018
- Bierwiazonek, K., Dymnicka, M., Kajdanek, K., Nawrocki, T. (2017) City, space, identity: study of three cities: Gdańsk, Gliwice, Wrocław. Warsaw: SCHOLAR
- Bierwiazonek, K. (2016) Social significance of urban public spaces, Katowice: UŚ Publishing
- Pyka, R. (2016) The evolution of municipal power in France at the beginning of the 21st century. New dimensions, new levels on the example of the Lyon Metropolis, *Regional and Local Studies*, 3(65)/2016
- Gawron, G., Szczepański, M.S., Lewicka, B. (2016) Urbanism as a way of life. Trying to rediscover, Katowice: UŚ Publishing House
- Turska-Kawa, A. (2015) Determinants of electoral volatility, Katowice: UŚ Publishing House

The researchers of the University of Silesia also undertakes the international scientific collaboration within the UN structures. In 2018, *The Analysis on the Role of Culture and Creative Sectors of Katowice and Krakow* was prepared for the Annual Meeting of the UNESCO Creative City Network. Since 2019, the partnership with the Katowice City Hall has been established to organise the 11<sup>th</sup> World Urban Forum 2022 in Katowice. It gives a unique opportunity for dissemination of scientific results to the global audience. The Dioscuri Center at the University of Silesia may become an excellent chance to enhance the quality, scale and importance of urban research conducted together with leading European partners. Thus, the Dioscuri Center can also have a significant impact on the global urban policy, discussed during the WUF 11 in Katowice in 2022.

7. List of no more than 3 important research projects from the selected discipline awarded in national and international calls to the institution in the last 5 years (title, name of PI, source of funding, amount of funding):

**1/ New European Industrial Relations: Mediation System Effectiveness for Collective Organisational Conflicts: A Comparative Study in Europe (NEIRE 3),**

prof. dr hab. Barbara Kozusznik, 2016-2018, Employment, Social Affairs and Inclusion DG Programme, Call for Proposals: Improving Expertise In The Field Of Industrial Relations Ec; project budget: 395 036 EUR; EU contribution: 341 785,10 EUR

**2/ Patterns of Resilience During Socioeconomic Crises Among Households in Europe (RESCuE),**

prof. dr hab. Kazimiera Wódz, 2014 –2017, the 7th Framework Programme funded by the European Commission, project budget: 3 086 282,40 EUR, EU contribution: 2 430 727 EUR

**3/ The Identity of the City and Its Inhabitants and Public Space. A Study of Three Cities,**

prof. dr hab. Tomasz Nawrocki, 2014-2017, National Science Center, OPUS 5, project budget: 368 030 PLN

8. Description of the available laboratory and office space for the Dioscuri Centre:

The Dioscuri Centre is of the highest importance to the Faculty of Social Sciences and the University, so the highest standard of office and seminar space will be provided.

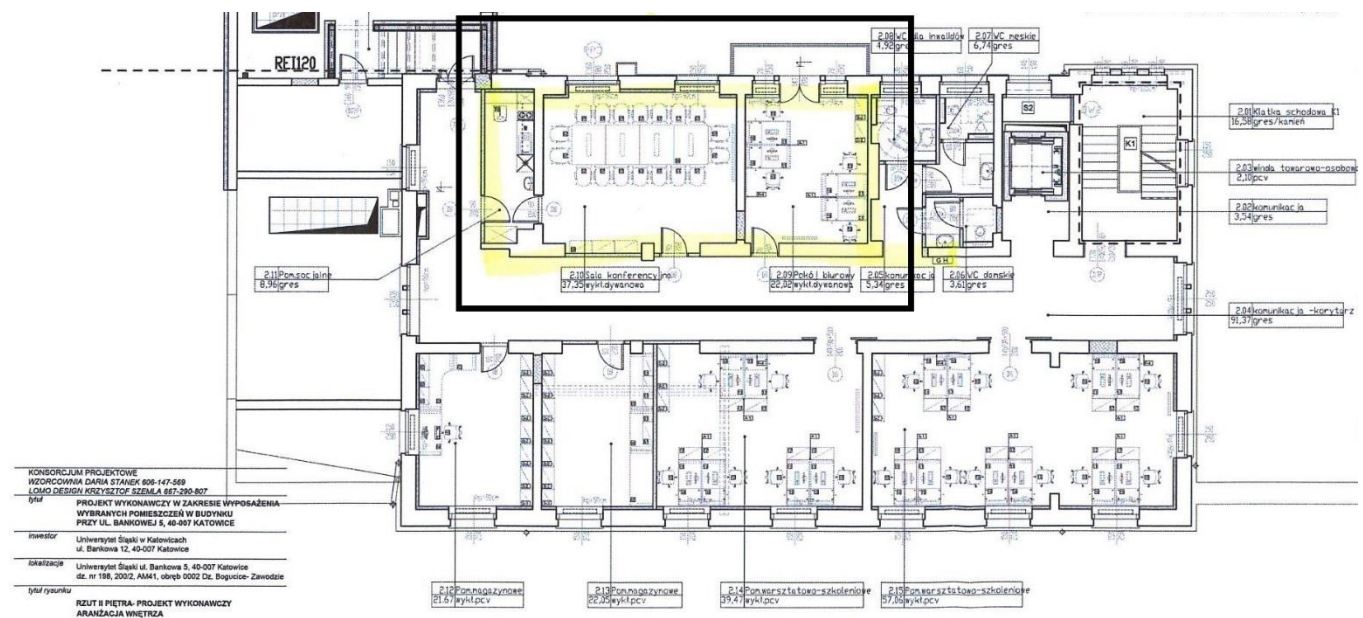
The main location of the Centre is envisaged in the building of SPINplace, which represents the latest investment project of the University of Silesia at Bankowa 5 in Katowice, co-funded from the Regional Operational Programme for Silesia Voivodeship 2014-2020 (value of the project 25 million PLN). It will be prestigious, international, creative and co-working space of the University. The Dioscuri Center will be located at the second floor of the building. There will be three rooms at the disposal of the Dioscuri researchers: one office room (22.02 sq.m), a seminar room (37.35 sq.m) and a social room (8.96 sq.m). The space will be newly furnished and equipped, using environment and health friendly solutions. The building will be adapted to the needs of people with disabilities. The researchers will also have the access to the hi-profile multimedia conference facilities as well as co-working spaces in the SPINpalce building.

Until the SPINplace refurbishment project is finished, the Centre will be located at the Faculty of Social Sciences in Bankowa 11 in Katowice. Two rooms are dedicated to the center: the office room no. 225 with a usable floor area of 34,08 square meters and multimedia seminar room no. 312 with a usable floor area of 49,28 square meters. These are two fully furnished and equipped rooms for the disposal of the PI and the Dioscuri research team. This location is adapted to the needs of people with disabilities.

Moreover, in case of research events organised by the Dioscuri Centre, the Faculty of Social Sciences will provide modern and multimedia conference and seminar rooms, such as the Kazimierz Popiołek Conference Hall (envisaged for 369 people) as well as three Symposium rooms (from 90-106 visitors). The rooms are fully equipped with the conference devices, including interactive screens, computers, the livestreaming system and the portable translation booths. Moreover, the conference film production can be provided by the Media Centre of the University of Silesia.

In case of international conferences and meetings organised by the Centre, the accommodation will be provided in the University Hotel.

Image 1. The location of the Dioscuri Centre in the SPINplace building.



9. List of the available research equipment for the Dioscuri Centre:

The Dioscuri Centre will have an access to a fully equipped multimedia office and a seminar room, allowing researchers to work globally.

The list of equipment:

- desktop computer (10 pcs) - Desktop ASUS BM1AD i3-4130/4GB/500/DVD-RW /7Pro64/W in8P, monitor LCD/LED 20" AOC E2050SW DA + keyboard Logitech K120
- TV set - LG 55LB650V
- video conferencing system - POLYOM Real Presence Group 300
- multimedia projector - BENQ TH681 HD 1080p
- electronic screen - KAUBER White Label 240x165 cm
- PC sound system - MICROLAB SOLO 6c
- video camera - Sony HDR-PJ240 Black Sony
- camera tripod - CAMROCK TE68
- file cabinet
- desk and desk chair
- chair (30 pcs)
- conference table and chairs

10. List of the additional benefits (other than listed in call text) that the Institution declares to provide for the Dioscuri Centre (i.e.: additional funds, personal benefits, other) (*up to one page in A4 format*):

**Personal benefits**

- Free of charge accommodation for the researcher and his/her family, including assistance in formalities
- Assistance in residence formalities for the researcher and his/her family, school and/or nursery arrangements for children, employment formalities for spouse/partner (if applicable)
- Additional health insurance and private medical package for the researcher and his/her family
- Polish language course for the researcher and his/her family
- Public transport card for the researcher and his/her family
- Benefit Systems sports cards for the researcher and his/her family
- Entry cards for cultural and educational facilities, e.g.: the National Symphonic Orchestra of the Polish Radio, the Silesian Philharmonic, cinemas, museums, galleries and theatres
- Study Visit Poland – programme of exploring Polish heritage sites
- Participation in local events and networking with key stakeholders

**Administration support for the Dioscuri Centre**

- Administration support for the Dioscuri Centre provided by the Evaluation Office of the Faculty of Social Sciences with regard to: organisation of international conferences and seminars, management of business travels and participation in research events, other administrative support required by the PI and Dioscuri researchers
- External funding support for the Centre provided by the Evaluation Office of the Faculty of Social Sciences and Project Department of the University of Silesia, i.e. searching for additional research funding programmes, research collaboration and partnerships, providing assistance in preparation of grant applications and translations
- Public relation support through the Media Centre and the Spokesperson's Office of the University of Silesia
- Access to the international and national data base, including research partners, public authorities, NGOs, private sector entities

11. Other information about the internationalisation of the research institution, international researchers employed at the institution, the availability of English language seminars etc.:

The University of Silesia fosters and conducts research projects oriented towards current social issues. It takes part in 250 national & international projects with 1,400 research grants in all academic disciplines and 14 cluster initiatives. From local to regional, and from European to global, it represents modern scientific approach including observation, dialogue, evaluation, counselling and problem solving. It supports social scientists in international collaboration aiming at achieving research excellence and global impact. As an outcome, in 2017, the University of Silesia in Katowice received the HR Excellence in Research Award from the European Commission. The university has found itself among the elite group of institutions that provide researchers with the best working and development conditions: a transparent recruitment process, stable employment and opportunities for professional development at all stages of their careers.

As a part of this HR Research Strategy, the Faculty of Social Sciences takes a considerable effort to establish the Academy of University Competence Development (POWER grant), including academic English language courses. There are 83 seminars in English and 4 in French provided. In the process of internationalization, in 2014, the Academic Success Center was founded at the Faculty as the initiative of the Francophone University Agency, being a part of the European network of Academic Success Centers (Centre de réussite universitaire) of 26 institutions located in Central and Eastern Europe. The project created the opportunity to successfully recruit two French researchers in the field of social sciences for the duration of three years.

Another form of scientific collaboration supporting the strategic developmental goal of the Faculty to strengthen international relations and visibility are bilateral agreements with over 95 partners worldwide. There is also an ongoing research cooperation established with the Centre on Governance of the University of Ottawa (Canada), the Research Unit UMR 5600 "Environment City Society" (EVS) and the Observatory on Local Autonomy Network (OLA).

As the results of the multilateral agreement, the International Academic Enterprise Incubator (MIP) was established in 2018. It is a network connecting universities, local government units, chambers of commerce and employers' associations from following countries: Monastir (Tunisia), Tamatave (Madagascar), Saint-Étienne (France), Sierre (Switzerland) and Katowice (Poland). It opens up opportunities for academic enterprises emerging at the University to promote their offer abroad and to appear on the international market. MIP activities are co-financed from the POWER 2014-2020 Program.

As scientific conferences are inscribed in the academic tradition of sharing expert knowledge, building and consolidating research community, the Faculty hosts many international events, such as:

- Public Policy and Regulation – Methods, Limits and Dilemmas, international seminar with speakers from: the US, Israel and Poland, 14.03.2019
- Society - Work - Consumption. The economic awareness of the young generation, international conference with speakers from: Czech Republic, Slovakia, Poland and Hungary, 07.11.2018
- Social Boundaries of Work. Methodological and Practical Problems of Research on Work and Employment in Modern Societies, international conference with speakers from: the UK and Poland, 27-28.10.2017
- Metropolis under Tension, international conference with speakers from: Lyon and Saint-Etienne (France) and the Ruhr Metropolis (Germany) and representatives of the Upper Silesia-Zagłębie Metroplis (Poland), Katowice, 29.09.2017
- Metropolises as Creative Learning Areas. Creative Cities, Creative Residents, Creative Industries – Development after the Crisis, international conference with speakers from France, Germany, Australia, Poland), Katowice, 10.10.2016

The location of the University in Katowice, as the main city of the Silesian Voivodeship and Metropolis GZM as well as one of the most important economic, academic and cultural centers in southern Poland, has a major importance for its international development. The city is located relatively close to such European capital cities as Budapest, Bratislava, Vienna, Prague, Berlin and Warsaw. As the UNESCO Creative City of Music, it hosted the UNESCO Creative Cities Network Annual Meeting in 2018. The COP 24 Climate Summit was held here in 2019 and it will be a venue for 2022 World Urban Forum (11 WUF 2022). With its eye on future investment, Katowice is in the process of transformation into a major metropolitan center. Thus, it creates a living lab for researchers interested in urban and metropolitan processes.