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Preface: CERME 11 in lovely Utrecht historic sites

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Each second year, the European Society for Research in Mathematics Education (ERME) organises a conference. The 11th Congress of ERME (CERME11) took place in Utrecht (The Netherlands), from February 6 to 10, 2019. The conference was hosted by the Freudenthal Group, in collaboration with the Freudenthal Institute, of Utrecht University. The participants of the conference were offered an excellent academic environment in a place in which important blocks in the foundation of mathematics education research were laid fifty years ago by Freudenthal and his collaborators.

CERME is getting larger from congress to congress: from 774 participants at CERME10 to 900 participants at CERME11 - the highest number of participants in comparison with the previous CERMEs. In order to avoid overflow (more than 300 more people were interested in participating), the ERME board had to decide to stop the growth tendencies with stopping at 900 participants. Most participants at CERME11 are European researchers, but CERME is getting increasingly international with 152 researchers from outside Europe: Asia (30), North–America (54), South-America (40), Australia/New Zealand (9), Africa (19). The European researchers are essentially from Germany (169), Norway (82), United Kingdom (57), Sweden (54), Italy (40), The Netherlands (39), Israel (36), Spain (36), France (33), Portugal (31), Denmark (27), Turkey (26), Greece (23), Ireland (19), Austria (14), Finland (13), Cyprus (11), Hungary (8), Czech Republic (6), Croatia (5), Switzerland (4), Iceland (3), Slovakia (3), and Poland (2), and many other countries with one participant each.

A conference with such a huge number of participants requires a perfect organization in order to be successful, and indeed it was a real success. All the members of the Local Organizing Committee contributed to the excellent organization, especially the chair of the LOC, Marja van den Heuvel-Panhuizen, and her co-chair, Michiel Veldhuis. They did a wonderful work. They paid attention to all the small details before and during the conference. Both paid attention to all the specific needs of each participant. They dealt successfully with all the issues, challenges (small and big), and always with a smile. We thank both of them so deeply!

Inclusion and quality is an integral part of the CERME spirit. The success of the conference is tightly connected with the quality of the scientific program, which was excellent. We address our sincere thanks to the International Program Committee, especially to the chair of the IPC, Uffe Thomas Jankvist, and his co-chair, Miguel Ribeiro, for their excellent work before, during, and after the conference, taking into account ERME principles: selecting deep and interesting plenaries, organizing a panel discussion, organizing the distribution of Thematic Working Groups and the publication process of the proceedings.

In his plenary lecture, Paul Drijvers offered a deep reflection on a promising integrative approach to tool use, called embodied instrumentation, which is based on three lenses: a Realistic Mathematics Education view; instrumental approaches, and embodied views on

cognition. In the second plenary lecture, Kathleen M. Clark offered a thoughtful analysis of examples in which research on the use of history of mathematics contributed to the broader landscape of research in mathematics education. The examples address the role of history of mathematics in the learning of different mathematical concepts, ranging from the function concept to determinants of matrices, as well as topics in analysis and abstract algebra. The third plenary talk was given by Sebastian Rezat. Using the transition from natural numbers to integers as an exemplary case, Rezat delineated an insightful analysis on transitions from one number system to the other with a particular interest in continuities and discontinuities in the teaching of these number systems. Rezat integrated the results in an approach to achieve learner-centered coherence in the learning of number. Three papers corresponding to these three plenary addresses are included in the proceedings.

On the occasion of the 20th anniversary of ERME, the IPC organized an anniversary panel chaired by Konrad Krainer and Hanna Palmer. The panel offered a deep reflection on ERME contribution to research in mathematics education. Barbara Jaworski and Susanne Prediger (past and current ERME president), Paolo Boero and Simon Modeste (representatives of YESS and YERME - Young Researchers in ERME), and Tommy Dreyfus and Jana Žalská (editor and reader of the ERME book) made up the panel.

The work done in the plenaries and the panel contributed substantially to the success of the conference.

The core and the heart of each CERME are the Thematic Working Groups and the serious work which is done in all of them. In the TWGs, the collaboration between experienced and young researchers supports the scientific development of the young researchers. At CERME11, 575 papers and 152 posters were accepted. 26 TWGs were organized with 8 TWGs which were divided in two subgroups due to the large number of participants. Our sincere thanks are addressed to the 34 working group leaders and 99 co-leaders for their huge and wonderful work. Before the conference, the leaders and co-leaders organized the review process and devoted much time in planning the program of the TWG. As a result, they were able to lead excellent discussions during the work of the TWG at the conference. A wonderful atmosphere and a lot of motivation characterized the work in the working groups. Every participant was involved in the work. After the conference, the authors had the possibility to further revise their papers, integrating significant changes which emerged in the discussions in the TWGs. The leaders and co-leaders organized this final review process.

The work done by all the organizers and deep involvement of the TWG leaders, IPC members, LOC members and ERME board members contributed to the success of the conference. We thank everybody who has contributed to this success. Specific thanks go to Uffe Thomas Jankvist, Miguel Ribeiro, Marja van den Heuvel-Panhuizen, and Michiel Veldhuis for all their work with a wonderful result.

We encourage interested researchers to meet us at the next CERME that will take place in February 2021 in Bolzano (Italy).

Susanne Prediger
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&

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