

## Survey among Young Scientists - Fall 2016

In October 2016, the Centre for Young Scientists (ZfWN) carried out an online survey to evaluate its current programme. About 200 doctoral students, 50 postdocs and 400 students participated. It showed that the ZfWN and its offerings are known by the majority of the young scientists. Those who already attended an event were pleased with the organisation and the work done by the ZfWN.

One key element of the survey was the feedback regarding the current training programme. The offerings correspond largely with the student's demands. An especially great interest is shown in courses regarding scientific working and academic writing. Due to the high demand for those courses registration is not always possible. Hence, the possibilities for repeating the courses are being examined.

InProTUC, a project funded by the German Academic Exchange Service (DAAD) aiming at the internationalisation of the doctorate is only known by a small group within the survey participants. Doctoral students who have not been abroad assume the value that an working experience abroad could have on their doctoral thesis to be rather low while thinking that the cost and the effort would be too high. These assumptions differ strongly from what doctoral students who have been abroad state. In light of these findings, information events are intended at which doctoral students can share their experiences abroad to resolve negative expectations others might have.

The main struggles young scientists face can sadly not be resolved by the ZfWN. Those are mostly structural concerns regarding limited job contracts or a too big workload. What the ZfWN can do is to ease the burden of multiple stresses for young scientists by offering courses that empower their personal and soft skills.

The postdocs have expressed the wish for separate events for themselves as a target group since the current programme is mostly aiming at doctoral students. The students as potential future young scientists are asking for an information event to hear about the options of the doctorate at TU Chemnitz.

We are happy about the high participation in the survey and would like to thank everybody who took the time to participate. For further questions and suggestions, the team of the Centre for Young Scientists is at your disposal.