

7-8 MAY 2026

# Go Global!

*From Excellence to Recognition —  
Building Global Impact of Polish Higher Education*

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## **Panel 1:** **Internationalisation Strategy**

**Moderator: Dorothy Kelly, University of Granada**  
**Panellists:**

*Małgorzata Jacobs-Kozyra, National Science Center*

*Małgorzata Lewandowska, Warsaw University of Technology*

*Marek Gorgoń, AGH University of Science and Technology*

*Diana Pustuła, University of Warsaw*



**Dorothy Kelly** is a professor of Translation at the University of Granada (Spain), where she was also Vice Rector for Internationalization (2008- 2023).

Since 2008, she has devoted her time almost entirely to the internationalization of higher education. She has extensive experience in joint programme design and delivery, multilateral cooperation, and designing and managing mobility programmes of all kinds.

She has participated in Spanish, European and various international advisory boards and events in the field of higher education and its internationalization. Between 2008 and 2023 she participated actively in capacities on the Committee for Internationalization and Development Cooperation at the Spanish Rectors' Conference.

Since 2018, she has been the coordinator of Arqus, one of the first 17 European University Alliances to be approved by the European Commission and composed by the universities of Graz, Leipzig, Lyon 1, Maynooth, Minho, Padua, Vilnius and Wrocław, along with Granada. In 2023-24, she coordinated one of the six policy experimentation projects on the European Degree (Label), EDLab, involving four different European University Alliances: Enlight, Eutopia and SEA-EU alongside Arqus.



**Małgorzata Jacobs-Kozyra** - A linguist by training, she holds a PhD from the Ludwig Maximilian University of Munich and Jagiellonian University in Kraków.

Since 2016 she has been working at the National Science Centre, where she leads major international research programmes, including CHANSE (Collaboration of Humanities and Social Sciences in Europe), a consortium of 27 research funding organisations funded under Horizon 2020, and the DIOSCURI Centres of Scientific Excellence developed in cooperation with the Max Planck Society. Her work focuses on international research cooperation, science diplomacy and science culture. She is actively involved in shaping discussions on the internationalisation of Polish science and serves on the Advisory Panel for the National Internationalisation Strategy.



**Małgorzata Lewandowska** is a full professor at the Faculty of Materials Science and Engineering at the Warsaw University of Technology, with over 25 years of experience in materials science, specializing in structural and mechanical characterization. Her research focuses on ultrafine-grained and nanocrystalline metals, particularly microstructure evolution during severe plastic deformation and post-processing phenomena such as precipitation, joining, and surface modification. She combines expertise in material processing with advanced nanoscale characterization using modern microscopic techniques.

She has co-authored over 350 scientific papers published in leading materials science journals. She is ranked among the World's Top 2% most cited scientists, according to a list compiled by Stanford University in collaboration with Elsevier. In recent years, she has served as Head of the Managing Team of the IDUB project at the Warsaw University of Technology.



**Marek Gorgoń** received MSc, Ph.D. and D.Sc. from AGH University of Science and Technology in Krakow, Poland. Full Professor at AGH, currently serve as Vice Rector for Science. His research interests include: image processing, software–hardware codesign, reconfigurable devices, embedded systems and applications. His research is focused on FPGA-based vision system architectures, with a particular attention on real-time systems.

He is a member of the Committee on Automation and Robotics of the Polish Academy of Sciences, ALICE High Energy Physics Experiment at CERN (Geneva, Switzerland), steering or scientific committees of many international conferences in his field of interest (FPL, ARC, DASIP) and IEEE Senior Member. He has written two scientific monographs and is the author of 300 scientific publications.



**Diana Pustuła**, MA, LL.M. Since 2018, head of the Office for International Research and Liaison at the University of Warsaw, deputy Secretary General of the 4EU+ Alliance, coordinator of two horizontal activities within the Excellence Initiative – Research University, member of the "HR Excellence in Research Award" team, former project leader in the EU Horizon 2020 Programme, former deputy head of the UW Research Services Office.

A lawyer by training (AMU Poznań, LL.M. TU Dresden), she holds postgraduate diplomas from Cambridge, the UW and Speyer (DAAD scholarship). A Fulbright H.H. Humphrey Scholar at Penn State; graduate of the UW Leadership Academy. She translated EU legal acts at the General Secretariat of the Council of the EU in Brussels. She headed the Regional Contact Point "Centre" for EU Research Programmes, chaired the UNICA EU Research Liaison Officers Group, and led the "LEGAL" Working Group within COST Action BESTPRAC. She also serves as an EC expert on FP simplification, and is a member of EUA expert groups, GEPs–IGLO/KoWi and the Horizon Europe working group at the Polish Chamber of Commerce for High Technology.



***Panel 2:***  
***The Ranking Game: Mastering the Metrics of Global Excellence***

***Presenter:***  
***Leonardo Andrade, QS Quacquarelli Symonds***



**Leonardo Andrade - Director for Europe, QS Quacquarelli Symonds**

Leonardo has over 15 years of experience at QS, during which he has supported universities and business schools across Europe and the Americas in developing student recruitment strategies and strengthening their international visibility. Trained in biomedicine and multilingual, he has developed deep expertise in higher education quality indicators, higher education marketing, and strategic partnerships.

He has helped numerous institutions expand their global footprint by optimising their brand and developing strategic collaborations. Leonardo regularly participates in major international higher education conferences and has delivered many presentations to universities, quality agencies and governments, sharing his insights on global sector trends and best practices in international attractiveness.



***Panel 2:***  
***The Ranking Game: Mastering the Metrics  
of Global Excellence***

***Presenter:***  
***Andrei Mikhailov, Clarivate***



**Andrei Mikhailov, Clarivate, Senior Consultant**

Dr. Andrei Mikhailov is a Senior Consultant at Clarivate, where he leads professional consulting services projects across Europe and Central Asia. In this role, he works closely with universities, research organizations, government bodies, and industry partners to deliver strategic, data-driven insights that support research performance, institutional strategy, and evidence-based decision-making.

Dr. Mikhailov brings more than 15 years of professional experience spanning both academic and industry research sectors across Europe. He combines a strong academic background with extensive hands-on expertise in strategic analytics, research evaluation, and advanced data interpretation. His work focuses on translating complex bibliometric and research intelligence data into actionable insights that inform policy, funding strategies, and organizational priorities.



***Panel 2:***  
***The Ranking Game: Mastering the Metrics  
of Global Excellence***

***Presenter:***  
***Ann-Catherine Rota, Elsevier***



In charge of strategic engagement for Europe, Middle East and Africa for the Elsevier Research Intelligence activities, **Anne-Catherine Rota** leads long-term strategic initiatives across the region, working closely with the European Commission, governments, universities, and regional stakeholders to explore how Elsevier's data and advanced data capabilities can support well-informed decisions within the research & innovation ecosystems, as well as enhance visibility.

For 17 years with Elsevier, Anne-Catherine's focus goes to building strategic relationships, understanding further the challenges, and supporting implementation of strategies articulating the appropriate Elsevier lines of expertise in the project, in a co-creation mode. Anne-Catherine Rota graduated with honors in Law at Université Paris Panthéon-Sorbonne.



## **Panel 3:** ***Beyond Numbers: What Really Drives Ranking Success***

**Moderator: Marcin Kapczyński, Clarivate**

**Panellists:**

*Leonardo Andrade, QS Quacquarelli Symonds*

*Paula Milewska, Elsevier*

*Timon Oefelein, Nature Springer*

*Miłosz Rojek, Perspektywy*



**Marcin Kapczyński** is a Strategic Customer Success Manager at Clarivate, specializing in data analytics and data-driven solutions for academic institutions. He holds a degree in psychology from Cardinal Stefan Wyszyński University in Warsaw.

Since 2010, Marcin has worked closely with universities, research organizations, and national-level stakeholders to support strategic decision-making, enhance research visibility, and improve institutional performance in global rankings. He has extensive experience in bibliometrics, scientometrics, and research evaluation.

Marcin's work focuses on developing evidence-based strategies for research development and assessment, optimizing funding approaches, strengthening scientific collaboration, and identifying emerging research trends. He regularly advises university research offices and policymakers on the effective use of high-quality, AI-driven data and insights for benchmarking, collaborative analysis, and strategic research planning.

Passionate about promoting excellence in research, Marcin actively contributes to capacity-building initiatives through workshops, consultations, and sustained engagement with the academic community across Europe.



**Leonardo Andrade** has over 15 years of experience at QS, during which he has supported universities and business schools across Europe and the Americas in developing student recruitment strategies and strengthening their international visibility. Trained in biomedicine and multilingual, he has developed deep expertise in higher education quality indicators, higher education marketing, and strategic partnerships.

He has helped numerous institutions expand their global footprint by optimising their brand and developing strategic collaborations. Leonardo regularly participates in major international higher education conferences and has delivered many presentations to universities, quality agencies and governments, sharing his insights on global sector trends and best practices in international attractiveness.



**Paula Milewska** is specializing in strategic support for research institutions. With over 19 years of experience in the academic and government sectors, her expertise areas include scientific information, academic publishing, digital transformation in academia, and research performance evaluation. She provides practical support to research institutions, aiding them in achieving better research outcomes and strategic development.

As a Customer Consultant and Customer Success Manager, Paula supports universities in Central and Eastern Europe. Starting in 2025, she holds the position of Research Intelligence Solutions Account Manager, focusing on strategic support for research institutions in the region.

She was a board member and project coordinator at the Fenomen Foundation, focusing on embracing academic libraries and digital education and transforming the Polish academic libraries landscape (2010-2022). She completed the School of Leaders of the Polish-American Freedom Foundation (2022), the Elsevier Leadership Program (2023), and the SWPS University Advanced Program for Trainers (2024).



**Timon Oefelein** is Head of Academic Affairs for Central and Northern Europe at Springer Nature. He leads regional academic affairs strategy, coordinates the Springer Nature European Research Advisory Council, and project-leads an annual educational panel session at the EU's European Council Library. Timon joined Springer Nature in 2000 as Global Manager of Copywriting, later becoming Head of Global Product Data.

Since 2018, his work has focused on strategic Open Science partnerships. His collaboration with Maastricht University on the societal impact of research won the LIBER Libraries Innovation Award 2021 and the Springer Nature Innovation Award 2020 - the first ever in the Editorial category - recognizing one of the world's first SDG content classifiers using machine learning.

His key interests include the transition to Open Science, research integrity, and the role of AI in scholarly communication.



**Miłosz Rojek** – head of the Rankings Analysis Team at the “Perspektywy” Educational Foundation and an assistant professor in the Department of Applied Economics at SGH Warsaw School of Economics. From 2016 to 2022, he worked in the Analysis and Strategy Unit in the Ministry of Science and Higher Education, serving as the unit's head since 2019. There, he participated in reforming the higher education and science system. Previously, he served,

among other roles, as secretary of the Regulatory Impact Assessment Team at the Ministry of Justice and as director of the Education Department at the Polish Financial Supervision Authority.



## **Panel 4:**

### ***Pathways to Excellence: Universities in Action***

#### ***Moderator:***

***Michał Żmijewski, Medical University of Gdańsk***

#### ***Panellists:***

*Piotr Kępski, Polish National Agency for Academic Exchange*

*Adam Kola, Nicolaus Copernicus University, Toruń*

*Peter Lievens, KU Leuven*

*Wojciech Macyk, Jagiellonian University*



**Michał Żmijewski**, full-time professor, is Vice-Rector for Science and Head of the Department of Histology. He is the author of more than 130 scientific publications focused on physiological and pathological processes in the skin, including studies using live microscopy, as well as research on novel therapeutics. His scientific interests also include the role of vitamin D in health and disease; he is a co-author of the latest Polish recommendations on the prevention and treatment of vitamin D deficiency (2023). His teaching activities cover histology, cell biology, biochemistry, and drug discovery. Professor Żmijewski is a member of numerous scientific societies and organizations.



**Piotr Kępski** - Director of the Department of Institutional Programmes at Polish National Agency for Academic Exchange (NAWA). Piotr graduated from the University of Warsaw and obtained PhD in Sociology. He was a fellow of Robert Bosch Foundation. He is a project manager with long experience in public sector. From 2004 to 2018, he had worked for the Ministry of Science and Higher Education (PL), where he i.a. had been a delegate to the programme committee for Future Technologies (FET) Horizon 2020. Since 2018, Piotr has been working for Polish Agency NAWA. He coordinated several programmes, including Welcome to Poland. Since 2024, is charge of the Department of Institutional Programmes that supports international collaboration.



**Adam Kola** is a literary scholar and intellectual historian at Nicolaus Copernicus University in Toruń. From 2019 to 2024, he was the director of the University's IMSErt Center of Excellence – Interactions: Mind, Society, Environment. Before this, he held positions as Vice Dean of the Faculty of Philology (2016-2019) and the Faculty of Humanities (2019-2020). Since 2024 dr. Kola has been the Assistant Secretary-General of the UNESCO-affiliated FILLM after previously serving on the board of the International Comparative Literature Association (2019-2022). Dr. Kola has held fellowships at the University of Amsterdam's Institute for Advanced Study, the University of Chicago, Columbia University's Harriman Institute, and Charles University in Prague, and participated in the inaugural session of the Harvard- and Peking University-organized Institute for World Literature in Beijing (2011). He completed executive programs at Yale School of Management (2023) and the University of Cambridge (2024).



**Peter Lievens** is Professor of Experimental Physics KU Leuven. After his PhD in nuclear physics (1991) and a fellowship at CERN, he returned to Belgium in 1993 to pursue experimental quantum physics and nanoscience as an FWO Postdoctoral Researcher. He obtained tenure as Research Professor (BOF-ZAP) in and has been Full Professor at KU Leuven since 2007. He has been granted research projects by the Research Foundation– Flanders, the KU Leuven Research Fund,

and the European Framework programmes, including as coordinator of two Marie-Sklodowska Curie Action Initial Training Networks.

He served as Vice Dean and then elected Dean of the Faculty of Science (2008–2017). From 2017 to 2025 was Vice Rector of International Policy, Interculturality and Alumni Policy, representing KU Leuven in international networks, including LERU and Universitas21. Since 2020 he has been coordinator of the European Commission Key Action 2 Erasmus+ projects on the European University Initiative (1Europe and Una.Futura), supporting the Una Europa alliance.



**Wojciech Macyk** – chemist and full professor at the Jagiellonian University (since 2016), from 2024 holds the position of Vice-Rector for Research. He earned his PhD in 2000 at the University of Erlangen–Nuremberg, Germany. Specializes in photocatalysis, semiconductor spectroelectrochemistry and photoelectrochemistry. He leads the Photocatalysis Research Group at the Faculty of Chemistry and has authored 160 scientific publications and several patents (h-index = 49, ~13,300 citations).

He served as Dean of the Faculty of Chemistry (2020–2024) and previously as Vice-Dean for Research. He was a visiting professor at the Hokkaido University and Western Sydney University. He is a recipient of numerous scientific awards, including the START scholarship from the Foundation for Polish Science, Polityka’s “Stay with Us!” award, and the Prime Minister’s Award. Listed among the World’s Top 2% Scientists; co-founder of InPhoCat – Innovative Photocatalytic Solutions Ltd.



## **Panel 5:** ***From Local Excellence to Global Influence***

### **Moderator:**

***Rafał Łukasik, Łukasiewicz Research Network***

### **Panellists:**

*Holly Ann Baldwin, Clarivate*

*Maria Kelo, European University Association*

*Sebastian Werle, Silesian University of Technology*

*Przemysław Wojtaszek, Adam Mickiewicz University*



**Rafał Łukasik** graduated from the Faculty of Chemistry at Warsaw University of Technology, specializing in Chemical Technology. He obtained a PhD in Chemical Engineering from NOVA University of Lisbon (Portugal). In 2022, he earned the title of professor in engineering and technical sciences in the field of chemical engineering. In 2023, he completed his habilitation in chemical engineering at NOVA University of Lisbon (Portugal). He spent over 19 years

abroad, mainly in Portugal, working as a Senior Researcher at the National Laboratory of Energy and Geology in the Bioenergy and Biorefinery Department. He completed several international internships, including in the Marie Skłodowska-Curie programs in the UK and Germany. Since 2023, he has been working at the Łukasiewicz Centre.

He is also a Board Member of EARTO, Plenipotentiary of the President of the Łukasiewicz Research Network for International Relations, Expert of the Scientific Reconstruction Team of Ukraine at the Polish Academy of Sciences, Expert on technological infrastructure at DG RTD, and Expert of Working Group 7: Updating EU guidelines for better knowledge valorization in the European Research Area.



**Holly Ann Baldwin** is currently the Director of Consulting, Academic and Government, and is based in London. Drawing on years of expertise in research and data-driven decision-making, Holly collaborates closely with academic leaders, government officials, and research managers, helping them navigate the complexities of research funding, policy-making, and performance evaluation while strengthening academic reputation and global influence. She combines a

passion for data and a commitment to advancing global research, ensuring that Clarivate's consulting services continue to support development of innovative methodologies and customized solutions, enabling clients can make informed decisions in a rapidly evolving research landscape.

With a proven track record in consulting and advisory services, as a strategic advisor for Europe, she works with a team dedicated to providing tailored solutions that enhance research and innovation for academic institutions, government bodies, and organizations worldwide



**Maria Kelo** is Director of Institutional Development at European University Association (EUA). The unit's work focuses on recognition, quality assurance, rankings, and learning and teaching, including the European Degree.

She is a member of the Swiss Accreditation Council, vicepresident of the European Quality Assurance Register, and co-represents EUA in the Bologna Process.

Before joining EUA in 2022, Maria was the Director of the European Association for Quality Assurance in Higher Education, and previously worked in different European organisations in higher education.



**Sebastian Werle** is a researcher and academic leader specializing in biomass and waste utilization, with particular expertise in pyrolysis, including solar pyrolysis, gasification, solvolysis, and oxidative liquefaction. His research focuses on advanced thermochemical conversion processes, renewable energy, and sustainable technologies supporting the circular economy. He is the author of more than 300 scientific publications, with over 100 papers indexed in the Web of Science database. Prof. Werle serves as Vice-Rector for Science and International Collaboration and is also the Head of Renewable Energy Sources at the Faculty on Power and Environmental Engineering Silesian University of Technology. He is a member of the Polish Section of the Combustion Institute. In addition to his scientific achievements, he is actively involved in strengthening international academic partnerships and promoting cooperation between universities, research institutions, and industry. His work combines scientific excellence with strategic leadership in higher education.



**Przemysław Wojtaszek** is a professor of biological sciences and a Head of the Department of Molecular and Cellular Biology at the Faculty of Biology, Adam Mickiewicz University (AMU). His research focuses on the structural and functional integrity of plant cells. He is the author of nearly 300 scientific publications, Principal Investigator in approximately 30 research projects, and Editor-in-Chief of *Acta Physiologiae Plantarum* since 2004. Since 2020 he has been ranked among World's Top 2% Scientists by publication impact in plant sciences. His international experience includes fellowships at Royal Holloway University of London (Royal Society) and the University of Bonn (Alexander von Humboldt). At AMU he serves as Vice-Rector for Finances and Research Projects, and has been a key contributor to AMU's Strategy 2020–2030. He chairs the Research and Transfer Committee of the EPICUR University Alliance and the Conference of Deans of Faculties of Natural Sciences of Polish Universities (since 2012). Founder and Honorary Member of the Polish Society of Experimental Plant Biology.



## **Panel 6:**

# ***Poland at the Table: Shaping the Future of Global Higher Education***

***Moderator: Katarzyna Aleksy,  
Foundation for the Development of the Education System  
Panellists:***

*Laura Howard, University of Cádiz*

*Patrycja Matusz, University of Wrocław*

*Marta Muter, National Centre for Research and Development*

*Józef Sienkiewicz, Gdańsk University of Technology*



**Katarzyna Aleksy** is Director of the Higher Education Programmes Department at the Foundation for the Development of the Education System (FRSE), serving as the leading sectoral director for all Erasmus+ and European Solidarity Corps programmes and the main liaison with the European Commission and National Agencies.

She has extensive experience in shaping international education policy and programme management.

At FRSE, she developed and implemented scholarship schemes and cooperation frameworks under the Norwegian, EEA and Swiss–Polish Funds, fostering academic mobility and institutional collaboration between Poland, Norway, Iceland, Liechtenstein, and Switzerland. She also contributed to negotiations with donor countries on the next programming period of the Financial Mechanisms.

As Director at the Polish National Agency for Academic Exchange (NAWA), she authored and co-authored flagship initiatives such as Welcome to Poland, Strategic Partnerships, and Support for European Universities. She also developed the foundations for Poland's national strategy for the internationalisation of higher education.

A regular speaker at international conferences (APAIE, NAFSA, EAIE), she served on the Board of Administrators of the Academic Cooperation Association (ACA) and is a member of the Advisory Board to the Ministry of Science and Higher Education for the European Universities Initiative



**Laura Howard** has held various management positions related to internationalisation at the University of Cadiz (Spain) and was President (2014-2016) of the European Association for International Education (EAIE). Laura is co-author of the report “Internationalisation of Higher Education” prepared for the European Parliament in 2015.

Between 2019 and 2024, she was Director for Internationalisation of Education and then General

Director of the coordination team of the European University of the Seas (SEA-EU). She is currently a member of the Advisory Board to the Policy Lab for the implementation of the European Degree label.



**Patrycja Matusz** is a Professor of Political Science at the University of Wrocław. Currently serving as Vice-Rector for Internationalisation and Rector's Representative for the Research University Excellence Initiative. Specializes in international migration governance, and intercultural education. She has advised the German Federal Ministry of Education and Research, the French and Polish Ministries of Higher Education and the Council of Europe.

Under her leadership, the University of Wrocław joined the ArQus European University Alliance — where she serves on the Steering Committee — and in 2025 was admitted to the Coimbra Group. In 2024 she was appointed by the Minister of Science as Plenipotentiary for European Affairs and the Polish Presidency of the Council of the European Union.

Professor Matusz is a laureate of the EDUinspiracje Special Award for the Polish EU Council Presidency and recipient of the Gwiazda Umieędzynarodowienia 2026 award — recognition of her outstanding contribution to the internationalisation of Polish higher education.



**Marta Muter** is a seasoned EU policy advisor and program manager with over 20 years of experience in international cooperation and Research & Innovation. Specialist in the Horizon Europe framework. From 2011 to 2021, she served as a Project Adviser at the European Research Executive Agency in Brussels, managing project portfolios and overseeing large-scale project proposal evaluations. Earlier, at European Commission's DG RTD she contributed to the preparatory work that established the EU's research executive agencies. In Poland she held high-level roles including Director of the Department of Programmes for Scientists at NAWA and Head of Section at the National Contact Point (NCBR). She was instrumental in integrating the current NCP into the Agency and setting up the national network for Marie Skłodowska-Curie Actions. As a National Delegate to the Horizon Europe Programme Committee, she links national strategy and European R&I policy. She is currently the Head of Section for European Research Area at the National Contact Point (NCBR).



**Józef E. Sienkiewicz** is a professor of physics affiliated with Gdańsk University of Technology and the University of Gdańsk, he was awarded the title of full professor in 2002. He completed his habilitation at Nicolaus Copernicus University in Toruń in 1993, defended doctoral dissertation at the University of Gdańsk in 1984, and obtained master's degree in 1978. Since 1996, he has headed the Department of Theoretical Physics and Quantum Information at Gdańsk University of Technology. He has held numerous academic positions, including Vice-Rector for Research, Dean, and Vice-Dean of the Faculty of Applied Physics and Mathematics; since 2024, he has served as Vice-Rector for Cooperation. He has completed research fellowships at universities in Oxford, Windsor, Kassel, and Paris. His research focuses on atomic and molecular physics, chemical physics, and relativistic methods for describing electron and positron scattering. He is the author of 70 scientific articles and monographs, the supervisor of 10 doctoral dissertations, and the PI of numerous research projects.