Science Festival in Nysa as an International Instrument of Knowledge Management

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Słowa kluczowe: festiwal nauki, zarządzanie wiedzą, dyfuzja wiedzy, popularyzacja nauki

Synopsis: The science festival is the perfect instrument of knowledge diffusion about the regional, national and international range. The mission of the science festival movement has the extremely essential and ambitious message, it builds the knowledge capital of society. The festival stimulates to create the network of knowledge and includes together all festival participants. This movement builds the knowledge-based society.

Introduction

Science is a measure of development of the human thought, and therefore a measure of this thought being translated into the progress in answering difficult questions, which as a consequence results in the actual technical progress. It inspires people to satisfy their needs that are continuously arising and constitute a dimension of our development, a manner of perceiving and defining reality. Multi-directional development of science, the stage of progress of which establishes the level of knowledge, skills and needs of society, must be linked to networks of economic and non-economic organizations. This complex system of cooperation, which involves numerous actors, requires efficient methods of knowledge management and properly focused knowledge diffusion. One of the interesting and effective instrument of knowledge diffusion is science festival. It facilitates and extends the networks of economic and non-economic organizations, and its very important in the regional dimension, where festival is organized and created by many organizations and institutions. Science festival is a global instrument because its organized by many countrys from all over the world and the basic aims of the festival are the same in this countrys. The main aim of this article is to define the role of science festival in the global educational process.

The definition of science festival

According to the definition, festival (lat. festivus – gay, festive) is a number of artistic events, usually of one type (e.g. film, music, theatre), which give a review of accomplishments in a given domain, organized at one time and under common name, often in the form of a competition. This is at the same time an event intended to present in an accessible and interesting manner scientific achievements, however, in the aspect of their practical application. Only the knowledge that is fully attainable for everyone and may be easily verified can encourage people to further explore, search and raise doubts as to the things that had

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been deemed obvious so far. Additionally, the word “science” refers to the autonomous part of culture used for explanation of functioning of the world in which human lives. Science is knowledge and the way of its collection, thus it perfectly fits in the idea, intention and definition of a high school [Malczyk, 2005, p. 80].

In Great Britain, science festival is defined as a diversified scientific event that includes lectures, exhibitions, workshops, demonstrations and experiments, discussion panels, cultural events, etc., which involve the audience in uncovering various sides of science [Gareth, 2007; Griggs, 2009, p. 11]. The first part of a festival often involves conversations on multiple topics and debates on a given issue conducted by excellent figures, while the second part is a series of events promoting science, addressed predominantly to families [Hannan, 2009, p. 2]. Science festivals promote contemporary science and at the same time recall key achievements of great scientists whose discoveries expressly contributed to history of human development. One example may be The British Science Festival, that in 2009 drew attention to the 200th anniversary of Carol Darwin’s birthday. Darwin became a patron of the festival, especially that during his life he was not only a great scientist, but he also participated in the works of the present British Science Association, that started promotion of science which later became science festival [Ellis, 2009, pp. 918-919]. Science festival teaches creativity, openness, which leads to a number of changes or updates of the earlier adopted definitions and conducts in knowledge management. This applies particularly to the sciences that are dynamically changing along the development of advanced methods of research, computer technologies, instruments, software, etc. [Reiss, 2008, p. 4]. Science festivals also promote achievements of students who implement the program of knowledge diffusion directed to children and teenagers [Sanders, 2008, p. 15]. Such activities attract teenagers’ interest and build up their knowledge, but at the same time consolidate students’ skills. It is a tremendous challenge – didactic and educational [Roller, 2009]. Many festival programs are focused on encouraging participation of defined target groups – specific recipients. Examples of such activities are programs addressed to girls, who, according to some researchers, should play a more significant role in science [Lee, 2001, p. 44; Felix, 2008, p. 42; Scott, 2005, p. 15].

In the U.S. science festivals are regarded as a multicultural, multi-generation, and multidisciplinary festival of science organized by more than 500 scientific and engineering organizations from across the USA [Milo, 2010, p. 6; Chamberes, 2010, pp. 1-35]. This event is treated as a good opportunity to present one’s skills in practical classes and scientific activity, with a touch of fun, in order to inspire next generation of scientists and engineers [Sullivan, McClinton, 2010, p. 1-2]. Well-known guests are invited to participate in festivals, who join presentations and discussions [McClatchy and Tribune, 2010; Feder, 2009, p. 25]. A very interesting form is attributed to science festivals limited to given issues, e.g. Santa Monica Mountains Science Festival (USA), which has just been launched this year. The purpose of the festival is to provide a close-up of the world of nature characteristic for Santa Monica Mountains National Recreation Area. Festival is organized by: National Park Service and Natural History Museum [Repanshek, 2010, p. 1; McClatchy and Tribune, 2010].

Due to great mobility of information and ideas, many forms of festival events are similar in different countries, covering distant continents. It proves an equal level of science popularization that evolves independently on different continents, and suggests similar needs related to the knowledge diffusion. Ideas are also reviewed and adopted to the needs of the recipients [Enserink, 2004, p. 1387]. The idea of festival organization similarly transferred...
from Genua in Italy to New York in the US with its ambitions of creating the capital city of science there. The Science Festival Foundation was appointed, and it has gathered the amount of $ 5.2 m from a number of donors including, among others, the Sloan Foundation and the Rockefeller Foundation [Souccar, 2008, p. 3; Musser, 2008, p. 34].

The science festival in Australia is organized in order to bring science closer to society, therefore it involves many companies, scientists, educational organizations, who together participate in preparation and implementation of the festival [Brown, McLean, 2001, p. 12].

Festival movement is constantly spreading, gradually covering more and more countries, including United Arab Emirates. Sharjah University in Dubai organizes a festival entitled Basic Sciences and their Role in building our society, which has become the definition of this project [Sharjah Education Council, 2010, p. 1].

Science achievements provided by knowledge streams formulated by science festivals are also used in a broader context. They have contributed to combining traditional knowledge from Asia with modern science and technology, in order to create a better world where human kind and nature can coexist in harmony. Such a project was started in 2005 during EXPO in Japan. The program was sponsored by Japan Science Foundation, which gathered together students, scientific employees and businessmen for the purpose of “fun science” presentation and promotion of wonderful scientific and technological innovations. The festival covered China, Korea and the USA, and was perceived as an opportunity to understand science and develop international scientific education [Blades, 2003, p. 527].

Regardless of who organizes science festival and in which country, it has the same message and a very similar definition. It is a spontaneous idea, lasting as a result of the belief that science should reach everyone [Gillis, 2009]. In particular, it is directed to young people who are perceived as potential candidates for scientists, as well as to people using most recent scientific achievements to perform tasks significant from the point of view of the society, state, region. This great initiative coming from the human need to develop is becoming a key instrument of knowledge management at the world level, and is a natural way of knowledge diffusion to people and organizational networks [VanderVeen, 1995, p. 7]. A lot of attention is paid by science festivals to the development of sciences which are difficult but necessary for the development of human thought and technical progress. An example is the festival’s care for the development of mathematics; it especially encourages teenagers, showing its most practical side [Gordon, Cynthia, 2008].

Talking about science festival, one should emphasize the role of having knowledge being the basis of the society, playing a key part in shaping the learning process [Peterson, 2009, pp. 55-70], and separation of knowledge among various organizations [Huysman, Wenger, Wulf, 2003, p. 550]. This is particularly important when analyzing the level of education of the professionally active society [Barab, Kling, Gray, 2004, pp. 395-396; Garrick, Usher, 2000], which should catch up with changing labour market needs and interests of the region, state or community of states. A thesis formulated in such a way significantly expands the importance of science festival, the festival is perceived as one of the basic instruments of knowledge diffusion, which is compatible with global and network understanding, and thus with the implementation of assumptions of the current education system. One should mention here the model of knowledge strategy network, which may be applied in education, business, scientific organizations. This strategy is based on the following principles [Peterson, 2009, pp. 55-70]:

1. educational programme – pupils, students, teachers, entrepreneurs are the actors of a global network,
2. creativity – interdisciplinary theoretical and practical knowledge, interdisciplinary problem solving,
3. science – scholar, multidisciplinary teams, creation of scientific environment,
4. practice – science, shaping the practice based on regional and international entrepreneurship,
5. communication and cooperation – direct dialogue and online conversation, meetings, designs, presentations, conferences,
6. strategic role of university – manager in the educational network and mutual relations, or division of this role between several academic centres,
7. state structure and administration – academic needs, management of common project,
8. division of strategic intentions and results – creation of new knowledge and practice, innovations, scientific advancement as a leader in many fields, especially in entrepreneurship,
9. measurable goals – for the network and each project,
10. achievement of strategic goals and impact – creation and dissemination of new knowledge and practice, innovation and scientific advancement in the form of leaders in many fields, including the economic ones.

Science festivals are fully consistent with the model of knowledge strategy network. They execute different principles on a diverse level of scientific progress, becoming an instrument that, influencing already the youngest generation, very rapidly contributes to creation of knowledge-based society. It disseminates principles, familiarizes with and indicates sensibility of the model of strategic network of knowledge management. Network must constantly develop, follow scientific achievements, otherwise it ceases to play its role of an effective instrument of knowledge diffusion [McDermott, 2001, p. 1].

Nysa Science Festival

The idea of organizing science festival by the School of Higher Vocational Education in Nysa (PWSZ in Nysa) arose at the beginning of 2005. In September that year the 1st Nysa Science Festival was organized thanks to the great commitment of the Organizational Committee of Nysa Science Festival [Malczyk, 2008, p. 240]. The festival took place during the program entitled Polish National Day of Science, implemented by the Ministry of Science and Higher Education. Organization of the festival in Nysa was preceded by establishment of contacts with administrative and educational environment of our region, presentation of the festival program assumptions and plan. The idea was welcomed with great interest on the part of all the involved, especially the municipal and district authorities. In our region no event had been organised before that would be directed not only to high school students, but also to the local community. The festival was organized in the city centre, where at all times people were talking about science, its practical side and application. This event attracted many town citizens in all age groups [Malczyk, 2009, p. 110].

Soon after the end of the first edition, we started preparations for next festival, which was even greater and more interesting. Every year we invite all persons interested in participation in the festival, but at the same time we welcome everyone who wants to co-create it. The festival has the word “Nysa” in its name, which means: our common.
Each year the festival hosts more and more people, including teenagers, and we have noticed to our satisfaction that it has become an important event in our region, as it constructs a new academic identity of high substantive and emotional value. More and more people participate in the following festivals, and their number is growing by 500 persons every year, e.g. in 2008 there were over 3 500 people, and in 2009 – more than 4 000. Non-academic units are also getting involved in organization of the festival, e.g. the Museum in Nysa, the Amateur Radio Association, the Polish Scouting Association.

On the part of the university all organizational units participate in the festival by preparing the program.

Each edition of the festival has a new motto implemented through a number of educational programs or the Festival Popular Science Conferences.

Nysa Science Festival is a neutral and at the same time academic educational and communication platform connecting many environments which form and shape socio-economic reality of our region (Fig. 1). It gives us the possibility to coordinate works over solution of many problems of educational, or even social nature [Malczyk, 2009, p. 110].

![Diagram](image)

**Fig. 1.** Connections between the environments participating in Nysa Science Festival (Powiązania pomiędzy środowiskami uczestniczącymi w Nyskim Festiwalu Nauki)

*Source: author’s research.*
Nysa Science Festival has occupied a fixed position in the agenda for September in Nysa and in the region. It effectively sustains the tradition of meetings and open exchange of thoughts, definition of needs, whole-hearted involvement in what is sometimes completely unknown and incomprehensible at the beginning. The School of Higher Vocational Education in Nysa determined its objective of fulfillment of academic mission to the whole extent. It directly speaks of openness and transformation of things regarded as difficult into things that are obvious and indispensable for existence today and the future. We have decided that science and its achievements can be presented in a simple and clear manner, we have also depicted knowledge as something so great that it is able to surprise and become useful for everybody regardless of their worldview, experience and age, and at the same time we have not done anything revealing or new. We observed the commitment of our guests, asked what they would like to see, what they liked and what they would change in the next festival. We finally asked whether they saw any sense in organizing science festival in our town and region. We did not need to wait long for the answer, it appeared along with another group of young people, adults and entrepreneurs visiting academic lecture halls. Some students of high schools grow up under the safe wing of their Alma Mater in Nysa, and they mature together with it, expanding their capital of knowledge and experience [Malczyk, 2005, p. 80].

Every school, and higher school in particular, is an organism that directly reacts to social needs, the needs of the labour market, economic policy of a country, and even international policy [Marszałek, 2009, p. 40]. Today we are growing up in a very rapidly changing political and economic conditions, we are involved – more or less knowingly – in shaping a new trend of globalization. It makes us feel closer, but closer to what? The European countries have preserved their autonomy, policy, national characteristics, history, education or identity. Together, but at the same time separate. Everything suggests that we are first of all closer to each other as people. There is no room left for complaining about the language barrier, distances, currency, legislation, or existence of boundaries. “Human closer to another human” – precisely in such spirit we implement the science festival. We unite persons of all spheres of life, with various interests, capabilities of defining themselves and their environment, different political and religious views – festival without boundaries, for everyone. The name itself proves a wide vista on the festival idea, “Nysa” means our, common, created by us and for us. This is time for common play and a scientific Hyde Park in Nysa. Every year festival invite everybody, and particularly schools, to present their accomplishments, interests, construct dialogue between schools, businesses, economy, based on a university platform. The festival lasts the whole year in the form of “open door” events, lectures, displays, laboratory and physical exercises, seminars and conferences, and during the three sunny September days only the apogee of the whole event is staged, the grand finale takes place that summarizes the year-long cooperation with all the concerned environments [Malczyk, 2009, p. 110]. The idea of festival movement is so understood also by the unified Europe, and it subscribes to construction of globalization i.e. being closer to and for each other (Fig. 2).

The place of Nysa Science Festival on the map of the global movement is presented in Figure 3. It presents a network of this movement with breakdown into continents, with particular focus on European countries, including Poland and Nysa festival organized by the School of Higher Vocational Education in Nysa. The idea of festival movement is rapidly transferring onto particular continents, covering more and more countries by its scope. This process is particularly strong in Europe and America, where the greater number of science festivals is organized.
In each country a network of festivals is created; festivals are most often organized by universities, but also by associations acting in the name of science popularization. Some festivals are also combined with promotion of art, engineering, energy saving policy, etc. It suggests an unlimited range of the mission of this movement that actively adapts to the global and regional needs. It implements the mission of linking continents, countries, and nations in order to popularize science and education, and construct capital of knowledge and knowledge-based society.

**EUSCEA and Nysa Science Festival (NFN)**

Nysa Science Festival from the beginning of its existence has been compatible with the idea of the Science Day announced by the Minister of Science and Higher Education. The School of Higher Vocational Education in Nysa (PWSZ in Nysa) is the first university of this type in Poland, which initiated and has been developing the idea of festival movement (Malczyk T., 1/2009, p110). We are a member of an elite group of four universities from Poland that form the international festival movement EUSCEA (European Science Events Association with the seat in Vienna), associating 89 members from 36 European countries. In the following year we are planning to take part in a program prepared by EUSCEA, entitled WONDERS, which aims at making countries associated in the festival movement familiar with the most interesting festival achievements of a given university from a specific country. One outcome of this program shall be the verdict of the competition commission indicating the best and the most interesting science festival. It is an excellent promotion of accomplishments for any university, and the town along with the region.

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**Fig. 2.** Forms of implementation of Nysa Science Festival (*Formy realizacji Nyskiego Festiwalu Nauki*)

*Source: author’s research.*
Fig. 3. Global festival movement (Globalny ruch festiwalowy)

Source: author's research
Knowledge management and science festival

Nysa Science Festival within the five years of its existence on the local and provincial market, has worked out a structure of knowledge management based on implementation of the festival idea. This structure indicates strong connections with the levels of knowledge management in the global aspect (Fig. 4).

**Fig. 4.** Knowledge management on particular levels (Szczeble zarządzania wiedzą)

*Source: author’s research*

Development of this scheme provides the sense of existence to human community that forms the conditions for development of different countries. Due to the fact that the needs arise, which on the basic level of existence of human and a given nation do not differ among themselves, a problem of management of knowledge and skills in the global aspect surfaces. This management creates global solutions that may be used by all. The definition of needs and indication of the manner of their fulfillment is always based on knowledge and experience. Skillful coordination and division of tasks between different international structures, including states with their administrative system, render the possibility of faster and better preparation for satisfying the current and predicting the future needs. Thanks to that, there exist a safe system of forecasting the desired directions of development of science, and experiences that can meet the future demands in appropriate time, form and quality.
Knowledge management on the macro level, which builds knowledge on the micro level so that it can satisfy the needs on the macro level is the sense of creating global solutions coordinating the process of human development. In the entire structure one cannot, however, ignore human with the fundamental right to live and shape own image and skills. This delicate boundary between a real need to influence the global knowledge and skills of the whole mankind, and the right to preserve individuality of every person cannot be trespassed. Therefore, a sensible approach to construction of the methodology of the ways of satisfying global educational needs used for the benefit of scientific and technological progress in the aspect of the whole mankind is required, which will finally serve meeting the demands of an individual. Such approach proves large responsibility in relation to our own selves, because it is us who create this methodology.

Coordination in knowledge management brings a huge temporary advantage over the demands that are continuously being generated (Kisielnicki J., 2005, p8-17). It focuses knowledge, and knowledge guides research and implementation. It divides tasks in the global perspective, which significantly accelerates their implementation. It combines knowledge and experience in places which are close to finding solution to a problem, and therefore works are not carried out independently and simultaneously by many scientific centres, which in turn facilitates competent appropriation of funds and their proper management.

Nysa Science Festival also builds up the methodology of creating fruitful cooperation on many fields, which is to enable getting to know each other, suggest what to do next, and what decisions to make. In modern, dynamically changing, times, information has become the most important argument in the development and satisfaction of demands. As a result, the festival refers to many entities that it joins on an academic plane, giving them an opportunity to exchange information, which facilitates satisfaction of many needs (Fig. 5).

Fig. 5. The role of science festivals in building cooperation with the social and economic environment (Rola festiwali wiedzy w budowaniu współpracy ze środowiskiem społecznym i gospodarczym). Source: author’s research
The available knowledge and past experiences cause the need of realization of the regional knowledge network, which will facilitate coordination of works at creation and completion of the following: databases of arguments typical for the region, multi-layered development plan based on these arguments, priority and long-term activities, consistent plan of needs of the region covering science and management, regional knowledge management system that as a multi-entity body will represent and fulfill the interests of the region, among others, through common submission of applications for funds, unanimous representation of interests of the region, planning development of the region etc.

The Science Festival organized by the School of Higher Vocational Education in Nysa has built a network of cooperation with many entities placed in the network of economic and non-economic organizations. As a result, the impact area of the festival of science includes the region, the province, the country and a part of the European Community countries.

For six years the festival has been entitled realizing the knowledge diffusion program, with particular focus on the Nysa region. It is an example of development of a regional knowledge management and knowledge diffusion system, it has also a large share in development of the regional knowledge network. Obtained experience, developed and consolidated contacts, cooperation quality, responsibility for actions and full understanding of the common goal, are the uncontested achievements of the festival.

Currently, the Science Festival has been systematically expanding its activities and impact, operating for the whole year. On one hand its educates, promotes knowledge and scientific achievements, and, on the other hand the parties takes up issues difficult and important for the region. It conducts constructive dialogue with the youth, entrepreneurs, administration, the local society. The Nysa Science Festival has become a permanent part of the calendar of events in the region, it is widely supported at the regional, national and even international level.

**Conclusions**

There is an actual need for creation of a global festival movement network (Global Network Science Festival), which will include all science festivals organized in the world (Fig. 6). Each continent will centralize the festivals organized in the countries being a part of it.

Global festival of science conferences comprised of groups representing different continents will be organized once a year. Discussion on the following issues crucial for the movement will take place during the conference:

1. analysis of world expectations and of development trends in science, education and entrepreneurship,
2. identification of priorities of development of the festival movement, being a response to the global expectations and the expectations of particular countries,
3. defining methodology of development and the methods of implementation (through science festivals) of knowledge management of the knowledge diffusion system of knowledge at the global and state (unions of states) level,
4. transferring the presidency of the Global Network Science Festival to another continent for another year.

Coherent treatment of the festival movement, above all, will affect the following:

1. constant access to scientific information at the global level,
2. determination of the plan of action and the desired direction of development in the future years,
3. exchange of information at the global level, e.g. through videoconferences, international lectures, interactive workshops and conferences,
4. exchange of experiences between organizers of science festivals,
5. mutual assistance in implementation of knowledge diffusion, methods of implementation of the festival etc.,
6. undertaking many consistent activities and implementation of international, particularly intercontinental projects related to development and popularization of science.

Fig. 6. The Global Network Science Festival (Globalna Sieć Festiwali Nauki)

Source: author’s research

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I. PROBLEMY WSPÓŁCZESNEGO ZARZĄDZANIA

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Nyski Festiwal Nauki jako międzynarodowy instrument zarządzania wiedzą

Streszczenie

Popularyzacja osiągnięć nauki jest procesem wpisanym w system edukacji obowiązujący w danym kraju czy unii państw. Jego realizacja uzupełnia podstawy programowe i treści kształcenia o informacje wykraczające poza program nauczania. Jednak sposób podania tych informacji jest swobodny, ciekawy i z dużym naciskiem na wskazanie użyteczności osiągnięć nauki w codziennym życiu. Stopień trudności i zakres wiedzy dopasowany jest do grupy odbiorców. Nadrzędnym celem popularyzacji nauki jest z jednej strony zapoznanie słuchaczy z nowościami ze świata nauki, a z drugiej zachęcenie do poznawania i odkrywania. Zakres popularizacji nauki jest nieograniczony i równie skutecznie obejmuje młodzież jak i osoby zawodowo czynne, systematycznie podnosząc jakość ich pracy i stymulując do działań innowacyjnych i wdrożeniowych. Popularyzację nauki można realizować na wiele sposobów przy wykorzystaniu ciekawych metod i instrumentów. Jednym z nich jest organizacja festiwalu nauki, który jest szczególnym działaniem o zasięgu regionalnym, krajowym i międzynarodowym. Misja ruchu
Festiwal nauki stymuluje do powstania sieci wiedzy łączącej wszystkich jego uczestników. Ruch ten buduje społeczeństwo oparte na wiedzy, co ma kluczowe znaczenie dla rozwoju regionu.


Nyski Festiwal Nauki skierowany jest także do przedsiębiorców, którzy chętnie angażują się w życie uczelni, uczestniczą w festiwalu, zapraszają gości ze swoich branż, poznają ofertę instytutów. Jednym z stałych gości festiwalu jest Narodowy Bank Polski o. Opole, w doskonały sposób uczy, jak poruszać się w świecie finansów. Przez sześć lat istnienia NFN, stworzono sieć współpracy łączącą sieci organizacji gospodarczych i pozagospodarczych. Ta nowa i nie istniejąca do tej pory sieć promuje wiedzę w Nysie, które od kilku lat aktywnie uczestniczy w budowaniu misji festiwalu nauki. Program przygotowany wspólnie przez Muzeum i PWSZ w Nysie jest bogaty w treści historyczne, poznawcze oraz ważne ze względu na definiowanie tożsamości miasta i regionu.

Nyski Festiwal Nauki należy także do struktury międzynarodowego ruchu festiwalów nauki. Jest członkiem EUSCEA (European Science Events Association) skupiającym kilkadziesiąt jednostek z całej Europy zjednoczonych w jednym celu, tzn. popularyzacji nauki na każdym szczeblu kształcenia. Członkostwo w EUSCEA zapewnia stały kontakt z wieloma partnerami z ponad 100 ośrodków organizujących festiwal w Nysie. Wymiana informacji związanych z warsztatem organizacyjnym festiwalu, pomoc w realizacji działań, podejmowanie wspólnych inicjatyw i realizacji międzynarodowych projektów, oto szczególne atuty tej sieci. Szczególnie ciekawy jest program „2 Ways”, który spina w wymiarze międzynarodowym dwa ośrodki tworzące festiwal nauki, w celu promocji nauki w określonym temacie. Przykładem jest wypracowanie atrakcyjnej i przystępnej metody wyjaśnienia i zapoznawania słuchaczy (szczególnie młodzieży) np. tajemnice genotypu, zmianami klimatu, globalizacją itd. Ta wspaniała doświadczenie ułatwia przyjęcie sprawdzonej metody edukacyjnej przy organizacji festiwalu nauki we własnej uczelni. Stymuluje to tworzenia i wdrażania rozwiązań dobrych do implementacji w realiach danego miasta i regionu, a przede wszystkim obowiązującego w danym państwie systemu edukacyjnego.

Nyski Festiwal Nauki rozpoczął także kampanię polegającą na włączaniu się w rozwiązanie problemów z zasięgu regionalnym. Organizowane są Festiwalowe Konferencje Popularnonaukowe,
które raz lub dwa razy do roku, poruszają tematy ważne z punktu widzenia rozwoju społeczno-gospodarczego regionu. Konferencje przeznaczone są dla środowisk reprezentujących różne zawody, np. pielęgniarki, administracja państwowa, rolnicy i osoby związane z obszarami wiejskimi, lekarze i dietetycy. Do udziału w konferencji zapraszani są z jednej strony zainteresowani poruszaną tematyką, a z drugiej pracownicy nauki specjalizujący się w określonej dyscyplinie, praktycy oraz władze lokalne i wojewódzkie zarządzające realizację działań z zakresu objętego tematem konferencji. Konferencje spotykają się z dużym uznaniem w regionie, wnoszą ładunek poznawczy i implementacyjny do regionu. W konferencjach udział wzięli m.in. Minister Rolnictwa i Rozwoju Wsi, Marszałek Województwa Opolskiego, Wojewoda Opolski, burmistrzowie i wójtowie województwa opolskiego, przedstawiciele świata nauki m.in. profesorowie z PWSZ w Nysie, uczelni wrocławskich, opolskich, śląskich. Tak przekrojowa wiedza badawcza i praktyczna zapewnia wysoki poziom konferencji i duży ładunek jej użyteczności.

Dodatkowym atutem Nyskiego Festiwalu Nauki jest działalność wydawnicza, która pod egidą festiwalu czyli popularyzacji nauki, umożliwia pisanie na temat złożonego procesu dyfuzji wiedzy w regionie, oraz systematyczne informowanie o osiągnięciach festiwalu i konferencji lokalnej społeczności, zainteresowanych osób i instytucji oraz administracji samorządowej. Jednocześnie wprowadza nową jakość komunikowania się z wieloma podmiotami należącymi do sieci organizacji gospodarczych i pozagospodarczych.

Do tej pory w działaniach festiwalowych uczestniczyło ponad 400 podmiotów należących do obu sieci. Festiwal stworzył nową sieć pracującą na potrzeby podnoszenia w regionie świadomości i budowania społeczeństwa opartego na wiedzy. Wypracował także własną wewnętrzną sieć bazującą na strukturze uczelni, która istnieje i rozwija się pod egidą festiwalu nauki. Jej działanie jest wysoko oceniane przez środowisko, media, szkoły gimnazjalne i ponadgimnazjalne.

Festiwały nauki organizowane są także na świecie i obejmują wiele kontynentów m.in. Amerykę, Afrykę, Azję. Każdy kraj mimo czasami dużych dysproporcji w systemie edukacyjnym, poziomie finansowania badań i popularizacji wiedzy, zróżnicowanemu budżetowi na organizację festiwalu, znacznym odrębnościom kulturowym i językowym, organizuje festiwale wypełniające podobną misję. Jest nią zachęcanie do zainteresowania osiągnięciami nauki, badaniami, rozwojem nauki, wdrożeniami i innowacjami. Budowanie kontaktów międzynarodowych, wspólnych działań i programów, szeroka promocja nauki na rzecz rozwoju kraju, unii państw i całego świata.

Wielki potencjał jaki mają w sobie te działania, wspaniały ich odbiór i rosnące zainteresowanie, inicjują do stworzenia Globalnej Sieci Festiwalu Nauki, która może doprowadzić do wzmocnienia współpracy pomiędzy poszczególnymi krajami, uatrakcyjni formę festiwalu, wzmocni jego oddziaływania, podniesie poziom działań, pozwoli na realizację wspólnych tematów istotnych z punktu widzenia rozwoju nie tylko regionu, czy państwa ale także świata. Jako jednostkę podstawową można tutaj wskazać wiedzę, a jego potrzeby, których realizacja sprzyja rozwojowi danego kraju. W aspektie tego, znacznie rośnie rola państwowych wyższych szkół zawodowych w regionie. Jest to spowodowane tym, że uczelnie te działając na przedpolu dużych uczelni akademickich, stale wsłuchują się w potrzeby miejsca swojego działania i oddziaływania. Bliskość to powoduje, że następuje zaciśnięcie więzi w regionalnej sieci wiedzy, którą można utworzyć za pomocą festiwalu nauki, konferencji festiwalowych, ale przede wszystkim wychowując i edukując młodzież pod kątem potrzeb danego kraju. Poprzez działania i dużą aktywność uczelni w regionie, staje się ona motorem stymulującym miasto i powiat do rozwoju, sięgania do nauki, opierania się na zdaniu ekspertów, generowania nowej jakości w działaniu i podejmowaniu decyzji.