

**The 14th General Meeting of EWM
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**25-28 August 2009
Novi Sad, Serbia**

A short report

The 14th General Meeting of European Women in Mathematics, EWM 2009, took place during 25–28 August at the Faculty of Sciences at the University of Novi Sad, Serbia.

More than 70 women from 25 countries participated in the conference.

The talks of the invited speakers, addressed to a general audience, covered many fascinating topics ranging from image processing to mathematical biology to group theory. Each of the speakers gave a short account of her mathematical life story. The invited speakers were

Ingrid Daubechies (Princeton University, USA; 2009 EMS lecturer)

Nalini Anantharaman (Centre de Mathématiques Laurent Schwartz, France)

Barbara Lee Keyfitz (University of Houston, USA)

Jelena Kovačević (Carnegie Mellon University, USA)

Cheryl Praeger (Univ. of Western Australia)

Marta Sanz-Solé (Barcelona University, Spain)

Tatiana Suslina (St. Petersburg State University, Russia)

Reidun Twarock (University of York, UK)

Brigitte Vallée (CNRS, France)

The 2009 European Mathematical Society Lecturer, Professor Ingrid Daubechies, gave three of her EMS lectures at the meeting. After describing how her interest in science and mathematics began as a child, she gave her first lecture about wavelets and painting analysis. The complicated theory of wavelets was illustrated visually by showing how to attempt to tell apart a fake copy from an original Van Gogh painting.

Beside the talks given by the invited speakers, the conference participants had the opportunity to attend the General Assembly of the EWM, an overview of the European Union's Marie Curie FP7 Programme presented by Dagmar Meyer, a panel discussion on how women's professional behaviour impacts their careers, and a varied array of short talk sessions and poster presentations. During the General Assembly Meeting a new Convenor and Standing Committee were elected for the next two years, and the future of EWM was discussed.

The local organizers, aided by a dozen student volunteers, looked after the participants with great enthusiasm, both at the conference venue and at the attractive

student residence where all the participants from outside Serbia stayed. They arranged a tour of the city of Novi Sad together with a reception at the local branch of the Serbian Academy of Science on the evening of August 25. Then during the afternoon and evening of August 26 the participants were taken on an excursion to the historic city of Sremski Karlovci and enjoyed dinner at a fish restaurant on the beautiful Danube shore. The highlight of the last full day was a surprise lunch featuring an art exhibition on the theme of women in mathematics by Vanja Barisic Jokovic, whose professional public relations agency handled all the publicity for the meeting (free of charge to EWM) and designed the striking conference logo. At this exhibition participants were able to admire the baby suits, decorated with the conference logo, which were presented the following day at the maternity hospital in Novi Sad to all the babies born during the week of the conference, in the presence of the EU Deputy Ambassador to Serbia who had provided financial support for the meeting ... and for the baby suits!

The conference was covered widely by the Serbian television and press, and all the talks were filmed by a professional crew, with the goal of creating a conference DVD. This DVD will also include interviews with many of the participants, as a follow-up to the earlier EWM film "Women in Mathematics Across Cultures" (1994 by M. Näätänen).

The next EWM general meeting is being planned for the first week of September 2011 at the Centre de Recerca Matematica in Barcelona.