

POLISH ACADEMY OF ARTS AND SCIENCES

Report of the Secretary General  
of the Polish Academy  
of Arts and Sciences for the year 2024



KRAKOW 2025

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# **Report of the Secretary General of the Polish Academy of Arts and Sciences (PAU<sup>1</sup>) for the year 2024**

The Report on the Activities of the Polish Academy of Arts and Sciences covers the calendar year, i.e. the period from 1 January to 31 December 2024, and has been prepared on the basis of data provided by PAU Chancellery, PAU Classes, Science Stations and Commissions and does not cover financial matters. The report on the implementation of the financial plan in the reporting year was discussed by the PAU Management Board and the Audit Committee. It was unanimously adopted by these bodies. It also received a positive opinion of the statutory auditor, prepared by the PROFIN office.

## **General information**

The Polish Academy of Arts and Sciences corporation consists of 1 honorary member, 159 regular members, 157 corresponding members, and 172 foreign members. The 2024 election of new Academy members was held at the General Assembly on 15 June. This election resulted in the selection of 15 regular members, 10 corresponding members, and 11 foreign members.

During the reporting year, the Academy suffered severe losses. The following persons have passed away:

From Class I

prof. Nullo Minissi – foreign member, passed away on 27 January 2024

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<sup>1</sup> Polska Akademia Umiejętności.

prof. Ryszard Löw – foreign member, passed away on 6 July 2024  
prof. Joseph Rykwert – foreign member, passed away on 18 October 2024

#### From Class II

prof. Rudolf Welser – foreign member, passed away on 5 May 2024

#### From Class III

prof. Tadeusz B. Massalski – foreign member, passed away on 2 December 2022 \*  
prof. Walter Oelert – foreign member, passed away on 25 November 2024

#### From Class IV

prof. Zbigniew Maciej Gliwicz – corresponding member, passed away on 2 June 2024  
prof. Stefan Witold Alexandrowicz – regular member, passed away on 8 August 2024  
prof. Tadeusz Chrobak – corresponding member, passed away on 13 December 2024

#### From Class V

prof. N. Avrion Mitchison – foreign member, passed away on 28 December 2022 \*  
prof. Alfredo Salerno – foreign member, passed away on 17 March 2023 \*  
prof. Tadeusz Maliński – foreign member, passed away on 13 September 2023 \*  
prof. Arne Schousboe – foreign member, passed away on 27 February 2024

#### From Class VI

prof. Arata Isozaki – foreign member, passed away on 28 December 2022 \*

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\* Notification of death was sent the PAU Chancellery with a delay.

## Activity of Classes, Commissions, and Stations

The number of members of each Class and the number of scientific meetings held are shown in Table I.

Table I. Classes of the Academy of Arts and Sciences (PAU)

Class	Number of regular members	Number of corresponding members	Number of foreign members	Number of scientific meetings
Class I: Philology	26	30	35	8
Class II: History and Philosophy	25	35	30	5
Class III: Sciences and Technology	26	32	36	–
Class IV: Natural Sciences	26	29	31	9
Class V: Medicine	25	31	35	8
Class VI: Artistic Creativity	31	–	5	–
Honorary member	1			
Total	159	157	172	30
Total number of members (status as at 31 December 2023)	489			

In the reporting year, 39 Commissions were active in PAU – 24 Class Commissions and 10 Inter-Class Commissions, as well as 5 Commissions operating at the Science Station in Katowice (cf. Tables II–VI). These tables show the number of scientific meetings and sessions held.

Table II. PAU Class I Commissions: Philology

Commission	Scientific meetings	Scientific sessions
PAU Commission on Classical Philology	9	–
PAU Commission on Modern Languages	8	–
PAU Commission on Slavonic Culture	8	1
PAU Commission on Art History	9	–
PAU Commission on Communication Ethics	3	–

Table III. PAU Class II Commissions: History and Philosophy

Commission	Scientific meetings	Scientific sessions
PAU Commission on Central Europe	8	1
PAU Commission on Eastern Europe	4	–
PAU Commission on Law	4	–
PAU Commission on the History and Culture of Jews	6	1
PAU Commission on the Prehistory of the Carpathians	4	–
PAU Commission on Economic Sciences	6	–
PAU Commission on Ethnography	8	1
PAU Commission on the History of Wars and Military Science	7	–
PAU Commission on Archaeology of Mediterranean Countries	9	–
PAU Commission on Media Studies	7	1
PAU Biographical Commission	8	–

Table IV. PAU Class III Commissions: Sciences and Technology

Commission	Scientific meetings	Scientific sessions
PAU Commission on Astrophysics	28	–
PAU Commission on Technical Sciences	5	–
PAU Commission on Complex Systems	7	–

Table V. PAU Class IV Commissions: Natural Sciences

Commission	Scientific meetings	Scientific sessions
PAU Commission on Geoinformatics	5	–
PAU Commission on Quaternary Palaeogeography	4	1

PAU Commission on Development Biology	1	1
PAU Commission on Agricultural, Forest, and Veterinary Sciences	7	1
PAU Commission on Geography	8	1

Table VI. PAU Inter-Class Commissions

Commission	Scientific meetings	Scientific sessions
PAU Commission on the History of Science	14	6
PAU Commission on European Matters	–	1
PAU Commission on Threats to Civilization	5	–
PAU Commission on the Philosophy of Sciences	4	3
PAU Commission on the Evaluation of Textbooks	7	1
PAU Commission for the Studies on the Polish Diaspora	4	–
PAU Commission on Anthropology	3	–
PAU Commission on Ergonomics	3	1
PAU Commission on Culture and Media Management	3	1
Polish CIHEC Subcommission Commission Internationale d'Histoire Ecclésiastique Comparé	–	–

Apart from the Classes and Commissions, there are also three Science Stations within the structure of the Polish Academy of Arts and Sciences: the Science Station in Gdańsk, the Science Station in Katowice and the Science Station in Poznań. The scientific activity of the Station is presented in Table VII.

Table VII. PAU Science Stations

Science Station	Scientific meetings	Scientific sessions
PAU Science Station and Kashubian Commission in Gdańsk	4	–
PAU Science Station in Katowice		
– PAU Commission on Silesian History in Katowice	1	–
– PAU Commission on Mathematical Sciences	–	–
– PAU Commission on Natural Sciences	4	
– PAU Commission on Law	1	1
– Scientific and Cultural Village in Gliwice	9	–
PAU Science Station in Poznań	3	2

### Conferences, sessions and regular projects

In the reporting year, 36 scientific sessions and conferences were organised; 10 of them were international.

At this point, it is also necessary to mention regular meetings co-ordinated by PAU and open to the wider public: Science Café, Science Tea Room and meetings conducted by Professor Dominika Dudek titled *Conversations on Humanity*.

### Scientific activities

The Research Centre for Armenian Culture in Poland, a research unit conducting Armenological research, was active at the Polish Academy of Arts and Sciences for five years. The Centre was financed by a subsidy from the Ministry of Science and Higher Education. At the request of the Centre's Council, this Centre was removed from the PAU structure as of 31 December 2024.

Moreover, as in previous years, PAU carried out research projects (grants) financed from external sources. All eight projects were funded by the National Programme for the Development of the Humanities.

PAU is also implementing an indefinite project, funded by the Lanckoroński Foundation, entitled *Acta Nuntiaturae Polonae*. Within the framework of this project reports and documents of individual



apostolic nuncios in Poland from 1519 to the present are being compiled. In the reporting year, one volume of this publication was published; others are at various stages of preparation for printing.

### **Publishing activity**

An important and integral part of PAU's research activity is its publishing activity. A total of 20 journals were published or co-edited by PAU in 2024. In addition to scientific journals, for close to 20 years, the PAU has been publishing an online weekly "PAUza Akademicka". The popularity of this weekly is still growing, which is undoubtedly due to the editor-in-chief, Professor Andrzej Białas.

Additionally, 13 titles of books and other compact publications were published during the reporting year. The total volume of all the published volumes is 778.75 printing sheets (171.25 book publication sheets + 607.5 periodical sheets). The level of our publications is ensured by the PAU Publishing Committee. All submitted texts are reviewed by independent reviewers, and only works that have received unequivocal positive reviews are accepted for publication. The Committee is presently chaired by the Vice-President of the PAU, Professor Andrzej Mączyński.

### **International cooperation**

PAU has valid cooperation agreements with 17 scientific units. The list is presented below:

- Ukrainian Academy of Sciences
- Slovak Academy of Sciences
- Czech Academy of Sciences
- Hungarian Academy of Sciences
- Slovenian Academy of Sciences
- Macedonian Academy of Sciences
- Romanian Academy of Sciences
- Institute of History of the Republic of Lithuania
- The ExtreMe Matter Institute
- Berlin-Brandenburg Academy of Sciences
- Polish Scientific Society in Zhytomyr
- The Royal Society of Edinburgh

- Hungarian Academy of Arts
- Scientific Library of The Vasyl Stefanyk PreCarpathian National University in Ivano Frankivsk, Ukraine
- Austrian Academy of Sciences
- Ivan Franko National University of Lviv
- University of Malta (agreement signed in January 2024).

In 2024, researchers from the Czech Academy of Sciences and the Institute of Lithuanian History of the Republic of Lithuania held short-term internships at PAU.

Moreover, PAU is a member of two international organisations: the International Union of Academies (UAI) and All European Academies (ALLEA). Cooperation with the Polish Institute of Science (PIASA) in the United States and the Polish Institute of Science in Canada (PINK) in Montreal should also be mentioned here. Both of these institutes formally have the status of PAU research stations. We publish a journal entitled “The Polish Review” together with the Institute in New York.

### Research support activity

Three units of PAU are involved in such activities: The Scientific Library of PAU and PAN<sup>2</sup> in Krakow, The Archives of the Science of PAN and PAU in Krakow, and the Lanckoroński Photothèque.

**The Scientific Library** is a joint unit of the Polish Academy of Arts and Sciences and the Polish Academy of Sciences.

The Library’s collections were presented at three exhibitions:

- *Wyspiański’s Wawel*;
- *What Sign is Yours – About Visual Identification in the Old Ages*;
- *All Wyspiański’s Loves. Around the Artistic Inspiration of the Fourth Bard*.

The Scientific Library of PAU and PAN has also carried out its own publishing activity for many years. In 2024 it published:

- *Explicitus est liber. Studies on Old Prints*, ed. A. Fluda-Krokos, Ł. Łukawski;

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<sup>2</sup> Polish Academy of Science.

- *Non nova, sed novae. Photographs and Postcards in the Holdings of Libraries, Archives, Museums and Private Collections: Programme, Abstracts*, ed. A. Fluda-Krokos;
- “The Yearbook of the Scientific Library of PAU and PAN in Krakow”.

In the reporting year, the Library organised an international scientific conference: *Non nova, sed novae. Photographs and Postcards in the Holdings of Libraries, Archives, Museums and Private Collections*. The conference was held on 13–15 November 2024.

A full report on the Library’s activities will be published in the 70th volume of the “Yearbook of the Scientific Library of the PAU and PAN in Krakow”.

**The Archive of Science** is a joint unit of the Branch of the Polish Academy of Sciences in Krakow and PAU. From 1 April 2024, Dr Adam Korczyński, who was selected through a competitive process, has been acting as Director of the Archive. By the decision of the new Director, after consultation with the Academic Council, the previous organisational structure of the Archive was changed – a flat organisational structure was restored.

In the reporting year, Archive staff carried out seven visits to the subordinate archives of the PAN institutes in Krakow. At the same time, work continued on the project “PAUart-5. Catalogue of Scientific and Artistic Collections. Iconographic sources and their documentary context”. The second stage of a joint project between the PAU and the Archives of Science of PAN and PAU entitled “Preparation, Inventory and Digitisation of the Works of Waław Felczak (1916–1993)” has also been completed. This project was supported by the Waław Felczak Foundation (Waław Felczak Alapítvány).

On 18–19 November, the Archives of Science of PAN and PAU and the Institute of History of the Jagiellonian University organised an international scientific conference *Between the Idea of Freedom of the University and the New Realities. Higher Education Institutions Towards the Challenges of the Modern World in Poland and Europe, 1918–1939*. The conference was accompanied by a display of archival material.

Archival internships at the Archives of Science of the PAN and PAU were completed by 12 interns.

**The Lanckoroński Photothèque.** Within the framework of the project titled: “PAUart-5. Catalogue of Scientific and Artistic Collections. Iconographic Sources and Their Documentary Context” in 2024, the project contractors produced a total of 1,884 photographs. As in previous years, in the reporting year didactic classes (conservatories and internships) were organised at the Photothèque for students of Krakow universities.

### **The Polish Library in Paris**

After many years of effort, the Polish Library in Paris started its activities in the middle of the reporting year. In the first half of 2024, the costs of this Institute were borne by PAU; in the second half, the Ministry of Culture and National Heritage provided the necessary funds. In subsequent years, PAU, as the owner of the Library building, will only bear the cost of property tax and insurance for the property.

### **Prizes, awards and scholarships**

As every year, also in the reporting year, the Polish Academy of Arts and Sciences granted distinctions and prizes. The most prestigious of them is the **Erasmus and Anna Jerzmanowski Prize**. This prize is given for scientific, cultural and charitable activities, and in the reporting year, was financed by the Marshal of the Małopolska Region and the Mayor of the City of Krakow. The fourteenth recipient after the reactivation of the prize – was Dr. Hanna Machińska. The Award ceremony took place on 10 June 2024 at Wawel Castle.

**The Tadeusz Browicz Prize** is given by PAU at the request of Class V Medicine. In the reporting year, the Tadeusz Browicz Prize was given to Dorota Rogacka, PhD (Institute of Experimental and Clinical Medicine, PAN) for a series of publications on new mechanisms of insulin resistance in diabetes observed in kidney cells – podocytes.

**The Prof. Adam Bielanski Prize** is given at the request of Class III of Science and Technology. In 2024, it was awarded to Professor Stanisław Penczek for his fundamental contribution to the development of polymer chemistry, particularly the development of novel catalysts for synthesising biodegradable polymers.

In the reporting year, at the request of the PAU Interdepartmental Commission for the Evaluation of School Textbooks, the PAU also awarded the textbook *History. Traces of Time. Textbook for secondary and technical schools, basic and extended scope. The Second World War and Modern Times* (authors Antoni Dudek, Jakub Polit, Łukasz Kępski), published by Gdańskie Wydawnictwo Oświatowe, and a multi-author series of history textbooks for classes V–VIII of primary schools, published by WSiP Publishing House in 2020–2022. This series was prepared under the auspices of the German-Polish Handbook Commission “Europe. Our Story – Europe. Unsere Geschichte”.

**Lanckoroński Foundation and the Lanckoroński of Brzezie Foundation Scholarships.** These scholarships are awarded by a committee chaired by Professor Andrzej Borowski. In addition to PAU representatives, it is composed of delegates from the Foundation, Jagiellonian University in Krakow, Adam Mickiewicz University in Poznań, Warsaw University, Nicolaus Copernicus University in Toruń and University of Wrocław. In the reporting year, the committee awarded 62 scholarships.

### **Renovation works and investments**

In the reporting year, planned renovation works at PAU headquarters continued. They were financed by the Academy’s funds and a grant from the National Fund for the Protection of Heritage Monuments in Krakow. It is worth mentioning here that PAU received additional subsidy (PLN 1 million) from the Ministry of Science and Higher Education for renovation works. As part of these works, all the windows in the building at ul. św. Jana 22 have been replaced, and the renovated central heating installation was connected to the district heating network of the Municipal Heat Engineering Company. Replacement of the water and sewage pipes also continued.

PAU Secretary General  
*Professor Szczepan Biliński*

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### **Publishing House**

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### **Archives of Science of PAN and PAU in Krakow**

[www.archiwumnauki.pan.pl](http://www.archiwumnauki.pan.pl)  
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### **Scientific Library of PAU and PAN in Krakow**

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### **Polish Academy of Arts and Sciences' art collection**

PAUart  
[www.pauart.pl](http://www.pauart.pl)

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