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Foreword: CERME10 in lovely Dublin

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Since its beginnings in 1998, ERME, the European Society for Research in Mathematics Education was dedicated to supporting the so-called “three C’s”: communication, cooperation, and collaboration among researchers in Europe and beyond. The major occasion for the ERME spirit to come to life is the biannual congress, CERME. In this year, the 10th congress of ERME, CERME10, took place in Dublin from February 1st to February 5th, 2017.

The congress took place in Dublin in Croke Park, the stadium that is home of the Irish national sports of Gaelic football and hurling. Although the conference was bigger than ever, the 774 participants felt few compared to the 80 000 people who fit into the stadium on large sporting and other occasions. However, our local chair, Thérèse Dooley, her co-chair Maurice O’Reilly and all their colleagues did a fantastic job in making us feel at home and not lost in the huge venue. Their hospitality and engagement were praised by all participants.

The program of the congress was organized by the International Program Committee, chaired by Ghislaine Gueudet and the vice-chair Andreas Eichler in a very well structured, transparent and highly efficient way. Under their guidance, the IPC developed a substantial program with two very interesting plenaries, one presented by Elena Nardi (entitled “From Advanced mathematical thinking to university mathematics education: A story of emancipation and enrichment”) and the other by Lieven Verschaffel (entitled “Towards a more comprehensive model of children’s number sense”). In a panel on “Solid findings in mathematics education: What are they and what are they good for?” this ‘hot’ topic was discussed from different perspectives. Marianna Bosch, Tommy Dreyfus, Caterina Primi, and Gerry Shiel made up the panel. All of the plenary activities contributed substantially to the success of the conference.

However, the core and the heart of each CERME are the seven sessions in the Thematic Working Groups, which offer the main place for the spirit of inclusion realized in communication and cooperation. The 23 Thematic Working Groups were organized by 84 group leaders, an impressive number of people who invest their energy and time in the success of the congress. Several external conference organizers expressed their surprise that during the sessions, nobody was wandering around in the corridors. Of course not, we said, they are communicating and cooperating! And we become aware again that this intensity of work is specific, and perhaps even unique, to CERME.

Most of the CERME group leaders have taken this responsibility for several years and have established a long-term collaboration with substantial academic outcomes. This group of people engaged in the enormous effort of managing the process of quality development for 474 submitted papers and 94 posters, numbers much larger than ever before.

CERME is not only getting larger from congress to congress, but also increasingly international. The 774 participants came from 29 European countries and 23 Non-European countries. The top ten

countries in terms of numbers of participants were Germany (127), United Kingdom (60), Norway (55), France (47), Italy (47), Ireland (41), Spain (39), Sweden (38), Israel (32), and the US (30). Austria, Belgium, Croatia, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Denmark, Faroe Islands, Finland, Greece, Hungary, Iceland, Kosovo, Malta, Netherlands, Poland, Portugal, Russia, Slovakia, Switzerland, Turkey, and Ukraine were included in the European countries. Among the non-European countries were Algeria, Argentina, Australia, Bangladesh, Brazil, Cameroon, Canada, Chile, Hong Kong, Kenya, Iran, Japan, Lebanon, Malawi, Mexico, New Zealand, Nigeria, Singapore, South Africa, Thailand, and Tunisia. It must be the specific style of the congress and the ERME spirit which attracts so many people from all over the world!

With the increasing numbers and diversity, the challenge of compiling proceedings is getting more and more complex. We thank the chairs who served as editors for this complex process and for finalizing it so quickly.

Such a huge and complex congress as CERME could not be conducted without the engagement of more than 15% of all participants (including TWG leaders, IPC members, LOC members and ERME board members). We thank everybody who has contributed to the ongoing work behind the scenes which allowed the congress to be a real success. Specific thanks go to Ghislaine Gueudet, Andreas Eichler, Thérèse Dooley and Maurice O'Reilly for their hard work with a wonderful outcome.

We encourage interested researchers to meet us at the next CERME that will take place from February 5th to February 10th 2019, in Utrecht (the Netherlands).

Susanne Prediger, ERME President since February 2017

Viviane Durand-Guerrier, ERME President until February 2017