

A report from the research into the 11th BIS Science Picnic – a summary

The 11th BIS Science Picnic “Mathematics and Us” 26th May 2007

For the second time the Workshops of Sociological Analysis have designed and conducted the research into the BIS Science Picnic. The analysis has been based on the results of the survey carried out among the participants of the 10th Science Picnic, which took place in 2006.

As far as the gender of the visitors is concerned, the proportion between the number of female and male participants of the event is more or less equal. In 2007 the BIS Science Picnic was visited by almost 3% more guests from outside Warsaw (30.1% visitors) than it was in 2006. The Picnic is still viewed as a science happening aiming at people from various age groups. The largest group of visitors constitute people under 30 years old (55.73%), many people from this age group are students.

The Picnic is gaining a lot of interest and popularity among groups diversified in terms of occupation. The guests of the Picnic are well-educated people, 39.31% of the visitors have university degrees.

The Picnic is an event that is gaining a great deal of popularity and it is also gladly revisited. The growing tendency in the proportion of people who participate in this science happening repeatedly is clearly visible. In 2006 the percentage of the people revisiting the Picnic reached 47.5% of the respondents, whereas in 2007 this proportion reached 55%.

Among the most common reasons for visiting the Science Picnic the respondents enumerate “a desire to broaden one’s mind” (44.98%) and “a desire to have an interesting Saturday” (39.15%). The fusion of these two above-mentioned factors can be said to constitute a definition of the BIS Science Picnic – an opportunity to spend Saturday in the open air in an active way combined with broadening one’s knowledge. The third most common answer to the question concerning reasons for participating in the Picnic are ex aequo “taking part in the previous editions of the happening” and “a thematic diversity of the presented exhibition stands.”

It is by no means surprising then that more and more people is participating in the successive editions of the Picnic. 84.1% of visitors have awarded the science happening with ‘5’ or ‘6’ (‘6’ was the highest grade). Almost 82.5% of the respondents leaves the BIS

Science Picnic with a feeling that they have broadened their knowledge. And almost everybody (99%) claim that the Picnic is a good method to promote science among society.

The Workshops of Sociological Analysis

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