

## **EWM General Assembly, Berlin, July 17, 2016**

### **1. Welcome from the EWM convenor, Susanna Terracini**

### **2. Appointments to take minutes, to check minutes, to count votes**

- 2.i Appointed to take minutes: Carina Geldhauser, Germany, and Colette Guillopé, France.
- 2.ii Appointed to check the minutes: Marie-Françoise Roy, France, and Mirta Maria Castro Smirnova, Spain.
- 2.iii Appointed to count the votes: Beatrice Pelloni, United Kingdom.

### **3. Attendance**

There were 40 participants, 33 of them were EWM members having paid their fees in 2016.

### **4. Approvement of meeting minutes of Cortona General Assembly (no abstaining, no against vote)**

They are part of EWM Newsletter 26.

[http://www.europeanwomeninmaths.org/sites/default/files/newsletters/newsletter26\\_web\\_final.pdf](http://www.europeanwomeninmaths.org/sites/default/files/newsletters/newsletter26_web_final.pdf)

### **5. Report of Convenor**

Susanna Terracini reported on EWM activities and explained the succession of meetings aligned at major maths events, such as this day of survey lectures given by five prominent women. See <http://www.europeanwomeninmaths.org/>

During her three years as EWM convenor, the situation of women mathematicians in Europe has not improved significantly.

The underrepresentation of women in maths is not a women problem, it is the problem of the community and its mechanisms which are not at all perfect. There are bias and superficiality in how the system works.

***Vote of the convenor report for the period September 2015-July 2016: unanimously approved by the General Assembly.***

### **6. Financial reports**

Marie-Françoise Roy presented the EWM Financial Report for the period September 2015-July 2016, in the absence of the Treasurer, Camilla Hollanti, who was not able to attend. EWM has a bank account in Finland (in euros) where EWM is legally based. Before Cortona's General Meeting (GM) in 2015, the EWM account in Finland contained 20 151 euros. Note that the 5000 euros Compositio Foundation subvention for Cortona was already received, but Cortona invoices had not been paid. Sponsorship from Clay Institute has been obtained for partial reimbursement of speaker costs for the today EWM meeting and the 2016 EWM – EMS school in Institute Mittag-Leffler (Djursholm, Sweden).

#### ***Financial report for the end of 2015***

Income from September to December 2015: 862 euros consisting in membership fees collected in Cortona, special donations, and individual fees paid at the bank or through Paypal.

Outgoings at the end of 2015: 7193 euros spent for invoices related to Cortona GM and 10 euros spent on bank costs.

#### ***Financial report for the beginning of 2016***

Income from January to July 2016: 4900 euros (3700 individual members fees and 1 200 euros

donation from EWM Germany).

Outgoings in the beginning 2015 : 2092 euros (2000 euros sent to the organizers of the joint EMS-EWM summer school at Mittag-Leffler Institute and 92 euros for accountant and bank costs).

As per 8/07/2016 the EWM account in Finland contained 16 618 euros. Moreover the EWM German group had 6890 euros on its bank account.

### ***Financial situation for 2016-2018***

The accountant will be paid 80-140 euros/year. The web page is currently hosted by a commercial party with a yearly fee of less than 100 euros. Regional coordinators are reminded that membership fees can also be spent locally on meetings and other activities, if needed.

***Vote of the financial report for the period September 2015-July 2016:*** unanimously approved by the General Assembly.

### ***Situation of Membership***

In 2016, more members are paying their fees. 181 members paid in 2016 before Berlin (this includes 48 members from Germany who are paying directly to the German group). It remains really important to succeed better in having fees paid. We have registered 373 members and 47 supporters on our website!

In terms of EWM impact, EWM-ALL has currently 563 members (in July 2016), it was only about 500 before EWM General Meeting in Cortona (in August 2015) and about 400 before EWM General Meeting in Bonn (in August 2013). The EWM facebook group has 538 members.

Categories of fees : 5, 20 and 50 euros. The choice of the level of fees they pay is left to members.

***Vote on keeping the same level of fees:*** unanimously approved.

## **7. Next EWM convenor**

Announces candidate for EWM convenor Carola-Bibiane Schönlieb and EWM deputy convenor Elena Resmerita in the next years. See their Statement of motivation in the Appendix.

Mentoring programme master student <-> Ph.D. student started during her years in Salzburg. Did the same in Göttingen while being a postdoc there.

Showcase our careers and talk about personal life and how arrived to where we are.

Girl's day in Cambridge: Important to talk about ourselves. We can do that as our environment is not competitive!

Proposals as activities while being a convenor:

- Adding membership profiles.
- Adding personnel and professional success stories to the EWM website.
- International database of women in Mathematics. Assignment to subjects. Also women mathematicians who go to industry.
- Mentoring programme: senior – junior mathematicians. Can be realized via addition to membership profile, physical mentoring meetings in the course of EWM assembly.
- Advertisement: Promotional material given out at conferences.
- Funding: attract more funding: match funding for events, access gender equality budget of local institutions. Open call for funding for conference grants.

**8. Election of members of the standing committee for the next 3 years:** there must, legally, be from 8 to 12 members of the committee.

Members of standing committee elected in Cortona for the period 2015-2018:

- Camilla Hollanti (Finland), treasurer
- Jasmin Raissy (France), responsible for the EWM Newsletter
- Elena Resmerita (Austria)
- Katrin Letschke (United Kingdom), responsible for the list EWM-ALL
- Daniela Velichova (Slovakia)
- Susanna Terracini (Italy), current convenor

Nazife Erkursun Ozcan (Turkey) was also elected for the period 2015-2018 and resigned since then.

Associate members

- Sara Munday (United Kingdom)
- Anca Croitoru (Romania)
- Marie-Françoise Roy (France)

It was decided in Cortona that the people elected in Bonn until 2017 should be reconfirmed for the period 2016-2018. Chiara Simeoni (Italy) is not candidate for reconfirmation in 2016. It is proposed that Sanja Rapajic (Serbia) and Anna Maria Cherubini (Italy) become associate members.

### **Election of 6 people in 2 groups:**

New candidates for the standing committee for the 2016-2020 period

- Carola-Bibiane Schönlieb (United Kingdom)
- Karin Baur (Austria)
- Kathryn Hess (Switzerland)

Reelection of

- Angela Pistoia (Italy)
- Sylvie Paycha (Germany)
- Lisbeth Fajstrup (Denmark)

for the 2016-2018 period.

***Vote: unanimously approved.***

The proposed leading EWM team for 2016-2018 consists of

- Carola-Bibiane Schönlieb, convenor,
- Elena Resmerita, deputy convenor,

and of

- Karin Baur,
- Kathryn Hess,

both in charge of the next General Meeting.

***Vote: unanimously approved.***

Susanna Terracini and Angela Pistoia are warmly thanked for their actions as former convenor and former deputy convenor.

### **9. Next EWM General Meeting in Vienna**, presentation by Karin Baur

The proposal by the organizing committee is to have it held in Austria. Proposed dates are September 3-7, 2018.

Marie-Françoise Roy and Katrin Wendland announced other interesting meetings:

- (WM)<sup>2</sup> World Meeting for Women in Mathematics in August 2018 at ICM Rio,
- DMV and Austrian Maths meeting: Salzburg 11-15 Sept 2017.

Susanna Terracini gave information about the registration fees in Cortona:

- voluntary basis,
- people having research grants should pay.

### **10. Debate on general questions**

Marie-Françoise Roy reported that 8ECM will be hosted in Slovenia in July 2020.

Discussion on EWM meeting at ECM as a satellite event:

- special session for women inside ECM rather than a satellite event?
- we want more and more women as plenary and invited speakers at ECM, wanting at the same time a special session for women might be counterproductive;
- Sylvie Paycha said that we want more women visibility; so it should be within ECM; it would be best if EWM sits in the official opening of the conference;
- if event is within ECM, then we have to pay also the registration fee to it;
- organizational help for satellite events is very good and is a pro for aligning EWM meetings as satellite event of ECM.

Finally the majority opinion seemed to wish to go on with a satellite meeting to ECM, with an improved visibility.

Beatrice Pelloni, new chair of the EMS Committee for Women in Mathematics, just elected as member of EMS Executive committee, reported on communication between the EWM and EMS, and that she asked EMS council members to make an effort to represent women in the EMS

- as plenary speakers,
- in committees,
- make small things right: for a while, the list of portraits of mathematicians at EMS website involves only men.

## **Appendix**

### **Statements of motivation of the new convenor and deputy convenor**

Dear colleagues,

We are extremely happy to be given the chance to support the EWM as convenor and deputy convenor are honored to have the opportunity to interact with so many enthusiastic women mathematicians.

We are grateful to Susanna Terracini and Angela Pistoia for professionally leading the EWM for the last years, and to Marie-Francoise Roy for standing by with endless energy.

For putting in context our motivations and our priorities in the encouragement of women in mathematics, we thought it best to briefly (!) explain our view on this topic. We believe the role of women in maths societies lies in

– connecting female mathematicians with each other: we are still so few, and from our own experience we know how important it is to feel that you are not alone, and that there are in fact quite a few other women out there who might share some of your thoughts, feelings, worries, and passions.

– mentoring: this is one of the things that is very close to us. We believe that mentoring is extremely important, for the creation of role models, for exploring possible mathematical career paths, etc.

– changing the perception of women in society: part of the change of female roles in our society lies in the concept of work and family, and how these two things can be combined. For instance the idea that child care is a topic that women only are concerned about is (or at least should be) dated; an idea that might influence the career path of women mathematicians significantly. Therefore, we think it is important for men and women in academia to talk about this together, and to showcase families which are living this example, compare also our point on 'personnel stories' below.

Also, it is important that women in mathematics are more visible, not just among themselves, but among the whole mathematical society. One way to do so is outlined in our point on the international database of women below.

A few actions we would like to propose in our period as convenor and deputy convenor:

*Adding membership profiles to the EWM website:* It would be great if we could ask members when they register to provide enough content such that we can create a membership profile out of their subscription. We already have something like this, but on a much smaller scale (the women in maths portraits).

Facebook group: We like the facebook group, but some people would not find it if not directed towards it. A starting point could be to advertise this more centrally on the EWM website!

*Adding personnel and professional success stories to the EWM website:* The women profiles we have on the website are excellent. We might want to think about making them a bit more inviting and sexy to read, e.g. by featuring more pictures, and giving an insight into both personnel and professional keypoints in the life of the featured person. This is something that could be pursued jointly with the London Mathematical Society (LMS), who have this already as part of their programme for women in mathematics.

*International database of women in mathematics:* this idea arose in a discussion with Eugenie Hunsicker (LMS Women in Mathematics). This database could be a collaboration between EWM and other mathematical societies. It should be sortable by research interests, countries, etc. This could be a resource for academics who are organising meetings and are looking for female speakers, and for women mathematicians who are looking for connections within their country or within their

subject area. From the EWM side, we could start with asking EWM members to create membership profiles, which we could add to our website, but which should be setup such that it is easily integrable in the overall database.

Such an initiative, as do others below, will require and will strengthen linkages we have with other women in mathematics societies. We think it is extremely important to join forces such that as many women as possible can be reached, we can learn from each other, and we do not replicate efforts. We need to think where to put this? And who is responsible in keeping this up to date.

*Mentoring:* The EWM membership creates a unique opportunity for linking up senior female mathematicians to junior female mathematicians.

This could be facilitated by

– amending the registration for new members to add an option: are you interested in participating in our mentoring programme (with a link to a description for this).

- asking existing members via a simple webmask (enter your name and click 'yes' or 'no') whether they are willing to be listed as a mentor; and pointing the more junior members towards the list of mentors on the EWM website.

– physical mentoring meetings in the course of the EWM assembly (the format can vary, e.g. a social event like a wine reception; or a one-hour engagement meeting with round tables, discussing in groups certain topics such as 'career development from PhD to faculty', 'career and family', 'gender equality in academia'.

Several mathematics departments around the world already have mentoring programmes of various scales launched and running. Again, we believe we could take advantage of the EWM to broadcast some of these mentoring activities. This could motivate and inform women in other mathematics departments to start similar activities.

*Advertisement:* We think it would be good to have one or more “travelling banners” of the EWM, which, whenever one of us is going to an international mathematics meeting, could be sent to the conference organisers, together with some promotional material (like flyers), could be placed at an appropriate place. This would not need to be attended, but needs to be placed somewhere from the woman among us who is going to this meeting (in coordination with the organisers).

*Funding:* This is always very difficult and we think the convenor, the deputy convenor and the standing committee have done a tremendous job in acquiring funding. Of course there is never enough. We would really like to work towards attracting more funding for EWM, by finding more external sponsors (which we understood is usually challenging), but also by possibly involving more local institutions who sometimes have a gender equality budget, as well as other women in mathematics societies.

In terms of spending it: one of the main foci are meetings we organise, which we too believe is very important. Additionally, some of the money has been spent to support travel for early career researchers or researchers from third countries. To make the latter more formal and visible, we could have an open call on the website, with decision meetings two or three times per year, where women can apply for travel funding to attend international meetings.

In terms of summer schools, general meetings, etc., we believe we are doing a very good job there and should keep up the good work. In particular, we are looking forward to organize the next general meeting with Karin Baur and Kathryn Hess.

All the best,

Carola-Bibiane Schönlieb (convenor) and Elena Resmerita (deputy convenor)

**List of participants (members or invited) to the EWM General Assembly  
Berlin, July 17, 2016**

- Alexandra Antoniouk (Ukraine)
- Carsten Balleier (Germany), invited
- Iroda Baltaeva (Uzbekistan)
- Umida Baltaeva (Uzbekistan)
- Karin Baur (Austria)
- Christine Bessenrodt (Germany)
- Sandra Carillo (Italy), invited
- Mirta Castro Smirnova (Spain)
- Alessandra Celletti (Italy)
- Anna Maria Cherubini (Italy)
- Iryna Fryz (Ukraine)
- Rusu Galina (Moldova)
- Carina Geldhauser (Germany)
- Magdalena Georgescu (Germany), invited
- Victoria Grushkovskaya (Ukraine)
- Colette Guillopé (France)
- Laurence Halpern (France)
- Halyna Krainichuk (Ukraine), invited
- Marjeta Kramar Fijavz (Slovenia)
- Lyudmila Kuzmina (Russia), invited
- Katrin Leschke (United Kingdom)
- Margarida Mendes Lopes (Portugal)
- Helena Mihaljevic-Brandt (Germany)
- Marie Françoise Ouedraogo (Burkina Faso), invited
- Syrbu Parascovia (Moldovia), invited
- Sylvie Paycha (Germany)
- Beatrice Pelloni (United Kingdom)
- Yuliia Perevierzieva (Ukraine)
- Olga Rossi (Czech Republic)
- Marie-Françoise Roy (France)
- Carola-Bibiane Schönlieb (United Kingdom)
- Diana Stoeva (Austria)
- Elisabetta Strickland (Italy)
- Olena Tarkovska (Ukraine)
- Daria Termenzhy (Ukraine)
- Susanna Terracini (Italy)
- Alev Topuzoğlu (Turkey)
- Olga Trofymenko (Ukraine)
- Daniela Velichova (Slovakia)
- Katrin Wendland (Germany)