

## **Survey results on the 14th Science Picnic of Polish Radio and the Copernicus Science Centre**

Every year during the Science Picnic, sociological studies are carried out. Their aim is to learn about participants' opinions concerning the programme and course of the event, as well as information on how the role of science in the Polish society is perceived. By 2009, Workshops of Sociological Analysis had been responsible for the project and performing studies, in 2010 however it was Helena Anna Jędrzejczak from the Copernicus Science Centre who has prepared the plan of studies, carried out the survey and drew up the appropriate report.

The implemented study took the form of a quantitative survey and consisted of short questionnaires filled in individually by Picnic participants, as well as structured interviews carried out by the team of interviewers. More than 1,500 responses in total were obtained, which gives room for assumptions concerning the entire surveyed population of Science Picnic participants. The obtained results were compared with those of the 2006-2008 editions. It would seem natural to compare the results with the last event (13th Science Picnic in 2009), but, the sample was very small then and it appears more reliable to use results from the study on a similar number of respondents, which is exactly the case of the 2008 edition. Similarly as in recent years, participants of the 14th Science Picnic assessed the event as very good. This could be concluded for example from the following:

- almost 90% of persons participating in this Picnic intend to visit it next year and only slightly more than 4% are not going to attend it; 95% of participants are glad they came to the Picnic
- almost a half of Picnic participants were there for the first time and more than 10% visited us as much as 5 times or more
- one third of Picnic participants came from outside of Warsaw and 41% of them - outside of Mazovia region, which means that the Picnic is a nation-wide event
- as many as 39.9% of Picnic participants are the youngest persons, at the age below 19 – in relation to 2007 their share increased by 12 percentage points
- most persons visit the Picnic in order to spend Saturday in an interesting way (52%) and broaden their knowledge (37%). Nevertheless, the most important reason is willingness to acquaint children with science (19.3%)
- Picnic participants value strongly the possibility of meeting competent persons who have a positive approach towards the participants themselves and allow them to perform experiments without interfering – respondents emphasise their appreciation for interactive forms of acquiring knowledge
- almost three fourths of Picnic participants think that Poland should invest in science more than 1% of GDP (at present - 0.32% of GDP according to Eurostat)