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Preface to the CERME9 Proceedings

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Preface

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Each second year, the European Society for Research in Mathematics Education (ERME) organises a conference. The 9th Congress of ERME (CERME9) took place in Prague (Czech Republic), 4–8 February 2015. A detailed report on this conference and brief remarks on further ERME activities can be found in Krainer and Vondrová (2015) who acted as the Chair of the International Programme Committee (IPC) and the Chair of the Local Organising Committee (LOC) of this conference.

It is clear per definition that CERMEs are “European”, however, we are happy to welcome colleagues from all parts of the world. CERME9 was attended by 672 people from 49 countries from all over the world. With these figures, CERME9 was the largest CERME ever. This number of participants was significantly higher than what had been anticipated. Nada Vondrová, LOC chair, and all the members of the local organising committee managed to host in very good conditions all the participants. We received a great number of testimonies from participants expressing their high satisfaction for the scientific programme and the local organisation.

The programme comprised three content-related plenary activities: (a) a plenary panel on “What do we mean by cultural contexts in European Research in Mathematics Education?”, held by Barbara Jaworski, Mariolina Bartolini Bussi, Edyta Nowinska, and Susanne Prediger; (b) a plenary lecture on “Research in teacher education and innovation at schools – Cooperation, competition or two separate worlds?” by Jarmila Novotná; and (c) a plenary lecture on “Understanding randomness: Challenges for research and teaching” by Carmen Batanero. The plenary lectures contributed substantially to the success of the conference.

Of central importance for each CERME are the Thematic Working Groups (TWGs). At CERME9, due

to the huge number of 436 research reports and 106 posters that were accepted, 20 TWGs needed to be implemented. All TWG leaders and their co-leaders (from 23 countries) did a great job before, during, and after the conference. Among them, five acted at CERME9 their third time as a TWG leader which means that they need to be substituted according to the ERME rules for CERME10: Jeremy Hodgen, Uffe Thomas Jankvist (who also acted as the Vice-chair of IPC), Roza Leikin, Elena Nardi, and Jana Trgalova.

In particular, the presence of societies like EMS (President Pavel Exner), its Education Committee (Chair Günter Törner) and ICMI (former President Michèle Artigue), gave the conference a special flavour, as well as interesting excursions and splendid classical music during the opening and closing ceremony produced by students of the Faculty of Education, the host of CERME9.

CERME9 shows also considerable innovations regarding the organisation of the proceedings. Following a decision of the ERME Board, there will be posted on the HAL database. This will be a very valuable evolution serving the dissemination of our works for CERME9, and for the next CERME conferences. On behalf of the ERME Board and all the ERME community we address many thanks to the editors, Konrad Krainer and Nada Vondrová, for this huge work.

Although these proceedings do not contain any document related to it, let us mention another fundamental event that took place one day before the opening of the Congress: the YERME (Young European Researchers in Mathematics Education) day. This is now a constant appointment where young researchers – doctoral students or post-doctoral researchers - meet expert scholars in thematic discussion groups. At CERME9 the organization of the YERME day was coordinated by João Pedro da Ponte (Chair of the programme committee) and Jarmila Novotná, chair of the local organis-

ing committee. The activities were led by Paolo Boero, Rita Borromeo-Ferri, Uffe Thomas Jankvist, Esther Levenson, Despina Potari, Susanne Prediger, Cristina Sabena, Mario Sánchez, Susanne Schnell.

Without the deep involvement of its members, ERME and CERME will not exist. Each CERME conference represents a challenge that was successfully achieved by all involved people, but especially by Konrad Krainer, Chair of the IPC, and Nada Vondrová chair of the LOC. We address sincere thanks to both for the incredible work they have done in preparing and supervising the organisation of the conference, and the editing of the proceedings. We extend our thanks to Uffe Thomas Jankvist and Jarmila Novotná respectively co-chair of the IPC and of the LOC, to all the IPC members and to all the local organisers for their hard work, and to the Charles University in Prague, for making us so welcome.

We encourage interested researchers to meet us at the next CERME that will take place in February 2017, in Dublin (Ireland).

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ERME Vice-President*

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