

## Registration form

**This is a registration form for Host Institutions wanting to establish a Dioscuri Centre of Scientific Excellence within Dioscuri 4 call.**

1. Research institution data (name and address):

**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. Ryszard Koziółek

4. Contact information of designated person(s) for applicants and the NCN: first and last name, position, e-mail address, phone number, correspondence address: Prof. Ewa Rott-Pietrzyk, Plenipotentiary for Internationalisation Faculty of Law and Administration, University of Silesia in Katowice, ewa.rott-pietrzyk@us.edu.pl, ph.: +48 32 359 19 59, ul. Bankowa 11B, 40-007 Katowice, Room 2.12

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

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

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 (*up to one page in A4 format*):

The Faculty of Law and Administration of the University of Silesia in Katowice, Poland is one of the leading law faculties in Poland. The number of academics employed in the Institute of Law totals 120. Members of the Institute have authored a large number of publications and have obtained numerous research grants, as well as they take part in plenty international academic groups. The research covers all the main fields of law: theory and philosophy of law, constitutional law, administrative law, civil law, penal law, private and public international law, history of law. Among the aforementioned such issues as animal protection, cross-border litigation, gender gap should be underlined.

The Institute is heavily involved in the cutting-edge research on the legal protection of animals, particularly the perspectives of further evolution of the law on the legal status of non-human subjects and procedural and substantive standards of animal protection. In theoretical dimension the research has brought i.a. an original theory of animals as non-personal legal subject of the law, distinct from two dominant approaches to their protection - either by granting them legal personhood or by protecting their welfare as a special kind of 'living' property. Publications by prof. dr hab. T. Pietrzykowski relating to this field of research include: *Animal Rights in: Cambridge Handbook of New Human Rights*, Cambridge University Press 2020, *Personhood Beyond Humanity. Animals, Chimers, Autonomous Agents and the Law*, SpringerNature, 2019, *Legal Personhood: Animals. Artificial Intelligence and the Law*, V. Kurki/T. Pietrzykowski (Eds). SpringerNature 2017, *New Approaches to the Personhood in Law. Essays in Legal Philosophy*, T. Pietrzykowski/B. Stancioli (eds.), Peter Lang 2016. In the practice-oriented research strand, several projects have been carried out in close cooperation with law-making and administrative institutions to advise on designing new practical solutions pertaining to various aspects of the legal protection of animals. The research of prof. T. Pietrzykowski are financed by the grant of the Polish National Science Center (NCN) within the OPUS competition: "Theoretical Foundations of the Legal Protection of Animals. Comprehensive Study on Conceptual, Systemic and Comparative Aspects of Animal Welfare Law". Additionally, the civil context of animal protection has been researched at the Institute, resulting in a dissertation of dr M. Lubelska – Sazanów, *Animals as specific objects of obligations under Polish and German law*, Vandehoek & Ruprecht Unipress, 2020.

The research on cross-border litigation contributes to the correct and uniform implementation of EU Private International Law (EU PIL) instruments in the Central European (CE) Member States. It examines whether the EU's current judicial system works optimally to create "a Europe of law and justice" in the CE Member States, including the questions whether the current institutional architecture is susceptible of securing an "effective remedy" for cross-border litigants, whether CE national courts deal appropriately with uniform EU PIL and finally whether the CE experiences call for a reform. Its aim is to enhance the correct and uniform implementation of EU PIL instruments, inquiring whether national practices are in line with EU law (including the relevant CJEU case-law) and with each other - improving the in-depth knowledge of EU PIL instruments and increasing the capacity of national practitioners - exchange of experiences among CE courts - policy proposals for the improvement of the system. Through analyzing the practical operation of EU PIL, the research addresses problems and answer needs that have not been answered before. While comparable research has been carried out as to old MS, the CE region has never been subject to a comprehensive screening. The research is financed by the UE funds granted to prof. M. Jagielska in the Justice Programme: "Cross-border litigation in Central-Europe: EU private international law before national courts".

The next important research field has been carried by the research team on Public International Law and Human Rights. Leader of the Team, Prof. B. Mikołajczyk, specialises in international human rights law, particularly in the phenomenon of ageism and rights of older adults. Her international cooperation within the COST action on ageism (IS1402) resulted in various publications, including: Older persons' right to health - a challenge to international law, *Ageing Soc.* Vol. 39, iss. 8 (2019). The Team is involved in international and national research projects, such as the one co-financed by the PROGRESS Programme of the European Union (Close the Deal, Fill the Gap), JUST/2013/PROG/AG/4890/GE, "The Gender Pay Gap and Social Partnership in Europe". The research is reflected in a monograph: *The gender pay gap and social partnership in Europe: findings from "close the deal, fill the gap"* / ed. H. Conley, D. Gottardi, G. Healy, B. Mikołajczyk, M. Peruzzi, London : Routledge, 2019. Moreover, members of the Research Team conduct international research, i.e. in Rwanda and Bosnia and Herzegovina. They participated in the COST action and are members of the academic networks as the Odysseus Academic Network on Migration and Asylum in Europe, the International Network of Genocide Scholars and the EuroGender Network in the framework of EIGE.

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. **Title:** "Obligation elements affecting a status of a heir under Polish and German inheritance law. A comparative challenge and perspective of approximation of legal systems"

**Name of PI:** prof. dr hab. Ewa Rott-Pietrzyk

**Source of funding:** DEUTSCH-POLNISCHE WISSENSCHAFTSSTIFTUNG, main call

**Amount of funding:** 44 555 EUR

2. **Title:** "Cross-border litigation in Central-Europe: EU private international law before national courts"

**Name of PI:** assoc. prof. Monika Jagielska

**Source of funding:** The European Commission within Justice Programme

**Amount of funding:** 34 843 EUR

3. **Title:** "Multi-Agent Systems for Pervasive Artificial Intel"

**Name of PI:** assoc. prof. Monika Jagielska

**Source of funding:** The European Commission within HORIZON 2020 Programme

**Amount of funding:** 203 125 PLN

8. Description of the available laboratory and office space for the Dioscuri Centre (*up to one page in A4 format*):

The Dioscuri Center will be located in the building of the Faculty of Law and Administration at ul. Bankowa 11B in Katowice, on the first floor of a building adapted to the needs of the disabled. It will be a modern and multifunctional office with high standards, providing excellent working conditions for the

research team. The researchers at the Dioscuri Center will have at their disposal three interconnected rooms furnished and equipped with modern solutions. Scientists will be able to use auditoriums, conference rooms and cafes located in the building. The conference rooms are fully equipped with conference equipment, including interactive screens, computers and a live broadcast system. In addition, the production of conference films can be provided by the Media Center of the University of Silesia. In the case of international conferences and meetings organized by the Center, the accommodation will be provided by the University Hotel.

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

The Dioscuri Center will meet international labor standards. The equipment of the Center includes:

- 5 x laptop professional standard - this is to allow the mobility of office work as well as field work
- 10 x monitor - to be connected to a laptop while working in the office
- 1 x multimedia table - an innovative multimedia solution that gives amazing technical possibilities and spectacular effects when working in an interactive environment.
- Teleconference system – TV, digital camera with tripod, professional lighting
- 2 x personal printers
- 1 x multifunction copier (color, duplex)
- 2 x voice recorders
- 2 x hands-free phone
- 1 x beamers

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
- Participation in local events and networking with key stakeholders

11. Other information about the internationalisation of the research institution, international researchers employed at the institution, the availability of English language seminars etc. (*up to one page in A4 format*):

International cooperation and exchange are essential aspects of the activity of the University of Silesia in Katowice. The intensive international collaboration conducted by the University of Silesia allows for academic exchange and undertaking various educational and scientific projects together with partners from over 90 countries around the world.

Annually, the offer of academic exchange is used by approximately 700 students and doctoral students of the University of Silesia and approximately 2,000 employees whose trips are related to the implementation of research, international projects, and participation in conferences as educational and didactic activities. At the same time, our university is visited by approximately 2,800 research, teaching, and administrative staff representing partner institutions.

Collaboration under international research projects includes the implementation of joint research and the dissemination of its results through the organization of seminars and conferences, as well as publishing activities. Scientists benefit from scholarships and internships in prestigious research centers worldwide, which significantly influences the shaping and development of their scientific careers.

A significant factor contributing to universities' internationalization is the number of foreigners completing their studies there. The University of Silesia, in cooperation with foreign partners, conducts study programs, the graduates of which obtain double diplomas.

The University of Silesia in Katowice, together with six universities from abroad, forms a prestigious European University as part of Transform4Europe alliance. The universities have got together to conduct joint scientific research at the highest level and educate young people within international study programmes. They will also create a common multilingual campus in order to take care of the future of their own regions, countries, and entire Europe.

The University of Silesia is a member of many international academic organizations. University representatives sit on steering committees and act as experts in networks and associations associating the academic community worldwide.

The university cooperates with key organizations, including the European University Association (EUA), L'Agence Universitaire de la Francophonie (AUF), and the European University Information System (EUNIS).

From the 2019/2020 academic year, the Faculty of Law and Administration launched a new programme: International Business Law and Arbitration (IBLA). The studies are aimed at preparing highly qualified specialists in the field of international business law and arbitration, able to independently analyze problems in the field of business law in the context of international business, find effective solutions to legal problems and implement them in an international business environment.

For several years, the US Law School, created in cooperation with the law faculties of three American universities, namely Loyola University New Orleans College of Law, the University of Arkansas at Little Rock – William H. Bowen School of Law and the University of Toledo College of Law, has been operating at the faculty.

The faculty also offers a course in the field of Chinese law (School of Chinese Law and Culture). The course is organized in cooperation with two Chinese universities – Foreign Studies University in Beijing and Northeastern University in Shenyang. The School's programme is aimed at students of law, entrepreneurship, economics and administration, graduates and practitioners of law (including counsels and legal advisers), as well as those interested in learning more about the Chinese culture.