

# EUROPEAN WOMEN IN MATHEMATICS

## 8th GENERAL MEETING of EWM

December 12-16, 1997

ICTP, Trieste, Italy

### BRIEF REPORT

The meeting was attended by about 100 participants from about 30 countries, most European countries were represented as well as Chile, Egypt, India, Iran, Kyrgyzstan, Nepal, Tunisia, Uzbekistan and West Bank. Thanks to the support of the ICTP (International Centre for Theoretical Physics) where the meeting took place, and in particular to Professor Narasimhan, participants who would not have been able to come to this meeting otherwise could this time take part, thus enriching the range of nationalities represented. As well as the financial support of ICTP we also enjoyed the warm and friendly atmosphere and the very sympathetic attitude of everyone at ICTP shown towards our meeting.

The meeting was organised thanks to the great dedication of Bodil Branner and Emilia Mezzetti, with the help of the organising committee. Besides the ICTP, UVO/ROSTE, the Università di Trieste, the Finnish Ministry of Education, Chalmers Technical University and the University of Gothenburg, and the EMS co-sponsored the meeting.

### Mathematical Programme

There were three sessions, one on **p-adic Numbers**, organized by Catherine Goldstein (with talks by Capi Corrales Rodríguez, Francoise Delon, Catherine Goldstein), one on **Representations of Groups**, organised by Michele Vergne (with talks by Maria Welleda Baldoni, Pascale Harinck, Idun Reiten, Christine Bessenrodt), and one interdisciplinary session on **Symmetries**, organised by Ina Kersteii and Sylvie Paycha. The latter one was organised in the spirit of the interdisciplinary session at Madrid; it contained two invited talks (by Ljudmila Bordag and Tsou Sheung Tsun) and talks suggested by participants in Trieste (by Emilia Petrisor, Tatiana Ivanova, Inna Yemelyanova, Ufuk Taneri, Valentina Goloubeva).

The poster session was an important part of the conference; unlike the traditional presentation of posters, this session offered an original view on the work and life of the participants involved in the poster project.

### General discussions

The discussion topic of the meeting was **Women and Mathematics: East-West-North-South**; as an introduction into the topic the video **Women and Mathematics across Cultures** was shown.

Discussions by small groups, formed roughly according to regions, were followed by a plenary discussion comparing the situation in different countries and sharing our experiences with affirmative action or equal opportunity programmes for women in academics; it also gave an opportunity to participants from non-European countries to express their wish to keep contacts with EWM.

### **Organisation of EWM and the General Assembly**

The General assembly approved new members and confirmed the fees that had been decided in Warsaw 1993. The Standing Committee was partially renewed, Laura Fainsilber was elected as convenor and Irene Sciriha and Inna Yemelyanova were elected as deputy convenors; four international coordinators were elected Marie Demlova (central and east), Tania Vasilieva (Russia) and Marja Kankaanrinta (north) or confirmed and suggestions for regional coordinators were made that have to be confirmed on the regional level.

The next EWM meeting 1999 was decided to be held in Germany; it is planned to take place at the conference center Kloster Loccum (near Hannover), preferably in September. A proposal for the EWM meeting 2001 to take place in Russia was made.

Different tasks were accepted by some EWM members present at the meeting; the difficulty of finding funding for the work of EWM was stressed during the discussion. The need for more frequent communication in-between meetings besides the Newsletter was expressed; one means for achieving this is a short Bulletin spreading information on local activities related to women in mathematics, collected by international coordinators via regional coordinators.

It was a common wish of the European and non-European participants to keep a contact via EWM, in particular by our Newsletter and the Newsletter of TWOWS (Third World Organization of Women in Science).

There will be [proceedings](#) of this meeting covering most of the mathematical programme and a report on the discussion Women and Mathematics: East-West-North-South as well as a report on the General Assembly and information related to EWM.

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