

## **Former Visiting Student in the Loschmidt Laboratories Became Director of EKOPŁON**

### **- Interview with Mateusz Samoraj**

Mateusz Samoraj, who conducted research at Loschmidt Laboratories in 2015, became a Director of Agrochemicals Technology and Product Development in EKOPŁON. EKOPŁON is a Polish company that provides comprehensive solutions for agricultural production in farm animal nutrition and foliar fertilizers. Mateusz obtained his Ph.D. at Wrocław University of Science and Technology in Poland in 2016, and he is the co-author of 24 publications, four patents, and one book.



#### **What was your childhood dream job?**

Since I was a child, I have always been fascinated by nature. My dream job was to be a teacher, especially in life sciences. I am currently a lecturer at Wrocław University of Science and Technology, where I work as an Assistant Professor. In a sense, I am doing my dream job teaching students.

#### **How has your education prepared you for your career? Why did you choose your field of study?**

My education gave me expertise in biotechnology and chemical technology. In addition, I completed my MBA at Franklin University (USA). I chose these fields because of my passion for natural sciences and management. It gave me the necessary foundations for my current position at EKOPŁON.

#### **What was your experience of Loschmidt Laboratories at the Masaryk University in Brno? What was the most beneficial part of the research stay to you?**

My experience was very positive. I learned a lot about enzyme investigations, protein purification, and analytical research methods. I found it most beneficial to work in an international environment and to experience the well-organized organization of work, competencies, and responsibilities at Loschmidt Laboratories.

#### **Why did you choose Loschmidt Laboratories of the Masaryk University?**

It was a natural choice – at that time, I was looking to gain experience in a top biotechnological academic centre and company. Loschmidt Laboratories and Enantis have given me this opportunity.

**How was your career path to the director position in the company EKOPLON?**

My career path in the industry began after I completed my Ph.D. For three years, I worked at Grupa Azoty, where I was an implementation specialist, then an R&D specialist, and a manager of 3 projects with a total value of about 5 million EUR for which I obtained funding. Afterwards, I completed my MBA studies and was employed by EKOPLON as the acting Director of the Technology Department. After nine months, I became the Director of Agrochemicals Technology and Product Development.

**What challenges are you looking for?**

My philosophy is KAIZEN. I continuously strive to optimize the working environment and look for improvements and enhancements. I want to continue effectively combining science and business in the future. The future challenge will be a habilitation.

**What's the best way for you to relax?**

Travels, warm sea, sand, and time in nature with family and friends. When there is no time for that, I relax walking with my dogs.

**Thank you for the interview.**

Thank you, it was nice to revisit those times in my memories.