COMMISSION INTERNATIONALE DE L'ENSEIGNEMENT MATHÉMATIQUE (THE INTERNATIONAL COMMISSION ON MATHEMATICAL INSTRUCTION)

13th International Congress on Mathematical Education in Hamburg – the biggest ICME so far

About 3500 participants from 105 countries participated in the 13th International Congress on Mathematical Education, which took place from 24th to 3lth July 2016 in Hamburg at the University of Hamburg and Hamburg Congress Centre, making it to the biggest congress in world congress series so far. ICME-13 was hosted by the Society of Didactics of Mathematics (Gesellschaft für Didaktik der Mathematik – GDM) and took place under the auspices of the International Commission on Mathematical Instruction (ICMI). The German community is the first international mathematics educational community to host an ICME another time, already as early as 1976 the Third International Congress had taken place in Karlsruhe (Germany). On the occasion of this special event a thematic afternoon was carried out devoted describing the development in the last 40 years under a European and a historical perspective. The presentations centred around European Didactic Traditions, German-speaking Traditions in Mathematics Education Research and the Legacy of Felix Klein.

At the Opening Ceremony the five awards by ICMI were presented to Michèle Artigue and Alan Bishop (Felix-Klein award), Jill Adler and Frederick Leung (Hans-Freudenthal award), Hugh Burkhardt and Malcolm Swan (Emma-Castelnuovo award).

The heart of the congress formed 54 Topic Study Groups, devoted to major themes of mathematics education, in which about 745 presentations were given. In attached oral communications around 931 shorter papers were presented, complemented by 533 posters being presented in two sessions. Furthermore, a big variety of other activities took place such as two plenary panels, four plenary lectures and 64 invited lectures. Initiated by congress participants 38 Discussion Groups and 42 Workshops were offered. Reflecting specific ICMI traditions five ICMI Survey Teams describing the state-of-the-art on their theme and three ICMI studies were presented in addition to six national presentations.

About 230 scholars from less-affluent countries could be supported by the solidarity grant spending a considerable amount of the congress budget.

In addition special activities for teachers held in German were attended by 250 teachers from all over Germany despite the already ongoing school vacation. Before the congress an Early Career Researcher Day was offered tackling specific themes for this group. 450 early career researchers participated in this congress and made it to a specific asset of ICME-13.

ICME-13 was clouded by the dramatic political events in Turkey, out of 100 registered participants only 17 could come, however about 45 were able to give their presentation via video, nine posters were presented. At the closing ceremony the congress participants expressed their solidarity with the mathematics educators in Turkey by adopting a solidarity address.