

*Women in Science. Past and present***1918****2018****INVITATION**

H.E. Mr Artur Orzechowski, Ambassador of Poland to the Kingdom of Belgium, has a pleasure to invite you to the seminar:

Women in Science

Past and Present

IN PROGRAMME

13:30 – 14:00	Registration and coffee
14:00 – 14:10	Welcome: H.E. Artur Orzechowski , Ambassador of Poland to the Kingdom of Belgium
14:10 – 15:40	Panel Discussion I: Women in science. Historical perspective
15:40 – 16:00	Coffee Break
16:00 – 16:30	Keynote speech by Professor Agnieszka Zalewska , former President of the European Center for Nuclear Research Council – CERN Q&A
16:30 – 18:00	Panel Discussion II: Modern challenges on the path to scientific excellence In presence of Philippe Busquin , former EU Commissaire for research
18:00 – 18:10	Closing remarks: Elżbieta Frąckowiak , vice-president of the Polish Academy of Sciences-PAN
18:10 – 19:00	Drinks
19:00 – 20:00	Joteyka Award Ceremony and concert by the Belgian string orchestra I MUSICI BRUCELLENSIS
20:00 – 21:00	Evening Buffet

ORGANIZERS: The Polish Embassy and the Polish Institute in Brussels, Polish Science Contact Agency "PoISCA" of the Polish Academy of Sciences in Brussels.

PARTNERS: BeKaP (Polish Women's Club in Brussels), DASKALIA (Polish Culture and Language Centre), Polish Tourism Organisation in Brussels, Polish Academy of Sciences – Scientific Center in Paris.

Thursday

7 June 2018

Bibliotheque Solvay
– Leopoldpark
rue Belliard 137, Brussels

Please register by 22 May 2018
via email to bebruamb2@msz.gov.pl

BACKGROUND: Women have always played exceptional role in Polish history. They have been at the forefront of our heroic struggle against foreign oppression and imperialism, and also played an essential role in preserving the spirit of the nation, particularly through education.

This is an exceptional year for Poland. In 2018 we celebrate an **important anniversary – one hundred years ago our country regained its independence** after more than a century of partition. It is worth noting that on regaining independence, Poland immediately granted women the right to vote.

On 28 November 1918, Józef Piłsudski signed, on the initiative of many Polish women, including his wife Aleksandra Piłsudska, the Election Regulation Decree stipulating that every Polish citizen, regardless of gender, could both vote and stand for political office. To commemorate this occasion the Sejm, Poland's Lower Chamber of Parliament, has made 2018 the Year of Women's Rights. Getting the vote was an important step for women towards greater involvement in other areas of social activity, particularly science and education. From that moment on, Poland saw an unprecedented increase in women's contribution to almost every field of scientific research. Polish women researchers have, through the scope of their work, contributed to the overcoming of many challenges, not only those facing Europe but the world as a whole.

It is worth mentioning that the Sejm has also made 2018 the Year of Science!

AIM: The main objective of this event is to remind us about those exceptional women who have changed the world in which we live. Scientists like **Maria Skłodowska-Curie** or **Józefa Franciszka Joteyko** achieved remarkable success in their fields and provided future generations of women with role models.

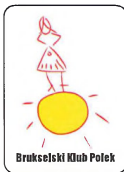
This seminar will increase awareness about these remarkable women, with discussions about their lives, achievements, and experiences. Participants will have the opportunity to compare the past with the present, and discuss the key opportunities and obstacles which can be found on the path towards the greater representation of women in science.

This event will also look at the struggle of women against discrimination, and how they can overcome the obstacles placed in their way. Participants will discuss current challenges and how progress can be made in the future. Ultimately, we hope the seminar will underscore the importance of strategies aimed at improving the level of female representations in science and strengthen European voices in this discussion.

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