

A spring gathering in Belgrade

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Report from the EMS Executive Committee and ERCOM meetings in Belgrade, 19–21 March 2026.

Belgrade offered a memorable setting for the March 2026 meetings of the EMS Executive Committee¹ (EC) and the EMS Union of European Research Centres on Mathematics² (ERCOM). The evening before the meetings began, the organisers welcomed participants with a visit to the National Museum of Serbia, followed by the opening ceremony of the 80th anniversary of the Mathematical Institute of the Serbian Academy of Sciences and Arts. It was a warm and thoughtful welcome before the long meeting days ahead, and offered an early opportunity to encounter not only the host institution, but also something of the history of the place and of Serbian scientific and cultural life. A separate article by Marija Šegan-Radonjić and Đorđe Baralić in this issue offers a closer look at the institute's 80-year history.

The EC meeting began on 19 March with participants welcomed on behalf of the host institution by Đorđe Baralić of the Mathematical Institute SANU. Attending the EC meeting in person for the first time after taking over as community engagement manager (CEM) gave it a particular feel: many of the colleagues present had so far been known to me mainly through online exchanges, and meeting them face to face made the work of the Society feel more immediate and more connected.

The EC agenda was, as usual, broad. Rather than going through every technical and procedural detail, I will focus here on a few themes from the Belgrade discussions that are of more direct interest to EMS members and the wider mathematical community.

One important strand of the Belgrade discussions concerned the Society's financial planning and long-term sustainability. The EC considered the budget framework for 2027 and 2028, including proposed small increases to membership fees, higher salary costs linked to the transition of the CEM role to full-time employment, and the need to budget for website and database development and maintenance.



EC meeting participants in front of Europe House Belgrade, venue for the first day of the meeting.

Since the EC autumn meeting, the EMS has also welcomed two new institutional members: the Institute of Mathematics, Physics and Mechanics in Ljubljana and the Max Planck Institute for Mathematics in Bonn. EMS President Jan Philip Solovej also reported on the success of the first Indo-European Conference on Mathematics in Pune, which owed much to the work of the organisers and volunteers, and in particular to the immense commitment of Sudhir Ghorpade, co-chair of the Organising Committee.

The meeting also highlighted areas where the Society continues to renew itself. The EMS Young Academy³ (EMYA) remains one of its most active and forward-looking parts, with a new cohort now in place, the mathematics online seminar series (MOSS) continuing successfully, and plans for further in-person activity moving ahead. Alongside this, the Education Committee under its chair Ann Dooms has launched the EMS Lecture Series on Mathematics Education, which has already attracted a strong audience both during the livestreams and afterwards on the EMS YouTube channel.⁴

¹ <https://euromathsoc.org/committee-executive>

² <https://ercom.org>

³ <https://euromathsoc.org/EMYA>

⁴ <https://www.youtube.com/@EuropeanMathematicalSociety>



The palace of the Serbian Academy of Sciences and Arts in Belgrade, where the second and third days of the EC and ERCOM meetings took place.

The report of the newly appointed community engagement manager, meanwhile, gave a good sense of how much work has gone into keeping things running smoothly behind the scenes, from improving continuity in the EMS communication channels to developing Good Grants workflows, supporting online events, and planning a more community-driven communication strategy for the future.

From the publishing side, EMS Press⁵ reported that the baseline sustainability targets of its Subscribe to Open (S2O) model had again been met, making 2026 the third consecutive year in which all 22 EMS Press S2O journals are fully open access. The newer Launch to Open (L2O) model is now also being used to bring new or acquired journals to a sustainable level more quickly, and two journals – *Archiv der Mathematik* and *Foundations of Computational Mathematics* – are due to move to EMS Press in 2027. The EMS Magazine is likewise looking ahead, with plans for invited survey papers by ICM 2026 plenary speakers, a new AI & mathematics section, and measures intended to reduce delays in publication, including earlier editorial deadlines and the establishment of a consultant committee.

On the afternoon of 20 March the ERCOM meeting began at the palace of the Serbian Academy of Sciences and Arts. The ERCOM programme brought together presentations from research centres and several EMS committees, while also opening space for wider discussion on the role of mathematical institutes in today's research landscape. Themes ranged from interdisciplinary work and publication practices to the visibility of younger researchers and the ways in which research centres present themselves to the broader community.



The ERCOM meeting in session at the palace of the Serbian Academy of Sciences and Arts.

One of the most interesting parts of the ERCOM meeting was the discussion on young researchers and the role of EMYA within the wider research centre network. This raised practical questions about visibility, participation, and how best to create formats that genuinely attract early-career mathematicians.

Another part of the ERCOM meeting that felt especially timely was the presentation of the new publication-awareness campaign being developed jointly by ERCOM, the EMS Committee for Publications and Electronic Dissemination, zbMATH Open and EMS Press. The campaign addresses publishing models, common misconceptions, and problematic practices in the current publication landscape, and will be deployed across the European network of research centres, with particular attention to early-career researchers. A separate article by Christophe Ritzenthaler in this issue presents the campaign in more detail.

What stays with me most from Belgrade is the sense that meetings like these are about more than reports, decisions, and agendas. Of course those matter a great deal, but so do the conversations during the breaks, the chance to meet EC and ERCOM representatives in person, and the more informal moments during the walking tour and dinner. The combination of the EC and ERCOM meetings made it easier to see both the internal work of the Society and the wider network of research centres and people around it. My thanks once again to the Mathematical Institute of the Serbian Academy of Sciences and Arts and the local organisers for their warm hospitality.

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⁵ <https://ems.press>