

# A pictorial history of EWM

**By Bodil Branner and Caroline Series**

**Presented at EWM General Meeting at Barcelona,  
September 2011.**

**Updated by Marie-Françoise Roy,  
5 th Summer School in Trieste, 2013**



European Women  
in Mathematics

# EWM

## European Women in Mathematics

[www.europeanwomeninmaths.org](http://www.europeanwomeninmaths.org)

- Founded in 1986 to support, encourage and bring together women mathematicians across Europe
- Membership organisation open to all
- Organises biennial general meetings and other local or specialist conferences
- Has members and 32 coordinators in 27 countries
- Has email net, newsletter and website





## EWM Aims

- to encourage women to study mathematics.
- to support women in their careers.
- to provide a meeting place for like-minded people.
- to promote scientific communication.
- to cooperate with groups and organizations with similar goals.



Ingrid Daubechies  
EMS Lecturer  
EWM Meeting, Novi Sad 2009

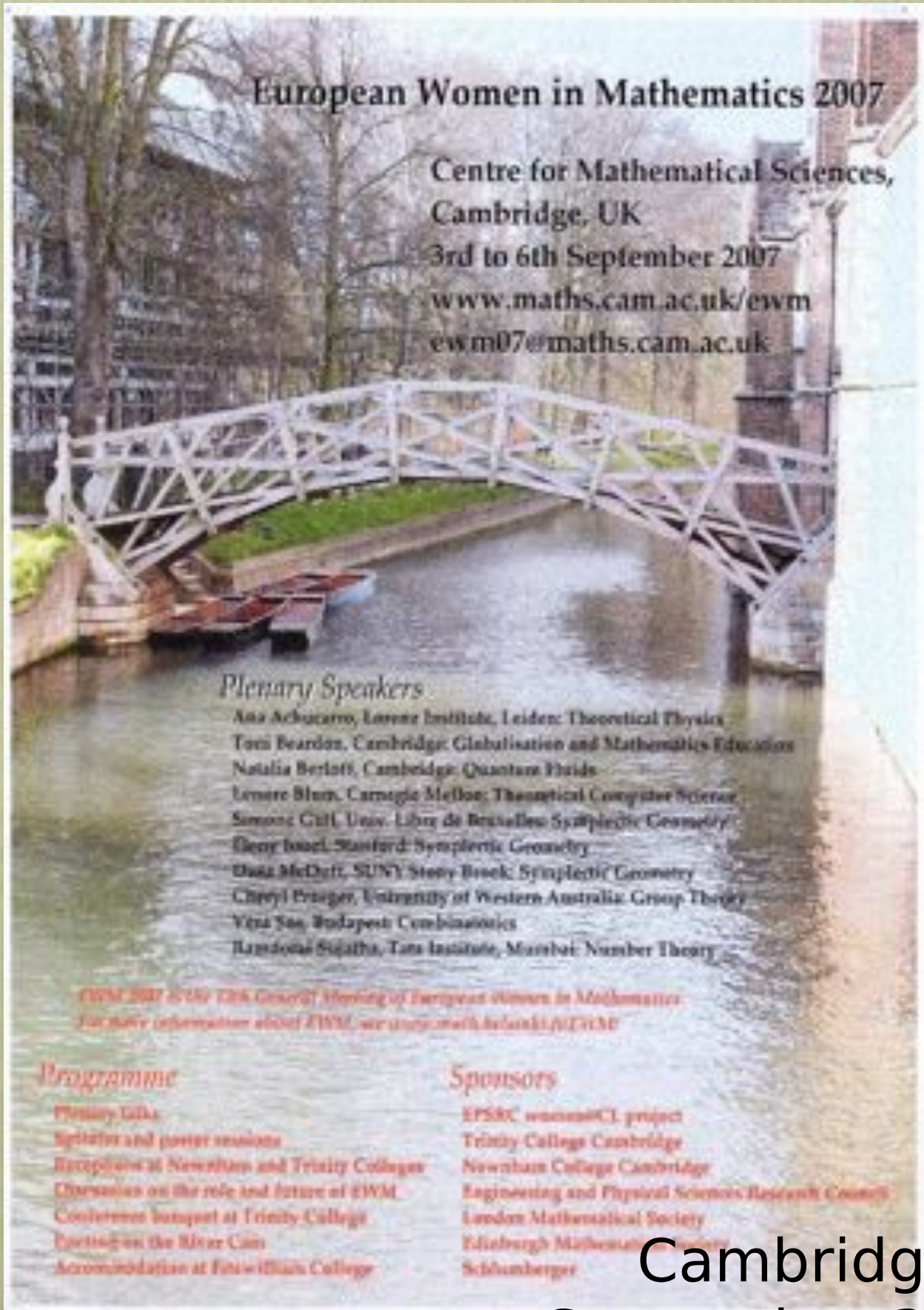


Current Convenor  
Marie-Françoise Roy



# Biennial general meetings

Novi Sad, Serbia.  
August 2009

A poster for the European Women in Mathematics 2007 conference. The background is a photograph of a white wooden bridge over a canal in Cambridge, with a red boat in the water. The text is overlaid on the image.

**European Women in Mathematics 2007**

Centre for Mathematical Sciences,  
Cambridge, UK  
3rd to 6th September 2007  
[www.maths.cam.ac.uk/ewm](http://www.maths.cam.ac.uk/ewm)  
[ewm07@maths.cam.ac.uk](mailto:ewm07@maths.cam.ac.uk)

*Plenary Speakers*

Ana Achucarro, Lorentz Institute, Leiden: Theoretical Physics  
Toni Beardon, Cambridge: Globalisation and Mathematics Education  
Natalia Berloff, Cambridge: Quantum Fluids  
Lenore Blum, Carnegie Mellon: Theoretical Computer Science  
Simone Gall, Univ. Libre de Bruxelles: Symplectic Geometry  
Dany Isaac, Stanford: Symplectic Geometry  
Dana McDuff, SUNY Stony Brook: Symplectic Geometry  
Cheryl Praeger, University of Western Australia: Group Theory  
Yvonne Sae, Budapest: Combinatorics  
Ratindia Sijatha, Tata Institute, Mumbai: Number Theory

*EWMT 2007 2009 2011 General Meeting of European Women in Mathematics*  
For more information about EWMT, see [www.maths.cam.ac.uk/ewmt](http://www.maths.cam.ac.uk/ewmt)

<i>Programme</i>	<i>Sponsors</i>
Plenary talks	EPSRC women@CL project
Splitter and poster sessions	Trinity College Cambridge
Reception at Newnham and Trinity Colleges	Newnham College Cambridge
Discussions on the role and future of EWM	Engineering and Physical Sciences Research Council
Conference banquet at Trinity College	London Mathematical Society
Partying on the River Cam	Edinburgh Mathematical Society
Accommodation at Fitzwilliam College	Schlumberger



Cambridge UK  
September 3-6, 2007



# Biennial Meetings

Paris 1986

Copenhagen 1987

Warwick, UK, 1988

Lisbon 1991

Warsaw 1993

Madrid 1995

Marseille, France, 1995

Trieste, Italie, 1997

Loccum, Germany 1999

Malta 2001

Marseille, France 2003

Volgograd, Russia 2005

Cambridge, UK 2007

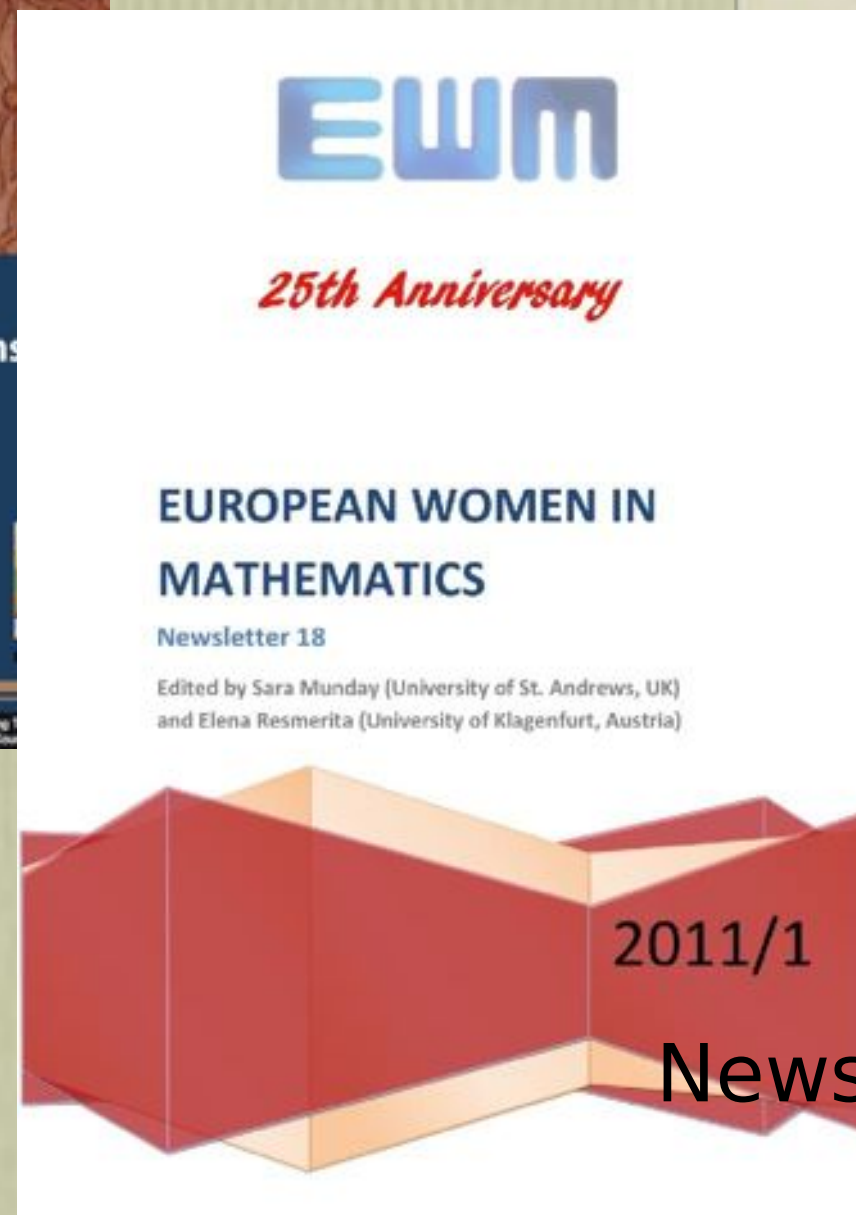
Novi Sad, Serbia 2009

Barcelona, Spain 2011

Bonn (Germany) 2013

# Other EWM activities

## Summer Schools



## Newsletter

### International Conference of Women Mathematicians

2010

August 17-18, 2010

University of Hyderabad, India

<http://www.icwm2010.org.in>

<http://www.icwm2010.org.in>

Contact: [madan.icwm2010@gmail.com](mailto:madan.icwm2010@gmail.com)

Photograph courtesy: Khushi  
Designed by: Khushi

## Congresses



# The beginning

EWM began at the International Congress of Mathematicians in Berkeley, August 1986.

ORGANIZED BY THE  
Association for Women in Mathematics

## Panel

### WOMEN IN MATHEMATICS: AN INTERNATIONAL PERSPECTIVE EIGHT YEARS LATER

International Congress of Mathematicians  
University of California, Berkeley

Wednesday, August 6

1:30 -- 3:30 p.m.

in

Physical Science Lecture Hall

#### Participants include:

Josefina Alvarez-Alonso (Argentina)  
Lenore Blum (USA), Moderator  
Bodil Branner (Denmark)  
Marie-Françoise Coste-Roy (France)  
Gudrun Kilmback (Federal Republic of Germany)  
Sokunola Osibodu (Nigeria)  
Maria Jose Pacifico (Brazil)  
Keiko Sakamoto (Japan)  
Jenny Seberry (Australia)  
Caroline Series (England)

There will be a RECEPTION immediately following the  
Panel Discussion.

If you are interested in more information about AWM while  
attending the Conference, please feel free to talk to Linda Keen  
the President, Bettye Anne Case the Meetings Chair or any member  
of the Local Arrangements Committee: Lenore Blum, Lisa Goldberg, and  
Evelyn Silvia.

ASSOCIATION FOR WOMEN IN MATHEMATICS  
Box 178, Wellesley College  
Wellesley, Massachusetts 02181

## EUROPEAN BRANCH OF THE ASSOCIATION FOR WOMEN IN MATHEMATICS

At the International Congress in Berkeley this summer, the AWM organised  
a panel discussion on the situation of women mathematicians worldwide. A  
full account of the meeting is to be found in the September AWM newsletter,  
obtainable from AWM, Box 178, Wellesley College, Wellesley, MA 02181,  
U.S.A. As a result of that meeting, it was decided to form a European branch  
of AWM.

A preliminary working meeting to discuss the form which this  
organisation should take will be held in Paris, on December 13th-14th 1986.  
Anyone who would like to participate in this meeting, or who has suggestions  
relating to the organisation, or who would be interested in joining or  
receiving future mailings should contact either Caroline Series, Mathematics  
Institute, Warwick University, Coventry CV4 7AL or Dana Strauss,  
Department of Mathematics, University of Hull, Newland Park, Hull HU5 2DW.



# The next steps

Universität Ulm

Abteilung für Mathematik

Prof. Dr. G. Kalmbach

D-7900 Ulm, den *Nov. 11, 1986*  
Gisela Eisenberg  
F: 07331 176 - 2928

Dear Caroline,

this is our second circular letter concerning our first meeting of the A. W. M., European Branch. It will be in

Paris, Institut Henri Poincaré (IHP),  
Boulevard de Marie Curie (near the Luxembourg)  
December 13, (Saturday) 1 pm to December 14, 1 pm

If you did not write to me up to now, please return the attached form if you want to attend the meeting. Everyone should make her own hotel reservation. The tentative schedule is:

- Dec. 13: 1 - 1:45 pm Hedi Branner "Iteration of Complex Polynomials"  
2 - 2:45 pm Gudrun Kalmbach "Measures and Orthomodular Spaces"  
3 - 6:30 pm General Meeting
- Dec. 14: 10 - 10:45 am Marie-Françoise Coste-Ray "Les Ecoles Normales Supérieures of Rue d'Ulm and of Sèvres"  
11 - 1 pm General Meeting.

Specific topics for the discussion (to be completed) and general meeting are:

- The future of scientific education for girls.
- Why do women take a longer time than men to acquire self-confidence? (Michelle Schatzman)
- Discussion on the French "competitive examination". (M.-F. Coste-Ray)
- Discussion on an "European Statute" for the European Branch of A. W. M. (G. Kalmbach)
- Vote for a committee chair, vicechair, treasurer, secretary. Volunteers until now are: H. Branner (Denmark), M.-F. Coste-Ray (France), G. Kalmbach (W-Germany), B. Steward (England).

On behalf of the temporary committee, sincerely yours,

*Gudrun Kalmbach*

(Gudrun Kalmbach)

Paris

December 1986

At least 10 women from  
at least 5 countries

BRIEF REPORT ON THE

EWM MEETING

DECEMBER 12/13, 1987, COPENHAGEN

The second meeting of the European Women in Mathematics was attended by 22 participants from nine countries and reports were given about the situation in each country.

A detailed report will be written by Catherine Goldstein, Dépt. de Math., Univ. de Paris XI, F-91405 ORSAY, Cedex. It will be distributed by Marion Kimberley, Goldsmiths' College, Lewisham Way, LONDON SE14 6NW, England. Marion also has a list of the national coordinators.

Ragni Piene from Oslo Universitet gave an invited address on "Some differential-geometric aspects of algebraic geometry". Several committees have been formed for special issues. The next meetings are planned for

Warwick, England, November/December 1988  
Lisbon, Portugal, 1989 and provisionally for  
1990, Roma, Italy.

The meeting was partially supported by the Danish Ministry of Education, the Danish Natural Science Research Council, the Danish Social Science Research Council, the Otto Mønsted Foundation, private donations and the Technical University of Denmark.

*G. Kalmbach*

(G. Kalmbach)

*Marketa Novak*

(Marketa Novak)

Copenhagen

December 1987

22 women from 9  
countries



Second Announcement  
Third Annual Meeting of European Women in  
Mathematics.

Warwick University, Coventry, England.

December 10th - 12th, 1988.

The programme will consist of:

(i) Expository talks

The third day of the conference (Monday) will take the form of an open mathematical meeting. There will be talks on research mathematics given by women prominent in their fields.

(ii) Meeting for local schoolgirls

On the Sunday afternoon fifth and sixth form girls from local schools will be invited to attend the meeting. There will be a mathematical talk followed by tea and general discussion.

(iii) General Discussion: Family versus career

This theme was selected as a result of overwhelming demand at the last annual meeting in Copenhagen.

(iv) Business Meetings for EWM.

These will be to discuss the possibilities for future action and various organisational and constitutional questions.

(v) Social events.

An evening out for a meal will be organised on Sunday.

More details of the programme and a report on the last annual meeting are available on request from the organisers Sarah Baer and Caroline Series at the Mathematics Institute, University of Warwick, Coventry.

# Warwick December 1988

43 women from 13  
countries

EUROPEAN CONFERENCE  
of WOMEN in MATHEMATICS



10-12 DECEMBER 1988  
UNIVERSITY of WARWICK  
ENGLAND





## EUROPEAN WOMEN IN MATHEMATICS

This organisation is an affiliation of women in Europe bound by a common interest in the position of women in mathematics. We are a sister organisation of the American Association for Women in Mathematics. Our purposes are:

- To encourage women and girls to take up and continue their studies in mathematics.
- To support women with or desiring careers in mathematics or mathematics related fields.
- To provide a meeting place for these women.
- To promote equal opportunity and equal treatment of women in the mathematical community.
- To cooperate with groups and organisations, in Europe and elsewhere, with similar goals.

Our organisation was conceived at the International Congress of Mathematicians in Berkeley, August 1986, as a result of a panel discussion organised by the Association for Women in Mathematics, in which several European women mathematicians took part. There have since been three European meetings, the first in Paris in December 1986, the second in Copenhagen in December 1987, and the third in Warwick (England) in December 1988. The fourth meeting will take place in Lisbon in December 1989. The fifth meeting is provisionally planned for Italy in 1990.

At the time of writing, there are participating members in the following countries: Denmark, Finland, France, Greece, Italy, Netherlands, Norway, Poland, Portugal, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, United Kingdom, West Germany, and contacts in Czechoslovakia and Hungary. Activities and publicity within each country are organised by national co-ordinators. Each country or region is free to form its own regional or national organisation, taking whatever organisational or legal form is appropriate to the local circumstances. Such organisations already exist in France (Femmes et Mathématiques), Scandinavia (The Nordic Group) and at Warwick University, England (Warwick Women in Mathematics). Details of the activities of these groups can be obtained directly from their organisers. Other members are encouraged to consider the possibility of forming such local, regional or national groups themselves.

For further information please contact your national co-ordinator or the general co-ordinator Dr Marion Kimberley, National Heart and Lung Institute, Dovehouse Street, London SW3 6LY, England. Tel 01-552-8111 ext.3037.

# Getting organised



Between 1987 and 1991 we set up our basic structure of convenor, standing committee and regional co-ordinators. By 1993 we had established an office in Helsinki and were registered as a legal organisation in Finland ... as the EMS had been in 1990.

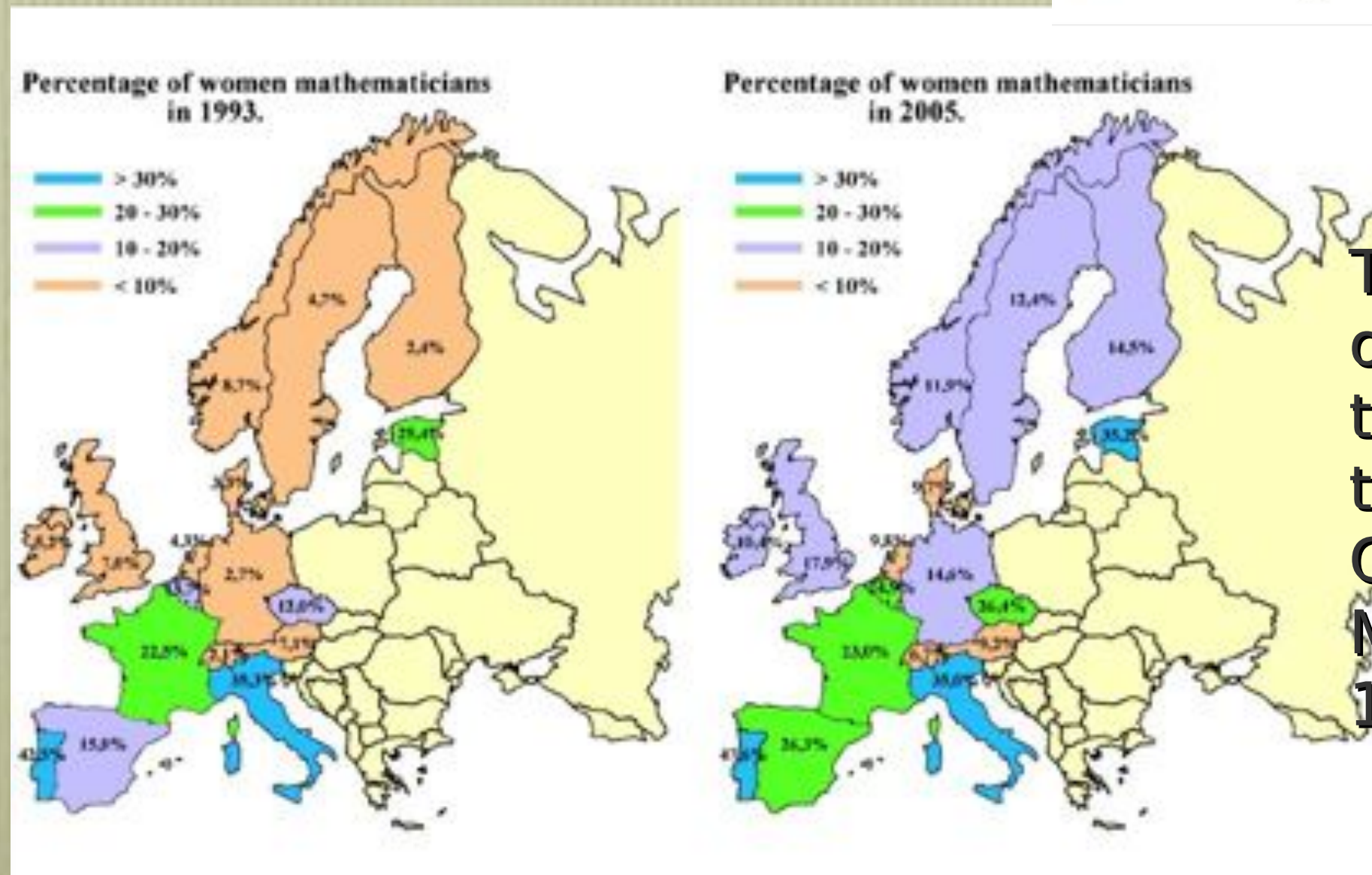
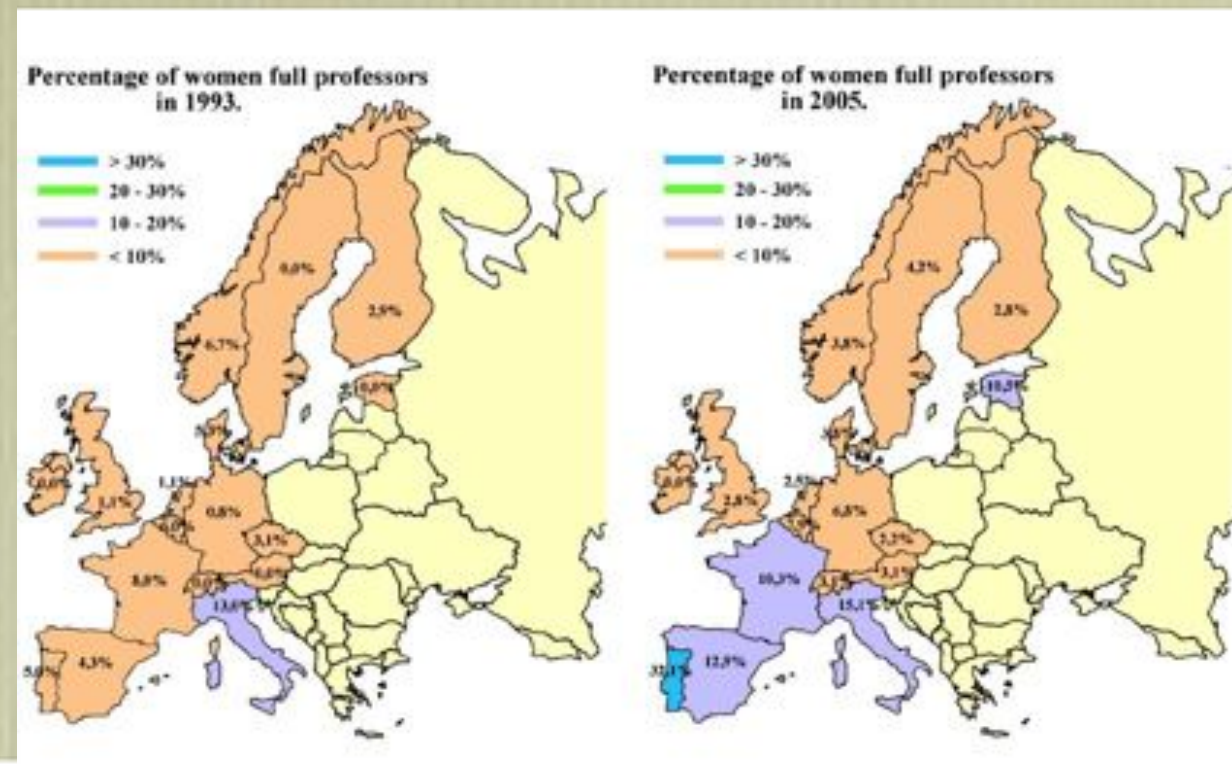






# Statistics

In 1991 Eva Bayer suggested that the EMS set up a Women in Maths committee. With EWM's help, they collected statistics about women mathematicians across Europe.



The WiM committee organised a round table discussion at the first European Congress of Mathematics in Paris 1992.



EWM continued with a main meeting every two years and other events between.



Madrid 1995  
46 women from 14 countries

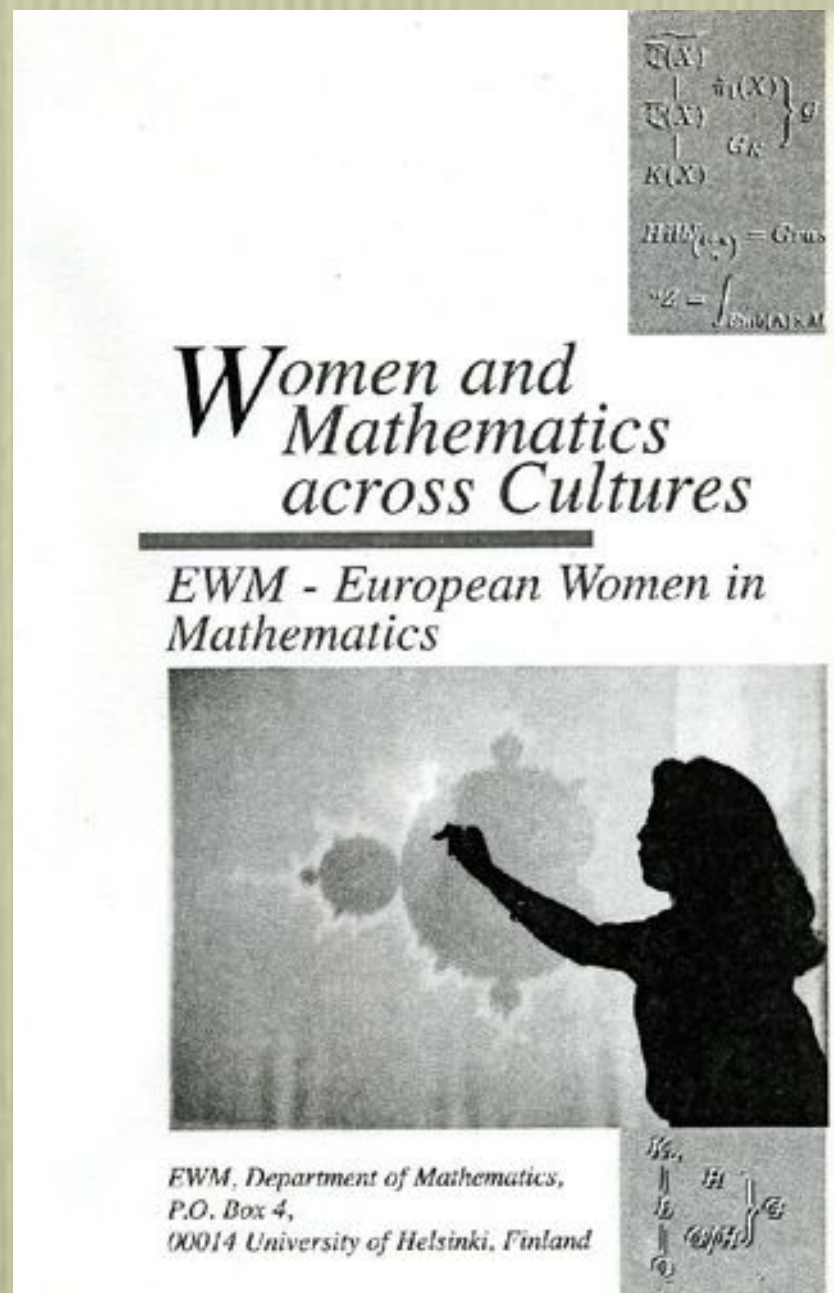


Paris 1996 - Workshop  
organized jointly  
between EWM and f&m  
(Femmes et Maths)

During the Madrid meeting  
a video was filmed on the  
initiative of Marjatta  
Näätänen

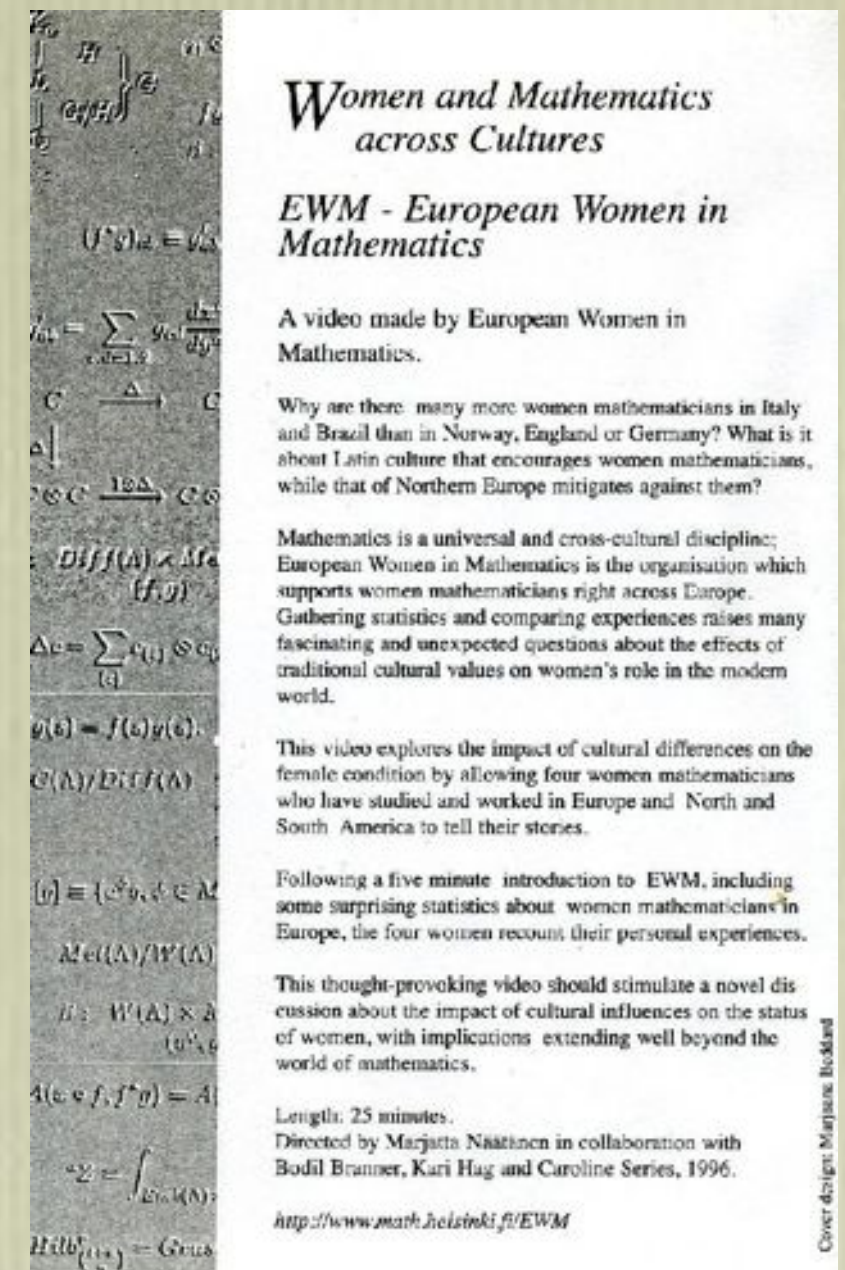


The WiM committee of EMS organised a round table discussion at the second European Congress of Mathematics in Budapest 1996



First EWM video  
Also exists on DVD

The round table discussion was focused on *Women and Mathematics across Cultures*.



*International Centre for Theoretical Physics  
Trieste, Italy, 12-17 December 1997*



Trieste 1997

98 women from 30 countries  
(150 applicants)

Most European countries  
as well as

Chile, Egypt, India, Iran, Kyrgystan,  
Nepal,  
Tunisia, Uzbekistan, the West Bank

The ICTP supported fully three women  
from developing countries to participate  
in the EWM meeting and to stay ICTP  
as visitors for two months.



In 1994 we set up an email net and in 1997 we announced a web page!



*Loccum 1999  
50 women from 13  
countries*



*Malta 2001  
76 participants from 21  
countries  
and 4 continents*

Michele Vergne  
EMS Lecturer 2001,  
Malta







Cambridge 2007  
85 women from 25 countries



## Collaboration with the EMS Women in Maths Committee

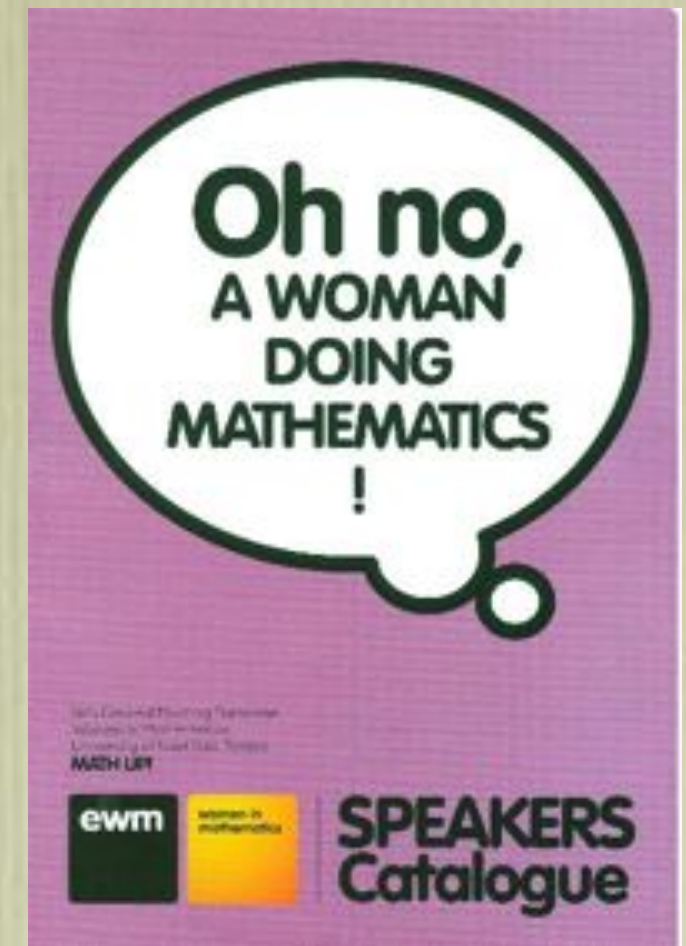
Following the Cambridge meeting we worked with the EMS Women in Maths committee to set up a group of leading women mathematicians to advise on scientific programmes and speakers for EWM meetings and other related events. We are co-ordinating about our web presence and other matters.

EMS-EWM joint scientific committee

See current list on

<http://www.europeanwomeninmaths.org/about-us/organization>





In 2009 we had a wonderful meeting in Novi Sad, Serbia.  
70 women from 25 countries came.

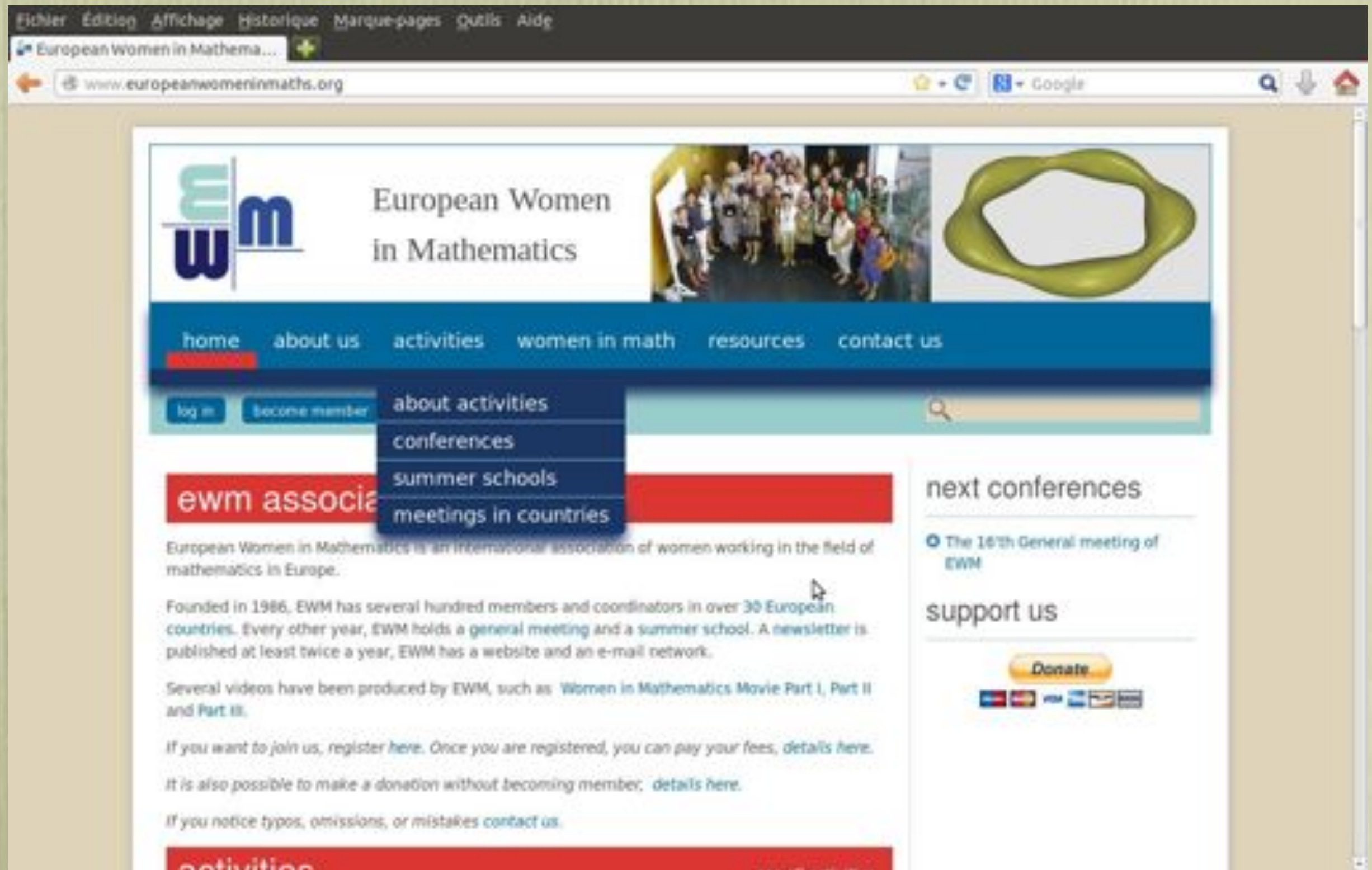
Ingrid Dabechies 2009 EMS lecturer gave 3 of her lectures at our conference.

All lectures were filmed and there is an EWM promo video on YouTube.





# Our new website (2012)





# 2013

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ICTP summer school

5th Women in Math summer school

EWM general meeting in Bonn

2-6 september



One of the main pleasures we have had from EWM has been working with and getting to know so many wonderful women from so many different places and backgrounds. It has been enormous fun and has formed a wonderful and rich backdrop to our mathematical lives.

We are always pleased when people want to get more involved.

EWM can't survive without the active involvement of its members. EWM is what we make it!

If you would like to be more involved in the organisation in any way or to share your ideas, do let us know!