

Survey results on the 12th Science Picnic of Polish Radio and the Copernicus Science Centre

Each year, the Sociological Analysis Workshop (WAS) designs and carries out a sociological survey among Science Picnic visitors. The results of a questionnaire-based survey taken among the visitors of the 12th Science Picnic in 2008 can now be compared against the survey results obtained for the 10th and 11th Science Picnics in 2006 and 2007. The main conclusions of the final report, interpreting the information so obtained and presenting an overall picture of the event, are as follows:

The most frequently cited motives for attending the Science Picnic are a desire to spend a Saturday in an interesting way (60%) and a desire to learn something new (44.7%). Visitors themselves describe participation in the event as a way to learn something new while having fun.

- Respondents confirm that the Science Picnic did enable them to learn new things, especially about physics, the latest technologies, biology, and chemistry. The event gives most of them good motivation to learn more on their own, such as by watching popular-science programs on TV.

- Most visitors to the Science Picnic concur that it changes the way they look at scientific research: previously they did not fully realize how important scientific research was or were unaware of its applications in certain fields of life.

- The Science Picnic has already amassed a large group of repeat visitors, but also continues to attract in new individuals. In 2008 the ratio between these groups stood at about half and half.

- Respondents express satisfaction at the diversity of attractions on offer and the overall atmosphere at the Science Picnic. They especially appreciate the chance to participate in conducting experiments and to talk to competent, enthusiastic researchers.

All of this contributes to a very positive overall view of the Science Picnic (81.7% of those surveyed give it a score of at least 5 on a 6-point scale). Moreover, 82.2% of respondents stated that taking part had given them a chance to learn something new. Almost all of them (99%) agreed the Picnic was a good way to promote better public awareness of science.