

# A Message from the President

Volker Mehrmann, President of the EMS



Dear members of the EMS,

It looks like it is going to take a lot longer to deal with the Covid 19 crisis than anticipated, and that the predictions of virologists (thanks to a lot of mathematics) about the second wave seem to have been very accurate. For this reason, we had to postpone the EMS 30th anniversary and also the presidents meeting in Edinburgh. The meeting of the combined past and new executive meetings took place virtually. The good news is that the EMS finances are in really good shape. The bad news is that our goal to spend more money on scientific projects could not be realised, since the in-person scientific activities have ground to a halt and moved to online platforms. On the one hand this is good, as it reduces the CO<sub>2</sub> emissions since we are travelling less, and for established scientists this can probably be compensated easily, however for the young generation of mathematicians this is becoming a real challenge, hampering their career perspectives. To compensate for this, groups of young researchers have started online research seminars, and EMS is endorsing such activities.

Another group that is suffering badly are the parents of young children (and here in particular women, who still carry out most of the work), who face severe difficulties in pursuing their academic careers. The mathematical community must find ways of addressing this in future evaluation or prize committees.

The improvement of the gender balance is also on the agenda of our discussions when it comes to edito-

rial boards or prize committees, see the article in this issue. We all have to make major efforts in the coming years.

Another crisis (which many of you have noticed) has severely affected our website, which was down for several weeks due to virus attacks followed by complicated administrative and security issues. This has led to increased activities to move to the new website in the new design as soon as possible.

But there is also some positive news for the European mathematical community. From the 1st of January onwards, Zentralblatt will become open access thanks to a grant by the German government, and EMS Press will move the EMS owned journals to a subscribe-to-open model next year, and has also taken over the open Encyclopaedia of Mathematics from Springer.

Furthermore, the Klaus Tschira Foundation is supporting a large number of young scientists for participation in the 2022 ICM.

This is the last Newsletter in the old format. From January onwards it will be succeeded by the new EMS Magazine. Articles will be published in an “online first” fashion and compiled into quarterly issues that can be received in printed form by EMS members on request. We hope that this new format will be very attractive to old and young EMS members alike.

I sincerely hope that all of you remain healthy through the second wave of Covid 19, and that next year we can meet at the European Congress in Portoroz and celebrate the 30th anniversary.