

## **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 a significant axis of 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 countries of Central and Eastern Europe, 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, Lithuania, Latvia, Poland, Slovakia, 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.

Twenty dissertations were sent to the competition, and their average level was higher than last year. Thirteen dissertations were sent from Poland, four from the Czech Republic, one from Hungary, Ukraine and Slovakia. The coverage of the dissertations was very varied. The majority of the dissertations concerned pure mathematics: from the fundamentals (set theory and model theory), through algebra, topology or functional equations and inequalities, to dynamical systems with ergodic theory, probability theory, differential equations and mathematical analysis. A few dissertations concerned the applications of mathematics in: cryptography, fluid dynamics, image processing or selected areas of mathematical physics.

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 2010 was composed of:

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

- Tomasz Elsner Ph.D., University of Wrocław / Ohio State University, laureate of the 1st edition of the International Banach Prize in 2009;
- Krzysztof Oleszkiewicz Ph.D., University of Warsaw;
- professor Piotr Zgliczyński Ph.D., Jagiellonian University;
- Jan Smela, founder and president of Ericpol Telecom.

The laureate of the present, 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 following persons were nominated for the prize:

- Radosław Adamczak (University of Warsaw, Institute of Mathematics),
- Sławomir Dinew (Jagiellonian University, Institute of Mathematics),
- Paulina Grzegorek (Wrocław Technical University, Institute of Mathematics and Computer Science),
- Jan Stovicek (Charles' University in Prague, Faculty of Algebra).

It is worth mentioning that the laureate of the previous, 1st edition of the competition in 2009 was also a doctoral student from the University of Wrocław, doctor Tomasz Elsner. The same year his sponsor, professor Tadeusz Januszkiewicz, was awarded the main Banach Prize of the Polish Mathematical Society for his outstanding research achievements in the field of geometrical set theory.