

European Women in Mathematics

Minutes of the EWM General Assembly

Date: June 21st, 2021

Time: 18.00 UTC+3 (Helsinki time)

Place: Online, via zoom

Chairperson of the meeting: Andrea Walther

Secretary of the meeting: Lisa Maria Kreusser

Attending full members: see appendix

Article 1

The chairperson of this meeting is the convenor of EWM, Andrea Walther. She commences the General Assembly at 18.05h Helsinki time by welcoming all attendees.

Furthermore, the chairperson observes that the assembly has been called timely 6 weeks ahead of time. Therefore this assembly has a quorum.

The chairperson presents the **agenda**:

Art. 1: Opening of the General Assembly, election of the secretary, minute auditors and the election supervisors of the meeting.

Art. 2: Approval of minutes from the last virtual GA, 6 July 2020 and the extraordinary GA on March 31, 2021.

Art. 3: Report from convenors

- Financial report
- Membership situation
- Report & invitation for feedback on EWM website
- Report & invitation for feedback on EWM newsletter
- Report on mentoring
- Report on the work on the statutes

Art. 4: Regional coordinators

Art. 5: AOB

There are no requests to add new items to the agenda. The agenda is accepted by all attendees (35 yes-votes, 0 dissenting votes, 0 abstentions, 0 invalid votes).

The assembly elects **Lisa Maria Kreusser** as the secretary of the meeting (35 yes-votes, 0 dissenting votes, 0 abstentions, 0 invalid votes). Lisa Maria Kreusser accepts the nomination.

The assembly elects **Maria Vlasiou** as the meeting minute auditor (35 yes-votes, 0 dissenting votes, 0 abstentions, 0 invalid votes). Maria Vlasiou accepts the nomination.

The assembly elects **Sara Maad Sasane** as election supervisor (38 yes-votes, 0 dissenting votes, 0 abstentions, 0 invalid votes) and Sara Maad Sasane accepts the nomination.

Article 2

The assembly approves the minutes from the last virtual GA, 6 July 2020 (43 yes-votes, 0 dissenting votes, 0 abstentions, 0 invalid votes). The minutes were approved also for the extraordinary GA on March 31, 2021 (43 yes-votes, 0 dissenting votes, 0 abstentions, 0 invalid votes).

Article 3

Achievements (by Andrea Walther and Kaie Kubjas)

- September 2020: Publication of an open letter on the impact of COVID-19, close to 1000 supporters, special thanks to Rebecca Waldecker and Maria Westdickenberg
- September 2020: Maintenance contract for the website (more details below)
- October 26, 2020: Country coordinators meeting
- Several meetings of the standing committee (Sept, Nov, January, March, May)
- Institutional membership for academic organizations (currently 12 members); list of institutional members is available here: <https://www.europeanwomeninmaths.org/institutional-members/>
- Partnership program for corporations (Smith Institute and G-Research)
- March 11, 2021: Screening of "Picture a Scientist" and panel discussion together with Excellence cluster MATH+, over 100 participants in the panel discussion
- March 23, 2021: Joint CWM ambassadors and EWM country coordinators meeting
- The 8th European Congress of Mathematics including the EWM activities are currently taking place, mainly organised by Elena Resmerita and Carola-Bibiane Schönlieb

Future activities (by Andrea Walther and Kaie Kubjas)

- Preparation of EWM General Meeting 2022 in Finland started, more information here: [“https://www.europeanwomeninmaths.org/activities/all-our-activities/gm2022/”](https://www.europeanwomeninmaths.org/activities/all-our-activities/gm2022/)
- Update statutes (see later point)
- Strategy discussion (will be initiated soon, topics include how to spend additional income)
- Clarify EWM/EMS scientific panel (advice on scientific questions involving women, e.g. female mentors, panelists, speakers, etc.)
- Inform and find more sponsors (presentation material has been prepared)
- Virtual EWM summer school in 2021 (postponed from 2020)
- EWM-EMS summer schools at Mittag-Leffler institute in 2022 (Mittag Leffler carries the main cost and € 2000 of financial support for travel costs, invited speaker’s expenses etc. by EWM)

At this point in the meeting, there were 4 questions: on the role of professional help for the strategy meeting, the role of the EMS scientific panel, whether there will be support for the summer schools, whether the 2022 summer schools are those of 2020 or new ones. The answers are added in the list above.

Financial report (by Kaie Kubjas)

Expected expenses for 2021 are € 7,600, mainly consisting of travel grants and expenses for the web pages. The expected income in 2021 is expected to increase significantly to € 20,000 (individual memberships: € 6,000, institutional memberships: € 3,600, sponsorship: € 10,400), mainly due to institutional memberships and sponsorship.

In terms of the finances in 2019/2020, there was a surplus of € 4,749.1 in 2020 (surplus of € 787.22 in 2019). The total funds in our bank account at the end of 2020 are € 23,849.91. There has been a significant decrease in travel expenses between the calendar years 2019 and 2020 (€ 536 in 2020, € 5,152.14 in 2019) due to the ongoing coronavirus pandemic. There has been a significant increase in IT expenses (€ 5,292.8 in 2020, € 1,179 in 2019) which includes costs for the maintenance contract of the web pages and support for the May 12 website with contributions from CWM (€ 3,116) and AWM (€ 420). There has been an increase in income due to increased income from individual memberships and other donations.

The auditors Kirsi Peltonen and Riikka Korte (deputy) were elected as auditors for 2020 at the extraordinary GA on March 31, 2021 and have carefully checked the financial report for 2020. The auditors have been discharged from responsibility (48 yes-votes, 0 dissenting votes, 0 abstentions, 0 invalid votes) and proposed as auditors for 2021. Kirsi Peltonen and Riikka Korte were elected as auditors for 2021 (48 yes-votes, 0 dissenting votes, 0 abstentions, 0 invalid votes).

Membership situation (by Tatiana Bubba)

There have been fluctuations in the income from memberships mainly because some people paid previous year's membership this year due to different payment methods. The individual membership fees total € 5,755. Methods for payment of membership fees include PayPal (most popular payment method in 2019 and 2020), bank transfer, LMS – London Mathematical Society, UMI – Unione Matematica Italiana and cash (not possible due to current pandemic). The 12 institutional members paid € 300 each, resulting in a total membership income of € 3,600, where most institutions decided to pay via bank transfer. The institutional members are split among 9 European countries where each country has at most 2 institutional members. These institutional members were found by emailing roughly 40 institutions in Europe to advertise the new institutional membership scheme of EWM. One question which has to be discussed in the future is how to spend the additional money through the new academic memberships.

The total amount of membership fees in 2021 was € 5,755 + € 3,600 = € 9,355. Among individual members, the dominant fee was € 20, roughly three times higher than the lower membership fees of € 5 and € 50.

Report & invitation for feedback on EWM website (by Carina Geldhauser)

The EWM Website team consists of two standing committee members (Olga Kuznetsova and Carina Geldhauser) and a volunteer team (Marisa Mohr, Mia Jukic, Elisabeth Reichwein, Laura Poggiolini and Sara Rousta). In addition, the job advert mailing lists are done by Katrin Leschke (standing committee) and Esther Daus.

The work carried out through the IT maintenance contract includes migration to GSuite, 117 issues of technical maintenance (updates of server, WP, plugin, bugs...) and improved email security. In addition, the user profile has been improved and now includes website URL, prizes, honors and editorial work.

The volunteer team publishes news, activities, country pages, and is responsible for content management and editing. In addition, there have been advocacy campaigns on the Corona Crisis and the Leicester case. Another aim of the webpage is knowledge management which includes the General Assembly pages, resources and reports from coordinators. There is also a user helpdesk and user profiles.

Currently, tasks for developers as part of the maintenance contract are prepared (e.g. how to avoid spam emails).

Due to the graduation of some of the volunteers, more volunteers are needed to take over some of the tasks. Maria Vlasiou would like to place a call for volunteers in social media channels maintained by the Dutch national association. A one-paragraph written by EWM would help for a call for volunteers for this task.

If there are any problems with the webpage, please contact the Website team: website@europeanwomeninmaths.org

All EWM members should complete their user profile (website URL, prizes, honors and editorial work) and make their profile visible. Note that 3 days are required until the profile is visible due to manual verification. In addition, everyone should subscribe and make their students aware of the EWM job mailing list. This mailing list also includes expressions of interests for senior positions. The team is currently working on a digest. Everyone should also subscribe to the EWM newsletter (2x per year, see Anna's updates below). Many members are not subscribed so it would be great if more members signed up.

Maria and Carina made some resources on gender studies available on the EWM Webpage "<https://www.europeanwomeninmaths.org/women-mathematicians/gender-studies/>"

Report & invitation for feedback on EWM newsletter (by Anna Cherubini)

Anna Cherubini gave an update on the EWM Newsletter based on data from MailChimp. The audience of the EWM Newsletter consists of 1255 contacts and 1226 subscribers. The open rate of the last 3 issues is between 42% and 48%. There is little engagement with the EWM Newsletter (16% engage often, 26% sometimes and 51% rarely).

Suggestions from the last General Assembly which have been completed are the production of a PDF of the newsletter, a special issue of pandemic and an article on Open Access by Susanna Terracini. There is currently no counter on the access of articles and there is no arXiv-style repository (as suggested by Caroline Series).

The participants discussed the problem of the overwhelming required time commitments and qualified collaborations. These issues were already mentioned last year, but have now become urgent. Required qualifications include editing and formatting, very good spoken and written English plus time and enthusiasm. To overcome this, Anna Cherubini suggests advertising for a paid content editor. Andrea Walther suggests that a quote for a professional content editor should be sought. Carina Geldhauser suggests asking the content editor of Oberwolfach Research Institute in terms of which tasks are required. Maria Vlasidou suggests that the Oberwolfach Research Institute could support EWM in kind instead of cash with their editor.

Anna Cherubini proposes to change the format of the newsletter and publish articles when they arrive, rather than everything at once. Maria Vlasidou suggests that one should track which kind of articles have the highest impact to understand better which section of the newsletter should receive the most effort. She also adds that MailChimp has a counter, so it should not be too difficult to implement it.

Francesca Arici suggests that the news should be updated more frequently and summarised in a digest. Maria Vlasidou agrees that she also favours more often and less lengthy newsletters.

Carola-Bibiane Schönlieb, Luise Blank and several other participants agree. Kaie Kubjas suggests that it should be done as it is easiest for newsletter editors. Elena Resmerita adds that it would be nice to have the articles as they are available, since it will be more in real time (fresh news).

In a discussion about the most popular items in the EWM newsletter, it turns out that many participants enjoy the great interviews with women mathematicians, later published in the section "<https://www.europeanwomeninmaths.org/women-mathematicians/women-portraits/>".

The latest issue of the EWM newsletter is available on the EWM Webpage: "<https://www.europeanwomeninmaths.org/newsletter/newsletter-34/>".

Report on mentoring (by Carina Geldhauser)

There is a 1:1 mentoring programme with the aim of matching a person who "fits to you". Mentor and mentee are either from a close research field, the mentor is based in the mentee's country of choice or the mentor has expertise on the mentee's question. Once a pair is matched, a welcome letter with tips on a good mentoring relationship is sent. Signing up to the mentoring programme is currently possible through the member profile tab, but will be updated to a Google form soon. Matching takes place every 4-6 months or earlier if a perfect match is found. The new Google form will contain an "urgent match" option. For anyone interested in the mentoring programme, it is desirable if all questions of the form are answered, resulting in a quicker matching and a lower workload.

From July 2020 to June 2021, 6 mentor-mentee pairs were matched. Mentors are available for all career stages, i.e. senior student mentors for more junior students, postdocs and full professors. Unfortunately, 12 registered persons did not reply to our emails (more information was needed due to incomplete registration / user profile). The plans for summer/autumn 2021 include a new mentoring Google form with "urgent match" option and emailing all unmatched registered persons to reconfirm interest/availability.

Report on the work on the statutes (Carina Geldhauser)

There are new Finnish administrative processes for non-profit associations. This implies that due to (small) changes in the EWM organizational structure, the statutes have to be updated. The background work includes contracting a professional accountant, the recovery of original Finnish statutes from the registry and a working group on statutes updates has been formed. Still left to be done is the conversion of ToDos into transparent changes. Further tasks will be discussed at a separate extraordinary General Assembly. The current team of Kaie Kubjas, Elena Resmerita, Andrea Walther, Carina Geldhauser and others is also looking for more volunteers.

Article 4

Kaie talks about regional coordinators which are very important for organising local events. In total, there are 52 country coordinators in 35 countries. The countries include Austria, Albania, Belgium, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Bulgaria, Croatia, Cyprus, Finland, France, Georgia, Germany, Great Britain, Greece, Ireland, Italy, Lithuania, Malta, Moldova, Montenegro, Netherlands, North Macedonia, Norway, Poland, Portugal, Romania, Russia, Serbia, Slovakia, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, Turkey, Ukraine and Uzbekistan. If your country is not on this list and you would like to become a country coordinator, please email us.

The first online country coordinators meeting took place on October 26, 2020. Presentations by representatives from five countries were given: Colette Guillope (France), Elena Hadzieva (Macedonia), Maria Vlasiou (Netherlands), Silvia Barbeiro (Portugal) and Daniela Velichova (Slovakia). Additionally, Marie-Francoise Roy gave a presentation about CWM. In addition, CWM ambassadors and EWM country coordinators had a joint event on March 3, 2021 with presentations by representatives from five countries: Christin Borge (Norway), Loredana Balilescu, Magdalena Boureanu and Georgia Oros (Romania), Hara Charalambous (Greece), Semra Pamuk (Turkey), Romina Gaburro (Ireland) and Houry Melkonian (UK).

More details on country coordinators can be found on the EWM Webpage "<https://www.europeanwomeninmaths.org/about-us/ewm-in-europe/>". The EWM Country Reports are available at "<https://www.europeanwomeninmaths.org/ewm-news/ewm-reports/>".

Article 5

Kaie discusses speakers and activities planned for EWM GM 2022 in Finland (currently planned as an in-person event). More details will become available on the conference's web page: "<https://www.europeanwomeninmaths.org/activities/all-our-activities/gm2022/>".

----- End of the meeting -----

Minutes inspection

The minutes were inspected on 24 June 2021 by the minute auditor Prof. dr. Maria Vlasiou. The minute auditors reported no mistakes were made by the secretary.

Activities Zoom Jun 21 19:26 Participants (49)

Find a participant

	Carina Geldhauser (Me)		
	Kale Kubjas (Host)		
	AW Andrea Walther (Co-host)		
	Alessandra Celletti		
	anna cherubini		
	AG Anna Grybos		
	baur		
	Bojana Milosevic		
	Camilla Hollanti		
	Carina Geldhauser		
	CD Carmen-Ana Dominguez Bravo		
	CS Carola-Bibiane Schönlieb		
	CS Caroline Series		
	Cd Chiara de Fabritis		
	CG Colette Guillopé		
	DS Diana Stoeva		
	E Elena		
	ER Elena Berdysheva		
	EG Elena Gavrilova Bulgaria		
	ER Elena Resmerita, Austria		
	EL Elisa Lorenzo Garcia		
	eS elisabetta Strickland		
	FMI DECAN		
	FA Francesca Arici		
	IM Inessa Matveeva		
	IP Irina Pettersson		
	...		

Invite

Activities Zoom Jun 21 19:26 Participants (49)

Find a participant

- FA Francesca Arici
- IM Inessa Matveeva
- IP Irina Pettersson
- Janin Jäger
- Kramar Fijavž, Marjeta
- LM Lisa Maria Kreusser
- LB Luise Blank
- ML Margarida Lopes
- margaritaz@cng.ac.cy
- MV Maria Vasiou
- MW Marie-Therese Wolfram
- MC Mirta Castro Sminova
- MN Mramor-Kosta, Neza
- NS Nadia Slavila Larsen
- PS Paycha Sylvie
- RW Rebecca Waldecker
- RG Romina Gaburro
- SK Sanja Konjik
- SM Sara Maad Sasane
- SR Sara Roustia
- SP SEMRA PAMUK
- SC Sofia Castro
- Stanislawa Kanas
- TB Tatiana Bubba
- VF Veronica Felli
- Vilma Nekrašaitė-Liepė

Invite ...