

24th Science Picnic of Polish Radio and the Copernicus Science Centre

How does the Picnic programme come about ?



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Thank you very much for wishing to take part in the 24th Science Picnic. The whole process of creating the programme is spread out over several months and assumes very close cooperation between the future Exhibitors and Organizers. Every year, together with over a hundred institutions, we create a unique experience for thousands of visitors. It is the attractions you have prepared that are the key to the success of the event. Throughout the year, the Scientific Picnic team helps to create a programme that will delight the guests.

How is the Science Picnic programme created?

We collect your ideas for the Science Picnic six months before the event itself. These six months are the time of close cooperation between the Organizer and you. We dedicate it to the joint adaptation of your proposals to:

- the objectives of the Scientific Picnic:
 - To create a space for social dialogue on science and its role and to sensitize scientific institutions to the need for engaging in dialogue with the public.
 - To shape attitudes, values and skills that foster independent learning.
 - To promote social inclusion by offering access to “live science” to groups that otherwise do not enjoy such access.
- the subject of the current edition:
 - The 24th Scientific Picnic is held under the banner of “**Climate and Us**”.
- and the needs of the guests of the event.

When building the program of the 24. Science Picnic, we would like to put a strong emphasis on how the event is perceived by its guests and how we can meet their expectations and ambitions, helping them to pursue their passions. For this purpose, we have created a set of zones and criteria aimed at matching your presentation proposals with the program of the event.

We would like to present you with the **picnic zones!**

Zones at the Picnic

The 23. Picnic was **divided into seven themed zones**, which made it easier for guests to choose among the different venues described in the program. This new solution **was met with an enthusiastic response** from both Picnic guests and exhibitors. Therefore, this year we decided to keep the zones.

You will find a list of **zones** and their **missions** below.



Future Zone

Mission: Showcase the inventions, technologies and research that change our daily lives.

This is the area where we would first like to see exhibitors representing universities, research institutes and technology companies. We are counting on demonstrations that will focus on technology and scientific research. Visitors should see what awaits us in the future, and also better understand the work of inventions that are already common today. The zone is to be distinguished by a large number of objects to be seen (prototypes, models, objects and products) and presentations accompanied by in-depth explanations referring to scientific research.

Health Zone

Mission: to show how modern medicine works and how science helps us to take care of our health in the face of climate change.

We would like to invite both representatives of the medical sciences and other institutions dealing with health and a healthy lifestyle to this zone. The subject of health is of great interest to Picnic guests. We would like them to see the advances of new technology in medicine and learn more about their bodies and minds. The zone will be located in the PGE National Gallery, which will provide an opportunity to present medical simulators and other equipment of this type.

Cult Experiment Zone

Mission: Share your scientific passion using the best pop-scientific demonstrations.

This is the area where scientific institutes, universities, research circles and schools will be found. We would like it to be filled with shows that the audience loves – even if they have seen them many times at such events. We are counting on effective demonstrations from various fields of science, which prove their worth in picnic conditions, conducted by efficient and committed demonstrators.

Family Zone

Mission: to let the youngest guests of the Picnic have fun experiencing the joy of learning about the world and how to take care of the environment.

This is the area to which we want to direct institutions specialising in activities for children of primary school age and younger. This doesn't mean that we do not expect activity for a diverse group of recipients in other areas. However, here we propose a special focus on activities and games stimulating cognitive curiosity, in which whole families can be involved. To facilitate this, we will also make it possible to organise activities outside the tents in the wooded part of the National PGE.

Do-it-yourself Zone

Mission: Invite the visitors to the Picnic to create and construct on their own.



This is the zone for institutions that want to involve their visitors in collective do-it-yourself activities, creation and construction. We are counting on the proposals for workshops – both engineering and artistic. Give the visitors the opportunity to do something on their own – to test or express themselves creatively – and take the result home.

Civilization Zone

Mission: Show how science enables us to understand social relations and the development of our civilization.

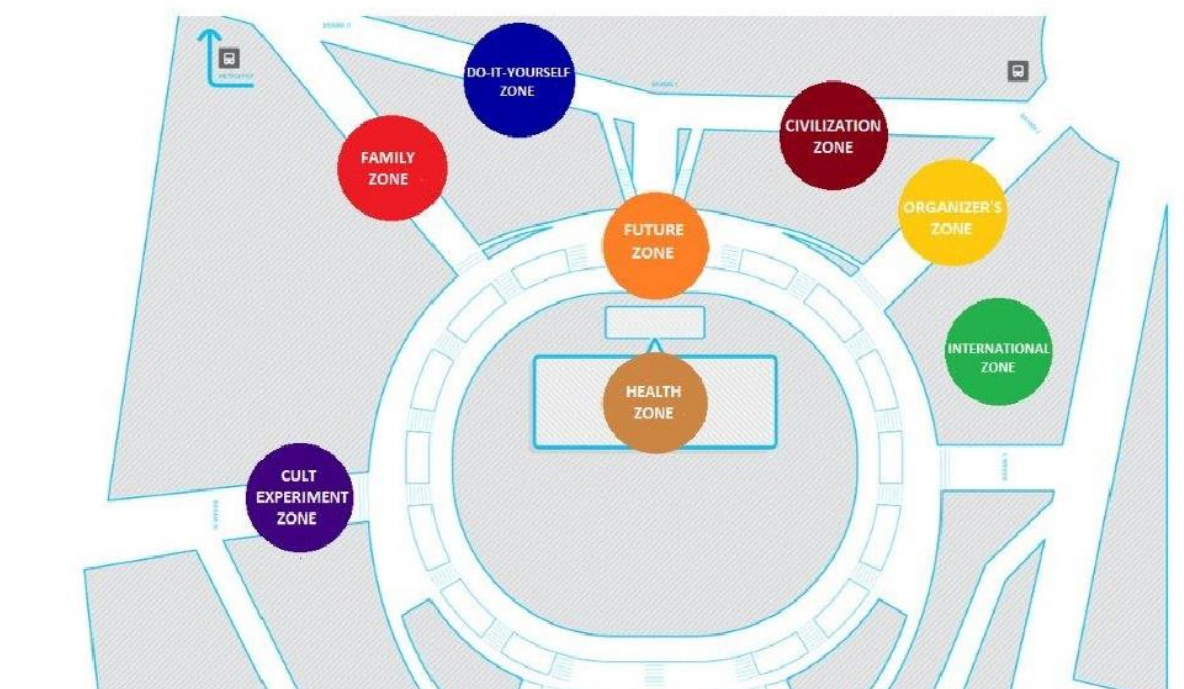
The zone is particularly interesting for institutions presenting historical sciences and the humanities in the most general sense. We look forward to presentations related to the broad historical and social context of science and technology. It should be a zone rich in discussion and reflection activities. However, we do not rule out interactive demonstrations, experiences and presentations of museum collections.

Foreign Guest Zone/International Zone

(zone dedicated to foreign institutions and embassies)

Mission: to present the best popular science shows and achievements of scientists from your countries in research and implementation of climate solutions.

This is the zone dedicated to foreign hosts of the Picnic. We hope that they will come to Poland with the best scientific shows from their countries and will demonstrate them on the mini stage created in this zone. We also invite embassies to present the scientific and technological achievements of their countries here. Initiatives aimed at bringing scientists and people involved in scientific communication to Poland will be welcomed.



Submission to the programme – in practice

We will ask you a lot of questions when you apply. This is dictated by the organization of the Scientific Picnic as a mass event, which imposes on us the obligation to report on the programme of the event in detail. A detailed description of the completion of the Application Form is available in the "How to apply" document available at www.pikniknaukowy.pl in the tab FOR PARTICIPANTS. At this point, we want to answer a few questions in order to explain better the intention we want to achieve.

1) Will scientific research be presented at the stand?

This question is to check our programme assumptions. We want 60% of the institutions qualified for the Picnic to demonstrate their research activities. If you are planning at least one show concerning your research, please mark YES. This question does not affect your location in the zone.

2) What is the main idea of your programme?

Please provide a brief description of the whole idea for the programme related to the zone's mission. This is a mandatory field, but filling it in will make it much easier for us to communicate your programme in the media and in the information for the Picnic guests.

In the next step you describe your ideas for shows inspired by the main theme of the Picnic.

When planning the programme, please consider which activities will work best in a picnic environment. Here are our tips.

Type of activities

- **Experiments conducted by visitors:** Such activities are very attractive and appealing to the public visiting the Picnic. When planning your stand, make sure that both the hosts and those taking part in the activities feel comfortable, you have enough supplies and the arrangement of your tables and chairs is well planned.
- **Workshops or activities of 15 minutes or more:** Despite being attractive in form, such interactions are rather long, which means queues. In addition, these are low-capacity activities, so not many people will be able to participate. When planning your workshops, make sure that their course and results are attractive also to observers. If you choose to organize workshops, consider additional shorter activities for those who will not take part in them.
- **Discussions and presentations:** If you choose this form, try to engage your audience, start a dialogue instead of launching into a monologue and encourage visitors to ask questions. If you can, present a small experiment, bring an interesting tool of work or a related artefact. The presentation should be as attractive as possible. Remember that



the listeners have no place to sit and only the viewers situated in the front row will be able to see you and hear you well. Also, take into account the fact that this type of activity is tiring for you, especially as you must not use a microphone.

- **Poster:** Do not make posters like the ones presented at research conferences. If you are using a poster, make sure it features as little text and as many graphics as possible. Place your poster close to the entrance to your tent so that it is visible to visitors passing by. Then it can serve as a stand-alone illustration or a preview of what is happening inside.
- **Multimedia presentation:** We strongly advise against such activities. In a well-lighted tent, the images from an overhead projector will be barely visible and sound will be almost inaudible given the conditions at the Picnic (it is against the rules to use amplified sound for shows in the tent). Also, the organisers do not provide electronic equipment or screens.
- **Giveaways:** Think about how those who visit your tent might be able to take the results of their work or experiments home with them. These do not have to be expensive gadgets, even a printout of a measurement that can guest takes can be a nice souvenir and help the visitors remember your stand better. But remember that this idea may prove a huge challenge. The Picnic draws in thousands of visitors, so you if you are planning to offer giveaways, make sure you have a sufficient number (around 2,000-3,000).
- **Additional printed materials:** If you opt for additional printed materials such as instructions on how to do an experiment or organize a simplified workshop at home, take into account the number of visitors and demand for materials. Alternatives to paper include QR codes on the poster in your stand.

Review of applications: technical details

The opinion process takes place in two stages:

I evaluation (22.Nov.2019 – 06.Dec.2019)- consequently, each application can be:

1. accepted,
2. recommended for improvement.

If the Organizer has recommended amendments, the coordinator shall (according to the schedule) have more than two weeks from the date of receipt of the information to make such changes.

II evaluation (15.Jan.2020 – 28.Feb.2020) - consequently, each application can be:

1. accepted,
2. rejected – this happens in extreme situations; this may also be affected by how stands in previous years were evaluated.



After both stages of evaluation you will receive written feedback included in the application form. The application coordinator will be notified by email when the results of the evaluation are available in the system.

Opinion of the programme

After the presentations have been described, your application is reviewed by the Organizers. During the first evaluation, each application is read by at least two specialists cooperating with each other. They will read all the submissions for each zone. They give their opinions using universal, descriptive criteria:

1) Matching the character of the selected zone

We assess the extent to which the programme you propose fulfils the mission of a given zone. A mismatch with the mission does not necessarily mean that the programme will be rejected – but we can decide to change your zone and location.

2) Impact on the diversity in the zone

We compare your application with others in a given zone, taking care of the diversity and uniqueness of all the activities in it. Original ideas and unique shows are welcome.

3) Quality of the visitor experience

We evaluate, in the role of the guests of the Picnic, the extent to which a visit to your stand will be a valuable experience. We count on a lot of interactive displays, suggestions of interesting ways of approaching the subject, and engaging activities. We want our guests to return in their thoughts to the nice moments spent at your stand.

After the first stage of opinions, you will receive written feedback from us included in the application form. You will have about one month to use our comments and make changes to the programme.

Final qualification for the event and allocation to a zone will be given to you about 3 months before the event. We will also contact some of you personally. We invite you to talks and creative cooperation at every stage of preparation of the Picnic!

A detailed schedule can be found in the "How to apply" document which is available at www.pikniknaukowy.pl in the tab FOR PARTICIPANTS.

You will also have a chance to meet the Organizers responsible for co-creating the programme at the Picnic! In each zone, the person who has selected your report and suggested improvements will be present. We are counting on the opportunity to talk during the Picnic, exchange comments about the programme and share our experience. This form of contact will replace written feedback from the anonymous evaluators who visited your tents in previous editions.



Conditions and nature of the Picnic

We continue to count on creative and clever ideas for the implementation of the theme of the Picnic. This year's motto is "**Climate and Us**". Think about whether and how you can relate the content and forms of presentation to the main idea. Don't do it by force. Interesting ideas from outside the topic can also be highly evaluated. This year we decided to look at the Picnic from a different perspective. We want to take into account the quality of the visitor experience. We assess, in the role of the guests of the Picnic, the extent to which a visit to your stand will provide them with a valuable experience.

Below you will find some valuable tips that may be helpful on the day of the Picnic.

The day of the Picnic – technical details

- **Shift work:** Working in a picnic tent is tiring and no one can talk to an audience for nine hours without interruption, so there should be a number of people manning every tent. The best idea is to take shifts (based on our experience, we recommend no more than five hours). Make sure you have enough time to take a break and to eat and drink. Remember that leaving your tent unattended creates a bad impression, so plan breaks using a shift-based system.
- **Interaction:** The Picnic is not a place to deliver lectures but to interact with people. Be open and talk to people. Listen to those who visit your tent. You can learn something, too (for example how others see your work)!
- **Facilitate contact:** Visitors to the Picnic often look at the stands as shop windows (this especially holds true for adults). They are afraid to ask what this is about. Help them. Talk to people.
- **Get to know other participants:** Taking a walk around the Picnic to see what others are presenting is a must. You will have a unique opportunity to see good ideas, look for inspiration and talk to people – do not miss it!
- **Be credible:** Describe your passions. Remember that no one will see your presentations as interesting unless you yourself are convinced that they are. When presenting your own work, highlight the authentic emotions you yourself experience. In this way, you can develop a good rapport with the visitors and show them the "human" aspect of scientific research and your job.
- **Be comprehensible:** Remember to present your research in a way that is easy to understand for non-scientists. Remember that an adult layman is not a child. Do not trivialize your message, do not talk to adults in the same way you talk to children.
- **Be genuine:** Your daily research work will seem mysterious to most of those who visit the Picnic. Instead of preparing school-style experiments, bring an actual device you



use on a daily basis, show materials and methods used to seek answers to research questions.

Remember that your role is crucial. You are the person giving presentations, performing shows and doing experiments. Irrespective of the activities you propose, your willingness to interact with visitors, your passion for the kind of science that you want to talk about and your enthusiasm in sharing your knowledge are especially valuable.

