



## **Science without borders**

**Athens Science Festival 2018**

**Technopolis City of Athens**

## **# asf2018: 22,000 visitors discovered Science Without Borders at Technopolis**

***160 research, academic and educational institutions | 115 different interactive activities | 48 labs for kids | 23 workshops for adults | 55 speeches | 5 competitions | Art Exhibitions | Documentary | StandUp Science | Various activities for every age!***

The unique festival on science and innovation, [Athens Science Festival](#), was held for the fifth year in a row at Technopolis City of Athens, with 22,000 visitors. Of those, 6,000 were students who were exposed to many interesting scientific activities. During 6 days, Technopolis City of Athens hosted 160 research, academic and educational organizations, 115 different interactive events, 48 labs for kids, 23 workshops, 55 speeches and 5 competitions, as well as a series of other events for all ages!

Particularly charismatic and acclaimed speakers of international fame impressed and engaged their audience. These included: Athanassios Fokas, Gábor Domokos, Joseph Sifakis, Vasilios Nasis, Evangelos Eleftheriou, Dimitris Kyritsis, Zeev Zalevsky, Carsten Mahrenholz, Luca Turin, Vasilis Ntziachristos, Theocharis Apostolatos, James Beacham and Francesco Stellacci.

At the same time, Marsha Ivins, Athena Coustenis, Jenny Leivadarou, Elspeth Garman and Alexandra Olaya Castro were featured in this year's tribute on "Women in Science", highlighting the importance of women scientists and promoting equal opportunities for both sexes. In addition, as the city of Athens is the UNESCO World Book Capital 2018, the program of the Athens Science Festival included a series of activities, speeches, discussions, workshops and performances highlighting the strong links between books and science.

Under this year's motto "Science Without Borders" the majority of the General Secretariat for Research and Technology supported scientific and technological organizations (co-organizer of the Athens Science Festival) took us with them on a journey to the magic world of technology presenting impressive applications, experiments and innovative discoveries. The research centres that participated include: NCSR "Demokritos", "Athena" Research Center, Foundation for Research and Technology, Hellenic Centre for Marine Research, National Observatory of Athens, National Hellenic Research Foundation and Greek Atomic Energy Commission.

Significant contribution came from the Onassis Foundation, whereas a large number of universities, scientific associations, educational institutions and schools presented their activities and offered a different channel of scientific knowledge to visitors of all ages.

The Road Safety Institute "Panos Mylonas" invited guests to redefine their driving behaviour through experiential activities that were carried out with the kind support of Cyclon Lubricants. WHAT'S UP Escape Room scaled up the interactivity of the Athens Science Festival 2018, through an incredibly fun process with puzzles and riddles with the aim of finding clues to "deactivate the bomb" and save Technopolis. Also, people of all ages had the opportunity to be informed about safe surfing on the internet by participating in COSMOTE Family's actions, while particularly moving was the participation of the visitors to Bloode's mobile blood donation unit.

Those who visited the Cave of Sounds interactive installation experienced a contemporary music ritual, while concepts such as the "Higgs field effect" and the "acceleration and particle collisions" became more understandable through the interactive experience in the CERN Interactive Tunnel. In a packed amphitheatre, Science Reactors once again proved to us how science can be fun and comprehensible when presented by people passionate about it. Finally, the most remarkable science communicators in our country competed with one another in the first competition of Science Communications Awards – ΕΠΙ<sup>2</sup> 2018 and the stage of the 5th Athens Science Festival left young and old with the best impressions.

Through interactive educational workshops for children, adult seminars and a variety of innovative activities, our main goal was achieved; the public approached science, scientific knowledge became synonymous to fun, games and joy, and the message that science does not know of borders and constraints was successfully passed. We are renewing our appointment for 2019!

**Organizers:** SciCo, British Council, Technopolis City of Athens, Onassis Foundation Scholars' Association, General Secretariat for Research and Technology.

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**Access:** Metro: "Keramikos" Station, Trolley: No. 21 (from Omonia), "Fotaerio" Stop, Buses: 049, 815, 838, 914, B18, C18, "Fotaerio" Stop

