

European Congress of Mathematics

Call for Bids for the 9ECM

Outline bids from mathematicians to organize the 2024 Congress are now invited, and should reach the EMS Secretariat by 28 February 2019. The address of the Secretariat is Department of Mathematics & Statistics, P.O. Box 68 (Gustaf Hällströmink. 2b, 00014 University Helsinki, Finland) (Phone: +358 9 1915 1507 Fax: +358 9 1915 1400; Email: ems-office@helsinki.fi).

The information below may be helpful to possible organizers. Informal discussions are welcomed, and may be addressed to the President of the EMS.

General information about ECMs

European Congresses of Mathematics are organized every four years. The first Congress was held in Paris in 1992, and since then they have been held in Budapest, Barcelona, Stockholm, Amsterdam, Krakow, and Berlin. In 2020 the Congress will take place in Portorož (Slovenia).

Experience of previous Congresses suggests that around a thousand or more people may attend. The duration has so far been five days. Ten EMS Prizes are awarded to outstanding young European mathematicians at the opening ceremony, together with the Felix Klein and Neugebauer Prizes. The Congress programme should aim to present various new aspects of pure and applied mathematics to a wide audience, to offer a forum for discussion of the relationship between mathematics and society in Europe, and to enhance cooperation among mathematicians from all European countries. The standard format of previous ECMs has been:

- about 10 plenary lectures;
- section lectures for a more specialized audience, normally with several held simultaneously;
- mini-symposia;
- film and mathematical software sessions;
- poster sessions;
- round tables.

An exhibition space for mathematical societies, booksellers, and so on is required. No official language is specified and no interpretation is needed. Proceedings of the Congress are published by EMS Publishing House (<http://www.ems-ph.org/>).

Decision process for 9ECM

(i) Bids are invited via this notice in the EMS Newsletter, and via letters to the EMS member societies; the deadline for bids is 28 February 2019. These bids need only be outline bids giving a clear idea of the proposal and possible sources of financial and local support.

(ii) The Executive Committee of the EMS will consider the bids received. It will invite one or more of the bids to be set out in greater detail so that it can decide which bids are sufficiently serious options to be considered further. The deadline for such "worked up" bids, which will include a draft budget and a commitment to follow the conditions set up by the Executive Committee, is 31 July 2019.

(iii) The EC will then create a short-list of sites that appear to offer the best possibilities for a successful Congress, and appoint a Site Committee to visit the short-listed sites between September and December 2019 to check a range of items in connection with the development of the Congress. For example:

- Size and number of auditoria; location and equipment
 - Room for exhibitors
 - Hotel rooms and dormitories; location, prices, number in different categories and transportation to lectures
 - Restaurants close to Congress site, number and prices
 - Accessibility and cost of travel from various parts of Europe
 - Financing of the Congress; support to participants from less favoured countries, in particular
 - Financing for the EMS Prizes
 - Experience in organizing large conferences
 - Timing of the Congress
 - Social events
 - Plans to use the occasion of the Congress as publicity for mathematics
 - The EC may or may not make a recommendation to the Council based on the report of the Site Committee; the choice is at the discretion of the Council delegates.
- (iv) In 2020, at the EMS Council held at Bled prior to 8ECM, a decision will be reached.

Relations between the EC and the Organizing Committee of 9ECM

The actual Congress organization is the responsibility of the local organizers, the EMS coordinates setting of the scientific programme. Two main committees are appointed: the Scientific Committee and the Prize Committee.

The Scientific Committee is charged with the responsibility for conceiving the scientific programme and selecting the speakers. The Prize Committee is charged with the responsibility of nominating the EMS Prize winners. For each of these committees the Chairs are appointed by the EC. There will be a call for suggestions of members of these two committees from the EMS member societies, after which the membership of each committee will be decided by the EC, in consultation with its Chair. In addition, the Executive Committee will appoint the Otto Neugebauer Prize Committee, the Hirzebruch lecture committee (together with DMV), and the Felix Klein Prize Committee, the latter in co-operation with ECMI and the Fraunhofer Institute for Industrial Mathematics in Kaiserslautern. The Executive Committee will also select the Abel Prize lecturer. The EC must be kept informed by the Chair of each committee about the progress of their work.

The local organizers are responsible for seeking financial support for the Congress and for the meetings of its committees. However, the EMS will provide some financial support for mathematicians from less favoured countries in Europe, and will also assist and advise in seeking sources of funding.

The level of the registration fee is of great importance to the success of an ECM, and the EC must be involved before a final decision on the level of fees is made; members of the EMS normally receive a reduction of some 20% on the registration fees. The EC would be pleased to offer advice to the local organizers on matters such as the budget, registration, accommodation, publications, web site, and so on, but in any case the EC must be kept informed of progress at its regular meetings. Publicity for the ECM via the EMS Newsletter and the EMS site <http://www.euro-math-soc.eu/> should appear regularly.