
Report from the Executive Committee Meeting in Rome, 23–25 March 2018

Richard Elwes, EMS Publicity Officer

This is a slightly abbreviated report of March's Executive Committee meeting, as several matters were preparatory for, or superseded by, action at the subsequent EMS Council meeting. See page 3 for a longer report from that meeting.

There can be fewer more pleasant places to visit in Spring than Rome, where the Executive Committee (EC) gathered this March. Surprisingly, this was the EC's first visit to the Eternal City, and the committee members and guests were grateful for the generous

hospitality they received at the Argiletum of Università Roma Tre.

On Friday evening, the committee was greeted by Ciro Ciliberto, President of the Italian Mathematical Union (UMI), our hosts for the weekend. He gave us a brief history of his society, which was founded in 1922, with Salvatore Pincherle as its first President. The UMI has always been headquartered in Bologna, where it hosted the 1928 International Congress of Mathematics. In 1954, the UMI founded the Centro Internazionale Matematico Estivo: an annual summer school of higher mathematics, through which thousands of participants from around the world have now passed. The UMI produces a number of publications on mathematics and associated cultural and educational topics. It currently has around 2000 members, with several active standing committees and working groups; the UMI awards mathematical prizes at all levels. Shortly after this meeting, the UMI would be hosting the 2018 European Girls' Mathematical Olympiad in Florence.

Officers' reports and membership

After welcoming the EC and guests, EMS President Pavel Exner reported on his activities since the last formal EC Meeting, beginning with the successful informal retreat that the EC enjoyed in Koli, Finland, 5–7 January 2018. He highlighted important upcoming events including the forthcoming EMS Council meeting (see separate report on page 3) the ICM in August in Rio de Janeiro, and ICIAM 2019 in Valencia.

EMS Treasurer Mats Gyllenberg then presented his summary of the society's income and expenditure in 2017, reporting a healthy situation. The lower than desired expenditure on scientific projects continues to require attention; the EC discussed ways to make our calls for proposals more widely known within the mathematical community. The EC discussed instigating a new annual Summer School to be fully supported by the society, that can function as an EMS Flagship event.

The application for academic membership from the Department of Mathematics "F. Casorati" of the Univer-

sity of Pavia was approved, along with a list of 91 new individual members.

Scientific and society meetings

The EC held in-depth discussions on the membership of the scientific and prize committees for the next European Congress in 2020. The next step will be the formulation of the call for nominations for the prizes. The President gave a summary of this year's EMS supported scientific events, including 9 Summer Schools. It was agreed that Mats Gyllenberg will introduce Samuel Kou, the 2018 speaker for the EMS-Bernoulli Society Joint Lecture, at the European Conference on Mathematical and Theoretical Biology in Lisbon in July. The EC discussed preparations for the upcoming EMS Council in Prague, including agreeing the draft agenda. The nominations of Council delegates closed with no elections needed. The committee unanimously agreed to propose to the Council Betül Tanbay as next EMS Vice-President and Volker Mehrmann as next EMS President. (See separate council report.)

The President reminded the committee that at ICM2018 in Rio, the IMU's general assembly will choose the site for ICM2022, selecting between Paris and Saint Petersburg. The EMS is neutral between the two bids.

Publicity, committees, and projects

EMS Publicity Officer Richard Elwes presented his report along with a new flyer advertising the society and a new Powerpoint presentation to introduce the EMS at appropriate meetings. The Executive Committee welcomed these innovations, and unanimously approved his reappointment for a second term (2019–2022).

The EC discussed reports on the EMS standing committees (see Council meeting report for further discussion), before welcoming as guests Alessandra Celletti (Chair of the EMS Women in Mathematics committee) and Elena Resmerita representing the society of European Women in Mathematics (EWM). During a wide-ranging discussion, it was agreed that EWM would apply for EMS associate membership. This would improve communication between the two societies, and have the effect that issues related to gender will play a more prominent role in society events, such as the meetings of the EMS Council and Presidents of EMS Member Societies.

The EC considered the status of other EMS projects, including the European Digital Mathematics Library, the online Encyclopedia of Mathematics (noting that Stat-Prob has successfully been incorporated), EU-MATHS-IN, the EMS Newsletter and Publishing House, and Zentralblatt. There was also discussion of the European Research Council and Horizon Europe. (See the Council report for further information on all of these.)

The meeting closed with grateful applause for our kind hosts at Università Roma Tre and the Italian Mathematical Union, especially UMI President Ciro Ciliberto.

