

Dear colleagues,

I address to you this letter in English confident in the fact that you know this language or you can easily translate it into Polish utilizing a translation software. For clarification you can still contact me personally on Teams for a voice chat in Polish.

I represent the Faculty of Philosophy in the Executive Team (Zespół Wykonawczy) of the DigiWorld POB. In the last two months we met regularly and discussed many issues. We meet synchronously online once a week, on Wednesday, but we keep exchanging ideas asynchronously during the week. We mainly work on the criteria we should adopt to finance research projects. More precisely, we are working on regulations (regulaminy) of various concourses. The budgets (start-up and full budget) will be invested according to these rules for different goals: patents, scholarships for international students, research, open access publications, etc.

We are still discussing the matter (criteria and allocation of money). However, scholarships for international students should be bound to the achievement of a bachelor or master degree with a thesis in topics related to this POB's strategy. Concerning research, we will create a certain number of mini-grants. Part of the money will go to researchers (as motivational support) and part to cover expenses. Concerning publications, we plan to cover the cost of open access fees for articles published in important journals (e.g. with high impact factor or indexed in Scopus and Web of Science) or by publishers included in the ministerial list. We will also finance proof reading and translations.

It is still under debate the role and function of Labs. It seems that money will not be distributed among Labs, as such. Still, Labs can be created around a precise research project to concur for mini-grants and other financial sources. Consider that we encourage the formation of interdisciplinary/multidisciplinary Labs and research projects. The general ideas of POBs is overcoming – to some extent at least – the traditional feudal division between academic institutions. Synergies are encouraged not only between scientists from different disciplines, but also between scientists and entrepreneurs or private companies.

Central to our discourse is the strategy. Among the various criteria that will constrain the erogation of money the first is obviously the thematic/topic of the research.

Initially the thematic was defined as follows: "Research on the development of digital technologies and social changes caused by this development. Examples: 1) Advanced computational methods and artificial intelligence (AI) - fundamental issues: new algorithms, programmable systems, quantum calculations 2) AI and human (human-interface-machine, human and society in the digital world, semantic networks and support of legal and decision-making processes), cultural heritage, linguistic research and digital humanities, neuroinformatics and psychological issues, ethics in the era of AI) 3) AI in exact and natural sciences (data mining in the analysis of large-scale experiments, applications in climate and space change research, bioinformatics)."

Now we are trying to better define the domains of inquiry, considering that researchers from the humanities and the social sciences will also be involved. And here your feedback could be precious.

Concerning the contributions of scholars and students from the Faculty of Philosophy, I suggest to add the following domains of inquiry: technoethics (in particular infoethics, roboethics, algoethics); digital sociology (empirical studies of virtual social life, technological unemployment, digital surveillance and privacy in the digital Age, social robots and social work); artificial psychology and artificial emotion; traditional religions and new cults in the digital Age.

If any of you is researching in fields that are not mentioned here but potentially related to the strategy of the DigiWorld POB, please let me know.

If any of you work in fields that are mentioned here, please start organizing in small units (Labs or embryos of Labs) so that you will be ready to participate to the concourses once the regulations will be approved and made public. As I said before, it is preferable to collaborate on a very well defined project, in small teams, with scholars from different disciplinary areas.

Consider that the strategy must be based on general formulas to guarantee a certain degree of flexibility. This field of inquiry keeps evolving, so we cannot predict with certainty what will be useful to study in one or two years.

Sorry for the length of the letter. As Mark Twain once said, "I didn't have time to write a short letter, so I wrote a long one instead."

With collegial regards,

Riccardo Campa