



The vision and smell tests in Techmania Science Center in Pilsen, Czech Republic

Press release: 16th October 2017

Science to touch, science for everyday life - this would characterize [Techmania Science Center's](#) activities in Pilsen, which were offered to the public during the autumn 2017 under the project [ERC = Science²](#). Altogether there were more than six hundred people of all ages.

One of the activities under the ERC=Science² project on the topic of Sensory Experience was a Pop-Up Science Stand at the **Researcher's Night** event that took place on 6th October in Techmania Science Center in Pilsen. Families and individual visitors came here to find out how developed their vision is and to see the demonstration of the optical delusions. In addition, they could also hear many interesting information about the [European Research Council \(ERC\)](#) and projects that are supported and funded by the ERC. The Pop-Up Science stand was visited by 350 people in total.

Another activity which introduced the ERC project during the **Researchers' Night** was the biological Fablab. It was especially prepared for this event and consisted of several activities relevant to sensory experience. Visitors learned more about smell in an entertaining way and they had an opportunity to work with a microscope. Fablab was attended by 350 people.

The third activities of the ERC project were dialogue activities held on 12th October: a lecture followed by a science café for general public. Techmania organized an ERC= Science² lecture featuring Lenka Zdeborová, a laureate of the prestigious European Fellowship ERC Starting Grant. The goal of ERC SMiLe (Statistical Mechanics of Learning) is to obtain better understanding of how to learn useful structure from data. Lenka Zdeborová studies recent advances in machine learning, such as deep neural networks, from the point of view of statistical mechanics of disordered systems. Her lecture was attended by 36 people; most of them were actively involved in subsequent informal discussion.

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For press queries, please contact: Mr. Shane McCollam at shane.mccollam@sciencebusiness.net

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