

# Report of the EMS Committee Women in Mathematics (June 2010)

---

(written by Dusanka Perisic and approved by the members of the committee)

We, members of the EMS Committee Women and Mathematics, took advantage of the UK Women in Mathematics Two Day Meeting, organized by on Thursday 15 & Friday 16 April 2010 at the Isaac Newton Institute for Mathematical Sciences, to meet face to face for the first time in this term and to discuss various issues concerning the remit and the future activities of the committee. As part of the UK Women in maths conference happening at the same time, we made a joint presentation about our committee, EWM (the association European Women in Mathematics) and other WIM (Women in mathematics) activities in Europe especially about the situation in Scandinavia and Spain. We played part of the EWM promotional video made in Novi Sad. This was very well received and we got a lot of enquiries about EWM and how to set up similar organisations in other countries (Pakistan, Indonesia, Japan). We hope some similar sort of international presentation might become part of future UK Women in math events.

Four members of the committee (Bodil Branner, Elena Fernandez, Caroline Series and Dusanka Perisic) were present at the meeting but all eight of us were involved afterwards in the discussion by email and all of them approved the conclusion of the meeting. During the two days meeting we also met with: David Wallace (Director of Newton Institute), Ben Mestel (Deputy director of Newton Institute), Frances Kirwan (ex convenor and now deputy convenor of EWM), Zvi Artstein (EMS executive committee and member responsible for our committee) and Marta Sanz Sole (candidate for the next EMS president; election to take place during the EMS council meeting in Sofia July 10-12, 2010).

**The main points and actions decided were as follows:**

## **A. PURPOSE and ORGANISATION OF OUR COMMITTEE**

We formulate the remit of our committee as follows:

***“ The committee should address issues relating to the involvement, retention and progression of women in mathematics, support and promote the recognition of the achievements of women mathematicians. It should discuss and be ready to support appropriate initiatives to this end coming from either groups or individuals. The committee should also act as an umbrella and coordinating body for all committees and associations for women in mathematics in Europe. ”***

With this in mind we proposed several actions: Ask EMS to send a letter to presidents of national math societies asking them to send us contact names/websites of WIM committees and associations. We intend to organise a meeting at CRM, Barcelona with representatives of all such bodies and representatives of EWM immediately before the EWM Barcelona meeting, 5-9 September 2011. (Monday to Friday; it will probably start at about 11.30 on Monday.)

## **B. Linkage between EWM and our committee**

We agreed that we are in favour of increasing the linkage between EWM and our committee. We would like to do that symmetrically in addition to any existing overlap between the committees.

We suggest that the EMSWiM blog be passed over to the EWM website to be maintained. EWM is currently redesigning their website so doing this for the launch of the new website would be a natural time to implement this

## **C. An example of a good practice: NEWTON INSTITUTE GENDER BALANCE PLAN**

We had useful discussions with Ben Mestel and David Wallace about their initiatives to raise participation of women in their programs. We offered our services to help with spreading information through our network as appropriate; in particular people may want to join the INI women's database of women mathematicians once it is up and running. The INI is very willing to be helpful and can put links to our webpages on the WiM section which will be on their website. We liked especially their idea of funding women for repeated short visits during a longer program. Ben Mestel and Caroline will be the contact points from the two sides.

## **D. ERCOM (European Mathematics Research Institutes)**

We discussed how we could collaborate with ERCOM institutes to raise awareness of WiM issues and to spread good practice. We discussed this with David Wallace and Zvi who were generally supportive. We intend to prepare a paper on WIM issues for the next ERCOM meeting (April 2011 Oberwohlfach).

## **E. Women in Maths FUND**

We agreed to support idea of establishing the European Fund for Women Mathematicians as it was presented in the initiative sent by Frances in the name of EWM to the EMS.

## **F. NEXT MEETING OF COMMITTEE**

The next meeting of our Committee will take place at the University of Novi Sad in January 2011.

### **Abbreviations:**

CRM = Centre de Recerca Matematica (Barcelona)

EMS= European Mathematical Society

ERCOM = European Research Centres on Mathematics

EWM = European Women in Mathematics

INI = Isaac Newton Institute (Cambridge)

MSRI = Mathematical Sciences Research Institute (Berkeley)

WiM = Women in mathematics