

Committee for Developing Countries (CDC)
EMS Council
Berlin, July 2016

At date, the EMS-CDC is counting 8 members and in its activities it is relying on the expertises of about 10 associate members, including representatives of the most prominent agencies involved in developing countries and based in Europe.

The CDC has maintained its focus on the following goals and activities:
the development of mathematics curricula;

- cooperation with local staff in conducting M.Sc. and Ph.D. programs;
- helping to build up libraries;
- helping to build up regional centres and networks;
- providing information about further studies for students from developing regions;
- sourcing funds for junior and senior researchers to attend conferences.

In the last two years the CDC has met twice:

- Meeting in Oslo, Academy of Science, April 9-10, 2015
- Meeting in Trieste, ICTP, April 8-9, 2016

Each meeting presented the occasion for a round table discussing thematic of importance for the promotion of quality and capacity in Mathematics.

The last thematic discussed were:

In Oslo: *Strategies for developing mathematical research in less developed countries*

In Trieste: *Regional South-South Cooperation*

During such meetings the CDC invites various agencies and association to present their activities. This helps the intercommunication among associations with the aim of collaboration in the actions proposed in the developing world.

In this last two years the CDC has made active contact with:

IMU-CDC

IMU- Committee for Women in Science

AMMSI programme

World Academy of Science (TWAS)

Organisation for Women in Science for the Developing World (OWSD)

CIMPA – European based institutions

ICTP – European based institutions

ISP – European based institutions

About the specific actions

1. ERCE – Emerging regional Centre of Excellence

ERCE is a quality label awarded to centres in the developing world playing an important role in their region with respect to education at Master and PhD level. 2015: CIMAT (Mexico), VIASM (Vietnam), INSPERM (Malaysia), IASBS (Iran), and the first label given (to the Abdul Salaam School in Pakistan) expires by the end of 2015.

One call opened in December 2015, with deadline of applications end of February 2016.

Result of this call: 7 applications received. At the committees meeting 2016 it was decided that:

- Zimbabwe (Dept of Mathematics, University of Zimbabwe, Harare)– Not approved,
- Morocco (Probability and Statistics Team, Universite Cadi Ayya) – Approved,
- Benin (IMSP Institut de Mathématiques et de Sciences Physique, Dangbo, Benin)– Approved,
- Pakistan (Abdus Salam School of Mathematical Sciences Gc University, Lahore)– Not approved,
- Indonesia (Institute Teknologi Bandung (ITB))– Approved,
- Mexico (Centro de Ciencian Matematicas (CCM), Morelia)– Not approved,
- Botswana (Dept of Mathematics, University of Botswana, Gabarone)– Approved

Furthermore it was structured a series of recommendations and has strenghtened the reporting on activities

- EMS-CDC recommends that all centers should have a web site in English
- Regional impact should be pursued with structured plans
- New centers will be requested to report on activities each two years (at mid-way and at the end of the period). This rule will also apply to centers that have already been awarded the ERCE label.

Full report on each applicant, procedures of evaluation, and final recommendation for the new centres has been presented to the EMS Executive board.

The EMS-CDC has made a proposal for the new call with structured application. This proposal has been presented to the EMS Executive Committee

2. Financial Support

In 2016, CDC funded 2 applications for students and scholars:

- One PhD-student from Niger for a visit to the supervisor in Bordeaux with the purpose to finalize the PhD thesis (up to € 1 000 for airticket). Partial support
- One professor from Cameroon to participate in a high profiled conference at the Schrödinger Institute (up to € 800 for airticket). Partial support.

The CDC has organized a structured call for applications for this very limited financial support with deadline March 15th each year.

3. The Book donation scheme

The scheme is kept in place with limited activity depending on the requests from donors and recipients. This activity is kept in collaboration with other agencies for sharing costs.

4. Continuous collaboration with zbMath.

Free access for Developing Countries (individuals and institutions). The list of admitted countries for such program is upgraded regularly by zbMath
The CDC actively advertises and promotes this possibility

5. CDC-Simons Foundation for Africa

The Simons Foundation has granted a support of USD 50.000 per year for 5 years for activities aimed at the raising of the quality of mathematics in Africa.

The situation of academia in Africa is very diversified and requires much attention. Indeed the evident point of difficulty is the widening gap between the realities in which development is progressing and those in which the progress is lying behind.

After an analysis of the situation of academia in Africa the CDC has identified some feasible actions to promote:

- Higher quality in academia
- Educational effectiveness in completion of PhD studies
- Promotion of women in mathematics
- Visibility of the research outcomes of African mathematicians at international level
- Mathematics as a career opportunity aimed at building up a new generation of mathematicians

The CDC has organised calls for visiting grants at different level promoting possibility of:

- Continuation in Research for full Scientists
- Experience of Research and development for PhD students

- Top-Up grants for Women in Mathematics
- Top-Up grants for conference participation
- Experience of entry in research for talented Master students

Calls are going to be posted at the EMS and CDC websites. The coordination of the evaluation of the calls is organized by the CDC with a mixed commission of members and associate members and relying on external experts.

6. EMS-CDC website

The website <http://euro-math-soc.eu/EMS-CDC/index.php> is being updated.

- New structure of the calls for funding
- New structure for the calls for ERCE
- New space for the CDC-Simons for Africa

EMS-CDC