

## **Report on the implementation of the "Excellence Initiative -Research University" programme at the Nicolaus Copernicus University in Toruń in 2020**

All activities undertaken in 2020 under the "Excellence Initiative - Research University" programme at the Nicolaus Copernicus University aimed at implementing the 4xI@NCU concept defined in the contest proposal, i.e. internationalisation, interdisciplinarity, innovation and integrity and 6 main objectives. The activities aimed to combine the skills and talents of all members of the academic community to increase the standing and recognition of our university internationally.

The main objectives implemented under the project and impacting the comprehensive development of the University were aimed at increasing the following:

1. impact of university activities on the development of world science,
2. research cooperation with renowned universities,
3. quality education for students and doctoral students,
4. professional development of staff,
5. quality management of the university,
6. innovation and cooperation with the socio-economic environment.

With this in mind, a coordinating team and working teams responsible for the aforementioned main objectives were established to implement the IDUB programme at the University. Three councils for the fields of science (Arts, Humanities and Social Sciences, Physical Sciences and Engineering, Life Sciences) were set up, to which experts from Polish universities were invited. An International Advisory Board and international experts were appointed to the Scientific Councils in the University Centers of Excellence.

As part of the implementation of the programme, priority research areas were identified around which five interdisciplinary Centers of Excellence were established. Twelve emerging research fields with high potential for development were identified. The implementation of the development plan was also carried out through the organisation of university-wide competitions, which were divided into three fields of science and addressed to staff, doctoral students and students. The applications were assessed by external experts.

The beneficiaries of the IDUB programme at the Nicolaus Copernicus University, including members of Centers of Excellence, Emerging Fields and Priority Research Area Teams and winners in competitions number more than 1300 including almost 360 students and doctoral students. The amount allocated to the beneficiaries is PLN 43 049 446.95. A large group is made up of young scientists in IDUB teams (378 persons) and when taking into account the competitions, young persons' participation amounts to over 490.

Activities undertaken in 2020 as part of the implementation of the research university strategy:

### **I. Setting up teams responsible for the implementation of the programme**

A team implementing the strategy of the research university that consists of a coordinating team and working teams was chosen. Each team consists of staff from the Torun and Bydgoszcz campuses, academic teachers and administrative staff.

A coordinating team appointed by the Rector is responsible for the management and implementation of the programme at the University. As of 1 November 2020, the composition of the team has changed. The first and current composition of the IDUB coordinating team is given in Annex 1.

Working teams are the executive apparatus for the substantive tasks defined in the programme plan. 6 teams that corresponded to 6 main objectives operated from 1 January to 31 October 2020. As of 1 November 2020, the teams have merged and there are currently 4 teams responsible for the implementation of the following objectives:

- 1) the impact of university activity on the development of world science and research cooperation with renowned universities;
- 2) quality education for students and doctoral students;

- 3) professional development of University staff and quality management of the university;
- 4) innovation and cooperation with the socio-economic environment.

The specific objectives of each team and their current composition are given in Annex 1.

Summer programme coordinators and their deputies, statistical support and distance learning coordinators were appointed to implement the objectives of the programme.

**The International Advisory Board** was established as an advisory body to the Rector on matters concerning the whole project. The role of the Board is to evaluate the overall scientific results, coordinate the evaluation of the NCU, monitor the Centers of Excellence. The composition of the Board is as follows::

- Prof. Ewine van Dishoeck - Leiden University, Netherlands
- Prof. dr. James Fujimoto - Massachusetts Institute of Technology, United States
- Prof. dr. Janusz Pawliszyn - University of Waterloo, Canada
- Prof. dr. Haun Saussy - University of Chicago, United States

3 councils for the fields of science were set up and they are mainly composed of eminent scientists from outside the NCU. The Councils are responsible for the substantive assessment of applications in competitions organised under the programme and for giving opinions on the progress of research teams set up under the programme. The current composition of the Councils is as follows:

#### **1. Council for the field of science – physical sciences and engineering**

- Prof. dr hab. Agnieszka Szumna (Institute of Organic Chemistry, Polish Academy of Sciences) – chair
- prof. dr hab. Winicjusz Drozdowski (NCU) – vice-chair
- prof. dr hab. Małgorzata Kossut (Necki Institute of Experimental Biology, Polish Academy of Sciences)
- prof. dr hab. Leszek Rutkowski (Częstochowa University of Technology)
- dr hab. Agnieszka Janiuk, prof. CFT PAN (Center for Theoretical Physics of the Polish Academy of Sciences)

#### **2. Council for the Field of Science – Life Sciences**

- prof. dr hab. Ewa Łojkowska (University of Gdańsk) – chair
- dr hab. Maciej Bieliński, prof. UMK (NCU) – vice-chair
- dr hab. Marek Foksiński, prof. UMK (NCU)
- dr hab. n. med. Agnieszka Gorzkowska (Medical University of Silesia in Katowice)
- dr hab. Grzegorz Króliczak, prof. UAM (Adam Mickiewicz University in Poznań)
- dr hab. Edyta Reszka, prof. IMP (Nofer Institute of Occupational Medicine in Łódź)
- dr hab. n. wet. Mariusz Skowroński, prof. UMK (NCU)

#### **3. Council for the Field of Science – Arts, Humanities and Social Sciences**

- prof. dr hab. Krystyna Bartol (Adam Mickiewicz University in Poznań) – chair
- dr Adrian Wójcik (NCU) – vice-chair
- dr hab. Maciej Karwowski, prof. UW (Uniwersytet Wrocławski)
- prof. dr hab. Joanna Wojdon (University of Wrocław)
- dr hab. Ewa Dahlig-Turek, prof. IS PAN (Institute of Art of the Polish Academy of Sciences)
- dr hab. Łukasz Młyńczyk, prof. UZ (University of Zielona Góra)

The following experts from foreign research centers were appointed to **the scientific councils of the University centers of excellence**:

- Prof. Dr. Michael Baake - Bielefeld University, Germany
- Prof. Dr. Rafał Bogacz - Oxford University, United Kingdom
- Prof. Dr. Stig Pedersen-Bjergaard - University of Oslo, Norway
- Prof. Dr. Hervé Bocherens - University of Tübingen, Germany

- Prof. Dr. Marianne Gullberg - Lund University, Sweden
- Prof. Dr. Pascal Hubert - Aix-Marseille University, France
- Prof. Dr. Huib Jan van Langevelde - Leiden University, Netherlands
- Prof. Dr. Luís Miguel Pereira Lopes - Universidade de Lisboa, Portugal
- Prof. Dr. Alexey Ruzov - Nottingham University, United Kingdom
- Prof. Dr. Jonathan Tennyson - University College London, United Kingdom
- Prof. Dr hab. Aleksander Wolszczan - Pennsylvania State University, United States

As external members, the councils' members will influence strategic planning, contribute to the monitoring and evaluation of the activities of the Centers, take on greater scientific and institutional challenges and refer to international standards.

## **II. Centers of excellence and research teams**

5 University Centers of Excellence representing Priority Research Areas were set up and directors of these Centers were appointed. The staff of the Centers, composed of academic teachers and doctoral students, was selected. Scientific Councils for the Centers of Excellence were also appointed.

For 2020-2022, each Center has a budget of PLN 8 400 000 for its activities, PLN 900 000 for internationalisation and PLN 450 000 for scholarships for doctoral students. The following Centers of Excellence operate at the NCU:

1. Astrophysics and Astrochemistry,
2. From Fundamental Optics to Applied Biophotonics,
3. Dynamics, Mathematical Analysis & Artificial Intelligence,
4. Towards Personalised Medicine,
5. Interacting Minds, Societies, Environment.

12 research teams with high potential for development in Emerging Fields were set up and their leaders were appointed. The staff of the teams was selected.

Each team received funding of PLN 1 000 000 for a period of three years of operation (2020-2022). The following Emerging Fields research teams were set up:

1. Automation and Control Systems,
2. Global Environmental Changes,
3. Polymer Science and Multifunctional Nanomaterials,
4. Soil Sciences, Microbiology, Agricultural Genetics and Food Quality,
5. Metabolic Diseases of Civilization,
6. Ecology and Biodiversity,
7. Cancer Profiling,
8. Chronic Diseases,
9. Conservation and Cultural Restoration,
10. Logic and Philosophy of Science,
11. Old and New Institutions-Challenges and Changes in an Interdisciplinary Perspective,
12. Perception, Cognition and Language.

35 Priority Research Teams were set up and their leaders were appointed; the teams got divided into 3 groups, i.e. winners, finalists and the distinguished in the competition with funding of PLN 180 000, PLN 90 000 and PLN 45 000 respectively. The total amount of funds granted for the period 2020-2022 is PLN 3 060 000.

The main research areas of the Centers of Excellence and the EF research teams are given in Annex 2. A summary list of the scientific achievements of team members in 2020 is given in Annex 3. The list includes, inter alia, the number of published scientific articles broken down by Q1 and Q2 journals, proposals submitted and grants awarded, staff outgoing and incoming visits. The main scientific achievements identified by the Centers of Excellence are given in Annex 4.

### III. Open competitions announced under the programme

The activities of the Excellence Initiative - Research University focus not only on the development of individual units but also on providing support and enhancing the growth of individual University staff members. The funds earmarked for these activities are distributed through competitions to support the activities of academic teachers, students and doctoral students. The competitions focus on the key objectives defined in the development concept and are proceeded in 3 field panels (arts, humanities and social sciences (HS), physical sciences and engineering (ST) and life sciences (NZ). The evaluation of projects and applications is mainly done by scientists from outside the Nicolaus Copernicus University who sit on the councils for the fields of science.

In 2020, 18 competitions were organized in which applications were submitted by 580 interested parties for the total amount of PLN 35 145 203.5 and **333 persons or research teams were granted funding for the amount of PLN 17 989 446.95** (including PLN 4 000 000 for EF teams selected in the competitions). The average success rate for these competitions was 52%. Apart from the competitions, there were also announced calls for TRIZ training, for coordinators for students summer programmes, for experts under the Excellence Initiative - Expert and a call for soft training for staff members and doctoral students.

Competitions and calls for proposals implemented in 2020:

1. Emerging Fields – the amount of PLN 4 000 000 was distributed
2. Research apparatus – the amount of PLN 7 294 935 was distributed
3. Inter disciplinas excellentia – the amount of PLN 1 667 818.80 was distributed
4. Debuts (2 editions of the contest) – the amount of PLN 1 713 387.64 was distributed
5. Staff mobility (2 editions of the contest) – the amount of PLN 899 889.23 was distributed broken down into outgoing and incoming visits of professors and post-docs
6. Mobility of doctoral students – funding of PLN 33 760
7. Mobility of doctoral students from emerging fields (Emerging Fields) – funding of PLN 22 307.42
8. Mobility of students – there were no applications in the 1st edition of the contest due to the pandemic
9. Publications – the amount of PLN 924 513 was distributed
10. Grants4NCUStudents – the amount of PLN 180 561 was distributed
11. INCOOP - micro-grant contest – the amount of PLN 236 073.66 was distributed
12. BELL: Best E-Learning Lecturer – the cost of preparing all projects amounted to PLN 439 322.40 including PLN 216 000 for prizes
13. CRUSH - research on the Covid-19 pandemic carried out at the Nicolaus Copernicus University by representatives of the social sciences and humanities – the amount of PLN 274 500 was distributed
14. Contest for the implementation of research related to COVID 19 in the field of technical and exact sciences and health sciences – the amount of PLN 517 700 was distributed
15. My company - my start-up – 1 start-up was awarded and 2 start-ups were distinguished, the amount of PLN 8 000 was distributed
16. Contest – NCU Innovator - 1 Rector's Award was granted
17. Excellence Initiative Expert – 14 experts were selected
18. TRIZ training – training for 30 persons
19. Call for summer programme coordinators

A detailed description of the competitions, the number of applications submitted and the number of persons awarded, broken down by field panels, is given in Annex 5.

### IV. Substantive activities in the area of education

1. New second-cycle fields of study related to priority research areas have been selected and will be launched in English in the next 2 years. The fields are as follows:
  - Physics and Astronomy - coordinator: Dr hab. Jacek Jurkowski, NCU prof. UMK (Faculty of Physics, Astronomy and Informatics) – the field of study related to the areas "Astrophysics and Astrochemistry" and "From Fundamental Optics to Applied Biophotonics". The field of study

was established by Order No. 83 of the NCU Rector of 28 April 2020, but due to the lack of candidates it did not start in the academic year 2020/21;

- Pharmacy - coordinator: Dr hab. Bogumiła Kupcewicz, NCU prof. (Faculty of Pharmacy Collegium Medicum) - the field of study related to the area "Towards Personalised Medicine". The curriculum for the field of study "Pharmacy" provided in English was established by Resolution No. 40 of the NCU Senate of 23 June 2020. Due to the epidemic situation, it was decided to postpone the recruitment and start it in 2021 and launch the degree program from the academic year 2021/22;
- Cognitive science - coordinator: Dr hab. Anita Pacholik-Żuromska, NCU prof. (Faculty of Physics, Astronomy and Informatics) - the field of study related to the areas "Dynamics, Mathematical Analysis & Artificial Intelligence" and "Interacting Minds, Societies, Environment". The degree programme is planned to be launched from 2021/2022. an application for the establishment of the field of study is under review by the University Committee for Education.

The financial support covers the development of teaching materials, scholarships for the best candidates for the degree programme and promotional activities.

2. Courses in existing fields of study related to priority research areas have been selected to be delivered as an extended pathway, i.e. at an advanced level. The following courses will receive the funding in the pilot phase:
  - Mathematical Analysis 1 - for the first year of the field of study - Physics and Astronomy
  - Mathematical Analysis 2 - for the first year of the field of study - Physics and Astronomy
  - Physics - for the first year of the field of study - Physics and Astronomy
  - General Chemistry - for the first year of the field of study – Chemistry and Medicinal Chemistry
  - Fundamentals of analytical chemistry - for the first year of the field of study – Chemistry and Medicinal Chemistry
  - Physical Chemistry - for the first year of the field of study – Chemistry and Medicinal Chemistry
  - Linear algebra and geometry - for the first year of the field of study – Mathematics and Computer Science
  - Mathematical analysis I - for the first year of the field of study – Mathematics and Computer Science
  - Elements of set theory and mathematical logic - for the first year of the field of study – Mathematics and Computer Science

The financial support covers the costs of delivering the courses and the development of teaching materials.

3. Launching of a scholarship programme for doctoral students funded under the programme - scholarships for the best candidates for doctoral studies and the increase in scholarship amounts for doctoral students under the funds supporting mobility in the Centers of Excellence and Emerging Fields teams. Scholarships for 2 doctoral students and the increase in scholarship amounts for another 2 are funded from the Emerging Fields team limit. Scholarships are additionally funded from the budgets of the Center of Excellence and EF.
4. Funding of an e-learning course for doctoral students on writing and publishing scientific papers organised by Nature-Springer Publishers "Scientific Writing and Publishing" (at the initiative of the AST Doctoral School).
5. A workshop for doctoral students entitled "My First Article in English" conducted by the Foreign Languages Centre aimed at preparing the participants to write and publish an article in English in a foreign scientific journal. The workshop included remote practical sessions delivered on the MS Teams platform (10 hours) and individual meetings to review the draft and final article (2 hours for each course participant).

## **V. Other activities undertaken in working teams**

IDUB working teams, apart from preparing the concepts and regulations of the above-mentioned open competitions, also undertook other activities and initiatives aimed at achieving the objectives of the programme.

### **Team 1 - increasing the impact of the University's activities on the development of world science and research cooperation with renowned universities**

1. Works on the concept of achieving Objective 1 that involves increasing the number of high-cited publications and the quality of research (especially in Q1 and Q2 journals from Web of Science). Suggested activities:

- assistance in the preparation of publications submitted to high-scoring journals and publishers and in their dissemination (subscriptions to online publication databases, editing and translation of texts);
- increasing the availability of online publication databases (e.g. Cambridge Core; particularly relevant for humanists for whom texts are the primary research material);
- development of meta-data repositories (metadata of papers from each scientific discipline at the Nicolaus Copernicus University should ultimately be placed in national and world metadata repositories; this is to increase the impact of our publications on world science).

2. Discussion and formulation of proposals to support researchers visiting Nicolaus Copernicus University in Toruń.

3. Preparation of proposals for activities to increase the interest of staff members in applying for grants funded by Horizon Europe (in particular MCSA and ERC grants). Planned support: training in writing a project proposal organised by a professional company, support in writing and editing the proposal and during the project implementation phase. The starting proposal for ERC grants:

- call for proposals for grant projects from the NCU (IDUB website) - a call addressed to all NCU employees who meet the criteria, but also personal invitations to submit proposals;
- selection of proposals - a committee composed of experts from the NCU or external experts;
- grant writing session(s) conducted by NCU experts or an external company;
- implementation of the grant: possible additional support.

In the case of Marie Skłodowska-Curie Action grants, call for proposals for grant projects from outside the NCU (participation in the call in conditional upon the implementation of the grant at the NCU), grant writing sessions conducted at the NCU by an external company with experience in obtaining European research grants, assistance in the implementation of the project including accommodation, priority access to research infrastructure, possible support after the completion of the NCU project.

4. Preparation of the competition objectives for the development of international partnerships for Emerging Fields.

5. Works on the NCU Research Data Repository as part of the ICM platform. The repository is used to collect, store and make available to the public research data generated in the course of scientific work and research projects conducted by NCU researchers. The repository accepts datasets that have been produced, collected, or described for an implemented project or research activity. It is open and free of charge to all interested parties. The address is <https://repor.icm.edu.pl/dataverse/umk>.

6. Dissemination activities undertaken by the team and competitions among the NCU employees involving, among others, consultations with the authorities and staff members of the institutes aimed at promoting competitions and support programmes organised by the team and adjusting them to the needs of representatives of particular disciplines.

### **Team 2 – quality education for students and doctoral candidates**

1. The LOGOS initiative, which is a support for students and doctoral students who plan to participate in the Grants4NCU students competition. LOGOS is planned as a series of online lectures/seminars presenting the research workshop of the best researchers from NCU, other Polish universities as well as from abroad. A list of methods and researchers who could participate in the programme is being created. Consultation with the NCU students and doctoral students on the LOGOS programme regarding training needs and seminars for future researchers.

2. Preparation of a competition/translation programme objectives for doctoral students.

3. Co-op studies - preparation of a project for the education of students involving close cooperation with entrepreneurs and doing a diploma thesis in the workplace. The task is conducted in cooperation with the NCU Careers Service and the Academic Business Incubator. Pilot consultations with companies in Toruń and Bydgoszcz (Neuca, Płatki, Nokia, Opatrunki) were conducted.
4. Preparation of a concept for 2 mobility paths for students; path 1 - a competition implemented as a support for students going to universities abroad under the Erasmus Plus programme, semester mobilities and shorter internships; path 2 - preparation of competition guidelines for short research internships to partner universities of the centres of excellence and the EF and the YUFE consortium universities.
5. Promotion of competition winners and information on the FB team profile about the most important events in the field of science (<https://www.facebook.com/Students-and-PhD-students-at-a-Research-University-NCU-111052453942011>).

### **Team 3 - professional development of University staff and the quality of University management**

1. Verification of the legal acts that were prepared under IDUB - taking into account recommendations resulting from the audit.
2. Preparation and coordination of soft skills training for academic and administrative staff and doctoral students at the Nicolaus Copernicus University. The offer included 22 online courses, each for 2 groups, which were theory and workshop-based. The total number of all applications for training was 1954. 438 employees of the Nicolaus Copernicus University in Toruń underwent training - 231 academic staff (including 19 doctoral students) and 207 administrative staff. Training courses on stress optimisation, building mental resilience, effective and professional presentation and team communication were the most popular in the enrolment.

The training was divided into five thematic packages:

- team communication;
- work optimisation, motivation and energy in action;
- self-presentation and self-development;
- mental resilience, coping with stress;
- anti-discrimination training, safety.

A detailed report on the implementation of training courses including the analysis and recommendations is attached as Annex 6 (prepared by mgr N. Proń-Nowak).

3. Taking steps to identify problems occurring in the employment of foreign nationals and works on the development of the procedure and care in the hiring process of foreign nationals.
4. Taking steps to develop new processes related to the positioning of job adverts for foreign workers - the planned launch of a new overlay in the job adverts panel that would relate only to research workers. Thanks to the new tab, each potentially interested candidate will be able to find the announcement in the PL tab "Pracownicy badawczy" (Eng. "Research positions") instead of among the offers of each faculty, as is currently the case.

### **Team 4 - innovation and cooperation with the socio-economic environment**

1. Organising on 30 September by the NCU Academic Business Incubator AIP UMK and the Student Forum Business Centre Club of a seminar for students on the occasion of the Boy's Day entitled "Business in a manly way". The event was addressed to budding entrepreneurs, those planning or already running their own business or just starting to explore the world of business and looking for their place in the labour market, and those seeking inspiration on the road to personal success (3 lectures by 3 entrepreneurs followed by discussions).
2. Organising "The Future of Farm to Fork - 3F - Agricultural and Food Hackathon". The Hackathon was open to start-ups and teams of min. 2 persons, which were made up of programmers, graphic designers, UX designers or innovators. Participants worked on solutions to meet the needs of the Agri-Food sector, which fell under the following four challenges: - provide consumers with tools to verify the high quality of products supplied within short food chains; - enable consumers to obtain information about suppliers offering different products; - create a new channel for farmers, food producers to reach new target groups; - connect farmers with customers and customers with farmers by providing a constantly updated offer with a presentation of the actual products.

The final event was held on 04-05.12.2020. Three teams, supported by mentors - experts in various fields with many years of experience, worked on a solution for the AgriFood sector. One team was awarded the prize.

3. Activities involving the organisation of "Hackathon Smart Days" - work on modifying the agreement, agreeing on activities to motivate and increase student curiosity to participate in the event, agreeing on the scope of training, and building the hackathon website. The planned launch date for the training is 02/2021.
4. "Beckhoff Hackathon" - preliminary discussions have been held with the Beckhoff corporation regarding the organisation of an industrial automation event. The concept for the hackathon has been agreed and the drafting of the agreement is underway. The event is planned to take place in May or June 2021.
5. The Academic Entrepreneurship Forum - the speeches planned for the conference participants were recorded. Due to legal regulations introduced on 16 October 2020 concerning the ban on organising online conferences in the red zone (Toruń), the conference could not be held in the planned hybrid formula or even remotely. The materials have been uploaded to the Big Blue Button platform - every registered attendee has access through their registration account. A survey of the outreach of the conference is underway.
6. Preliminary preparation for co-organising the next edition of the international online conference "FG TIME" scheduled for 8 – 11 March 2021. Link to the event [www: https://fgtime.pl/](https://fgtime.pl/).
7. Innovative Research University - study design - a working version of the research agenda was developed for the study of organizational, structural and individual conditions of researchers aimed at developing an effective model of cooperation between science and business resulting from the fact that the NCU was not included in the Perspektywy ranking in the Innovation category.
8. Works on the timely adaptation of internal regulations for the management of intellectual property at the NCU in connection with the transformation of the entity.
9. Internships of research workers in business entities - consultations for the possibility of cooperation of team 1 and 4 in the organisation of the internships competition for research workers in domestic and foreign enterprises.

## **VI. Organisational, administrative and promotional activities**

- Presentation by Dr A. Karska of the objectives of the IDUB programme at the Nicolaus Copernicus University during 16 faculty meetings (including 3 at CM NCU), at a meeting with doctoral students and with heads of Administrative and Maintenance Teams.
- Development and setting up of a system of limits for the entire programme, drafting of authorisations to administer the funds under the programme for all authorising officers.
- Prepare budgets for 2020 for centers of excellence, research teams as part of emerging fields and Priority Research Areas. Preparing and approving the budgets for the abovementioned teams for 2021-2022 by the Coordinating Team.
- Creating a project website in Polish (<https://www.umk.pl/idub/>) and English (<https://www.umk.pl/en/research-uni/>) and updating it on an ongoing basis.
- Drafting of several dozen legal acts related to the implementation of the programme including the IDUB organisational rules and rules of procedure for individual competitions.
- A presentation of the so far implementation of the "Excellence Initiative - Research University" programme at the Nicolaus Copernicus University during the IDUB reporting conference held on 15-16 September at the University of Warsaw (Prof. Dr. W. Jaskólski, Dr. A. Karska, Prof. Dr. W. Wysota).
- Preparation of an information brochure in Polish and English on the implementation of the IDUB programme at the Nicolaus Copernicus University.
- Preparation of descriptions of good practices as part of the university's social responsibility during the pandemic - initiatives implemented with IDUB, i.e. COVID-19, CRUSH, BELL competitions and projects activating students under IDUB (INCOOP, Grant4NCUStudents, My company - my startup, TRIZ training).
- Setting-up of the Secretariat of the Excellence Initiative - Research University for the operation of the programme, staffing and defining the scope of work of the secretariat, allocation of premises in the Technology Hall and purchase of equipment for the rooms.



- Providing statistical support for the NCU staff (Dr J. Karłowska-Pik, Dr N. Soja-Kukieła - IDUB Secretariat).
- Participation in the preparation and maintenance of documentation related to the procurement and settlement of soft skills training for employees and doctoral students of the University (procurement announcement, selection of contractors, preparation of contracts for contractors and acceptance protocols of training courses, settlement of training courses).
- Press releases on the NCU application and the implementation and success of the IDUB programme:
  - a) „Koronawirus. UMK ogłasza konkursy na badania naukowe dotyczące epidemii” (*Eng. Coronavirus. NCU announces competitions for scientific research on epidemics*) (Gazeta Wyborcza, 14 April 2020)  
<https://torun.wyborcza.pl/torun/7,48723,25866467,koronawirus-umk-oglasziskonkursy-na-badania-naukowe-dotyczace.html>
  - b) „UMK uczelnią badawczą: Liczy się pomysł, ambicja i chęć działania” (*Eng. NCU as a research university: What counts is an idea, ambition and willingness to act*) (Gazeta Wyborcza, 20 April 2020)  
<https://torun.wyborcza.pl/torun/7,48723,25880323,umk-uczelnia-badawcza-liczy-sie-pomyslambicja-i-chec-dzialania.html>
  - c) „14 projektów badawczych dot. COVID-19 sfinansuje UMK” (*Eng. NCU will fund 14 research projects on COVID-19*) (Polska Agencja Prasowa 25 May 2020)  
<http://naukawpolsce.pap.pl/aktualnosci/news%2C82380%2C14-projektow-badawczych-dotcovid-19-sfinansuje-umk.html>
  - d) publication in the academic Forum in Głos Uczelni

## VII. Plan for 2021

1. Work on correcting and unifying the regulations of competitions implemented under the IDUB programme.
2. Strengthening the staffing of content-related departments (Department of Research, Department of International Partnerships and Educational Mobility) - the persons recruited will be transferred to the faculties. Most faculties do not have staff prepared to support the research activities of scientists and to offer comprehensive assistance to foreign nationals. As a result, research project management is seen as one of the most discouraging factors in applying for grants.
3. Developing an operating concept and setting up a Think Tank (advisory body to the Rector) to monitor the development of the university as a whole with particular emphasis on the internationalisation aspect.
4. Participation in the work of the team responsible for developing the procedure and implementation of the periodic evaluation system for non-academic staff.
5. Analysis of the training courses delivered in 2020 for staff and doctoral students and identification of further needs in this area.
6. Implementation of research seminars with eminent researchers who will present their research techniques based on examples of ongoing research (LOGOS initiative) and preparation of a project for the education of students assuming close cooperation with entrepreneurs and doing the diploma thesis in a company (co-op studies).
7. Preparation of further editions of competitions - in 2021 the following is planned:
  - mobility competitions for staff members;
  - competition for international partnerships (Emerging Fields);
  - competition for funding of scientific publication costs for staff members and a separate competition for doctoral candidates;
  - Expert initiative;
  - 2 editions of Grants4NCUstudents competition;
  - competition for mobility for doctoral students in Emerging Fields and mobility for doctoral students other than those from Centers of Excellence and EF;
  - Erasmus Plus student mobility competition - for studies, internship, research;

- the organisation of summer programmes for international students and programmes for the NCU students;
  - NCU INNOVATOR competition, Copernican Innovation Club, TRIZ training, Start-up weekend and Hackathon/ automation and robotics.
8. Preparation of proposals for new competitions and initiatives funded under the programme, e.g. competitions for grant proposals - assistance in obtaining international grants (MSCA Horizon Europe, ERC Horizon Europe).
  9. Strengthening the promotion of the programme to increase the participation of individual staff members, scientific disciplines and faculties in its implementation.

Prof. dr hab. Wojciech Wysota

NCU Vice-Rector for Research

Toruń, 5 February 2021