

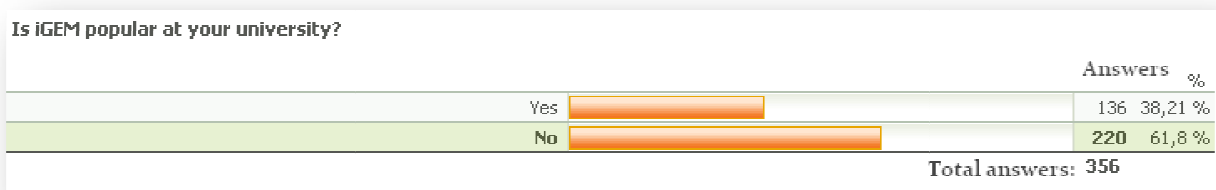
## Social & Academic Background

We asked people what they think about the popularization of synthetic biology and the iGEM competition. We wanted to know if they really find both those things popular in their countries or at least at their universities, and where they first heard about them.

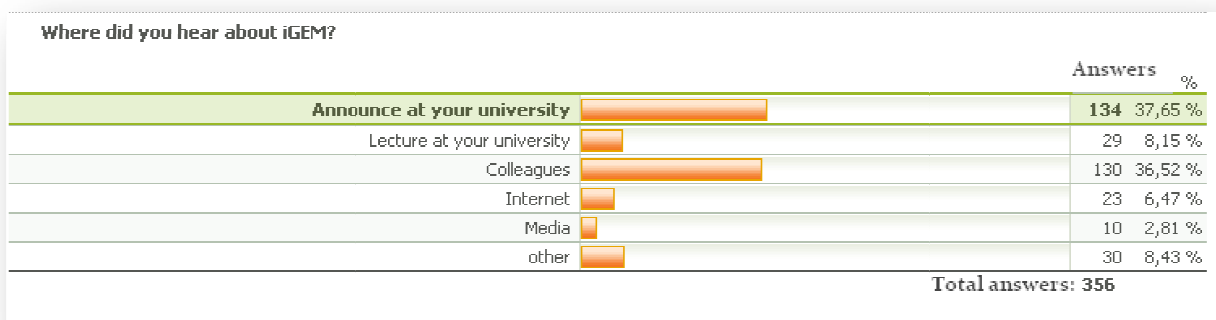
The results raised a serious question – do all of the means to popularize both iGEM and synthetic biology among academic and non-academic societies used so far are really working as we expected them to?

The other important information was the participants' attitude to the iGEM projects –and exactly what is happening to the ideas, results, or suggestions to improve certain parts of the project. Will they be ever used again? Or maybe they are a part of this year's project? Here we tried to answer a question – is such a project only one year thing?

1. We asked the interviewees what they think about the iGEM popularity at their university. Only 38,21% of respondents say that the iGEM is popular at their university.

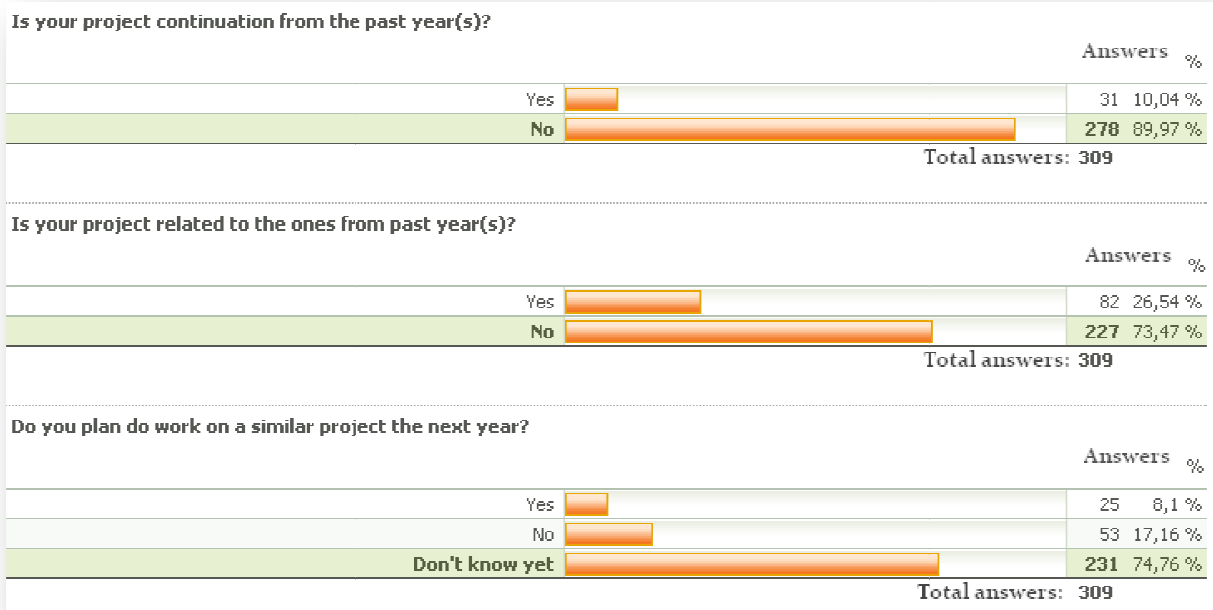


2. Although 61,80% of interviewees declare that iGEM is not very popular at their universities, 37,65% of them heard about the competition from announce at university and 8,15% - during the lecture. The second great source of information are simply the colleagues (36,52%).

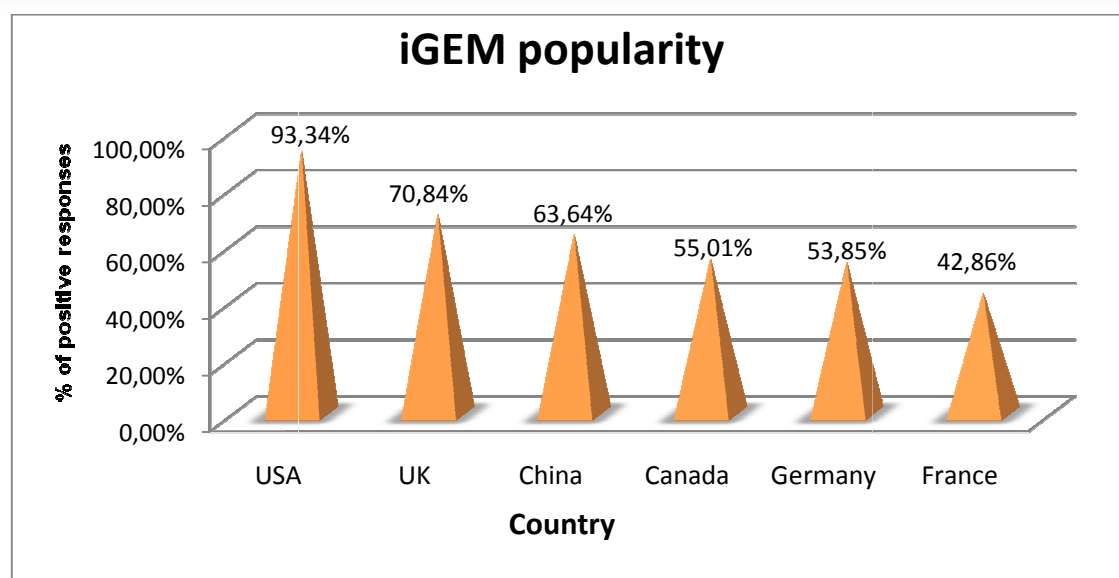


3. 10,04% of the iGEMers declare that they continue past year(s)' project and over quarter (26,54%) admit they have project related to previous one(s) . Surprisingly only 8,10% of people want to work on a similar task in the next year and 74,76% of respondents are not

sure yet about the future plans for this year's project. Considering that only ¼ used their previous ideas for the current competition major part of the undecided will chose another topic to work on.



4. Considering the whole data over half of participants (56, 18%) claim that iGEM is not popular in their country. Considering the data collected about each country it seems that iGEM is most popular in, USA (93,34%), UK (70,84%) and China (63,64%). [fig.81\*]



5. The good news is that the majority (71,03%) say it is possible to read or hear about synthetic biology in popular media in their country. It might be also worth mentioning that according to 57,96% of participants some kind of synthetic biology –related researches are being led at their universities.

Is it possible to hear about SB in the popular media (including press) in your country?

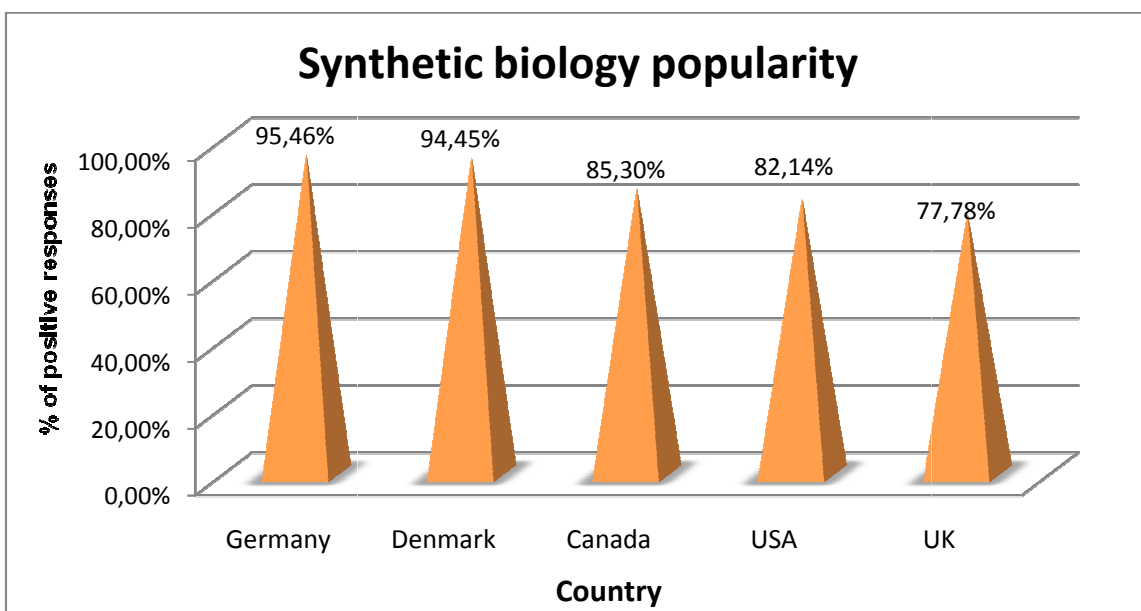
		Answers	%
Yes		201	71,03 %
No		82	28,98 %
Total answers: 283			

Are there any research projects concerning SB at your university?

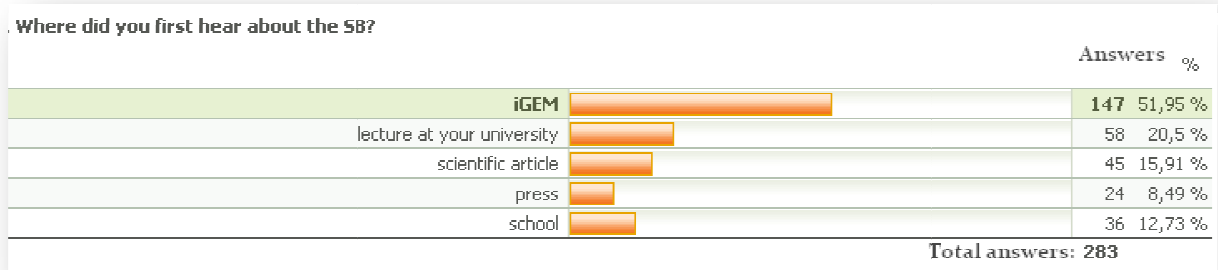
		Answers	%
Yes		164	57,96 %
No		58	20,5 %
Don't know		61	21,56 %
Total answers: 283			

We looked through the cross results for question 'Is it possible to hear about synthetic biology (SB) in the popular media (inc. press) in your country?' and question about nationality. We presumed that the interest of popular media in synthetic biology reflects its popularity among academic and non-academic society of a country. Nearly all Germans and Danes say that is it possible to hear about SB in popular media.

We took under consideration answers with over 70% 'yes' and at least 15 people responding [fig. 82\*]



6. In order to find out how the synthetic biology is popular in academic society, we asked the iGEMers where they heard about SB for the first time. Over a half (51,95%) of them admit that it was during the iGEM competition when they had the first contact with synthetic biology. Only 20,5% picked a lecture at university and 15,91% - scientific publications. 12,73% of interviewees know SB from schools and only 8,49% - from popular press or media.



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\*All the figures are published in igem2010survey\_data.pdf.