With a great joy I would like to share the news that on the 29th of November 2021 the Ph.D. Students’ Council elected me to be the next President of the Ph.D. Students’ Union. To me it is the greatest honour but also an obligation – to work hard on a day-to-day basis for the goodness of the whole community of Ph.D. Students at the University of Warsaw.

The upcoming months bring us a lot of challenges. The ongoing COVID-19 pandemic creates a lot of barriers in scientific research and international mobility. The health issues – both physical and mental – makes writing our doctoral theses so much more difficult for so many of us. Today we also see that there is a need for some amendments in legal regulations regarding doctoral education. Scholarships – both on the doctoral studies and in doctoral schools – needs to be higher. And the procedures and administrative duties – simpler and less burdensome.

But there are also some good news worth sharing. All but few of our friends from Doctoral Schools passed their first-ever mid-term evaluation. Many signs make us believe that some of the scholarships on doctoral studies this year will be the higher than ever. And in the last few weeks we made substantial progress towards opening a work space for Ph.D. Students’ at the University of Warsaw Library Building.

In that I want all of you to remember that the Ph.D. Students’ Union is here to assist you in all of the meanders of academic life. Should you have any issue that you need help or consultation with you are more than welcome to reach out to us under our e-mail address (doktoranci@samorzad.uw.edu.pl), our Facebook page or simply by popping out in our
office. It is located on the main campus and is open Monday through Thursday between 9am and 5pm.

I want to encourage all of you to join us! Being a part of Ph.D. Students’ Union at the University of Warsaw is a great opportunity to get to know some fellow Ph.D. Students, to make great connections with members of our academic staff, to know what our rights and obligations are and to boost our social and organisational skills. It is also highly desired part of our academic CV. And – last but not least – service to the doctoral community brings fulfilment. Between the 7th and 31st of January we will hold elections to the Doctoral Councils on all of the Faculties and in Doctoral Schools. Do not hesitate to vote in such and run yourself. If you want to support us or have any other question – write to doktoranci@samorzad.uw.edu.pl

For the upcoming Christmas season I wish you all the best. May it be the time well spent with your beloved ones. Time for well-deserved rest. Time of hope. And for the 2022 I wish you many publications in top journals, many funding opportunities and progress towards the most important goal right now – successful defence of Ph.D. dissertation.