

International Banach Prize

The International Banach Prize for a Doctoral Dissertation in the Mathematical Sciences was established by Ericpol Telecom – the benefactor of the Prize, and by the Polish Mathematical Society in 2008. It reflects the appreciation of one of the leading Polish IT companies for the role that mathematical reasoning plays in the contemporary world. The purpose of the competition is to financially support and promote the most talented young researchers dealing with the mathematical sciences, to stress the meaning of mathematics – the discipline which is the basis of civilization and business, and to popularize the attainments of professor Stefan Banach in the international forum.

The international character of the initiative, which covers more and more European countries, is aimed at raising the prestige of the competition and developing the international cooperation of the Polish mathematicians. To this year's edition of the competition doctoral dissertations written in Belarus, the Czech Republic, Estonia, Finland, Lithuania, Latvia, Norway, Poland, Slovakia, Sweden, Ukraine and Hungary could be submitted. Doctoral dissertations written in Polish or in English, or the ones whose results were published or accepted for publication in English, could be submitted for the competition. The deadline for III edition' submissions were January 31 2011.

Fourteen dissertations were sent to the competition. Nine dissertations - from Poland, the rest came from the Czech Republic, Estonia, Norway, Sweden and Ukraine. The jury will announce the winner by the end of May 2011, and the award ceremony will take place on 11-15 September 2011, during the Polish-Israeli Forum of Mathematics.

This year's dissertations' level is very high – admits Professor Pawel Walczak, vice-president of the Polish Mathematical Society – so it will be hard to select the best one.

The laureate will receive the prize in the amount of 20,000 złoty, which is one of the highest financial prizes awarded in Poland in the field of mathematics. The prize is awarded by the Jury, which in 2011 is composed of:

- Professor Piotr Zgliczyński Ph.D., Jagiellonian University in Cracow, chairman of the Jury;
- Professor Grzegorz Banaszak Ph.D., Adam Mickiewicz University in Poznań;
- Professor Zbigniew Błocki Ph.D., Jagiellonian University;

- Jakub Gismatullin, Ph.D., University of Wrocław, laureate of the 2nd edition of the International Banach Prize in 2010;
- Professor Grzegorz Karch, Ph.D., University of Wrocław;
- Jan Smela, founder and president of Ericpol Telecom;
- Professor Anna Zdunik, Ph. D., University of Warsaw.

The laureate of the second edition of the International Banach Prize was doctor Jakub Gismatullin, awarded by the Jury for his dissertation entitled „G-compactness and groups”, written at the University of Wrocław and sponsored by professor Ludomir Newelski, Ph.D.

The laureate of the first edition of the International Banach Prize was doctor Tomasz Elsner from the Institute of Mathematics of the University of Wrocław. His work was entitled ‘The minimal surface theory in systolic spaces’ and was supervised by professor Lech Tadeusz Januszkiewicz, Ph.D.