The paper presents different aspects of the Polish-German relationships in life sciences. Firstly, importance of a criterion what is “Polish” and what is “German” in the Polish-German borderland was proved. The geographical criterion was used in the most of publications on the subject, however, it caused unnecessary emotions and resulted in misleading conclusions. The historical criterion is more justified but seldom despite the fact that it allows to revalue views on the Polish-German relationships in science. The economical criterion is more seldom even though economy has growing significance in the development of the European Union and its member states.

There were some pivotal points in the history of Polish-German neighborhood in life sciences: the partitions of Poland at the end of the eighteenth century (the breakdown of the hitherto political regime in the Polish Republic), the First World War (the breakdown of the hitherto political regime in Germany), the Second World War (the rise of the Soviet Bloc with Poland and partly Germany among its member states), and 1989 (the Round Table debate in Poland and the downfall of the Berlin Wall in Germany). In each of these periods, working conditions for research in life sciences were better in Germany than in Poland. Moreover, the German journals disseminated research results more effectively than Polish ones, hence, a lot of Polish scholars published in the German journals but they felt themselves as the Poles. In the paper achievements of about a dozen of representatives of the Polish-German borderland in life sciences are presented.