

December, 2017

Call for applications for Initiatives for supporting Emerging Communities for Mathematics Education Research in Eastern Europe

Mathematics Education Research is an important resource for the development of curricula, the education of new generations of mathematics teachers, and solidly based responses to the needs of mathematics teachers to the challenges of our times, including the new opportunities offered by technology, increasing demands for mathematical competences in higher education, and the increasing diversity of students in mathematics classrooms at all levels.

This resource, however, is not equally available in all regions of the European continent. In particular, ERME recognizes the important efforts made by small groups of scholars in a number of countries to gain access to this resource and to integrate themselves to the international research community. Some of these emerging communities also meet institutional and financial difficulties for their aspirations. These difficulties appear particularly in some of the Eastern-European countries: in spite of a strong tradition of mathematics education, many scholars face a lack of infrastructure to develop a research-based, innovative and sustainable approach to the challenges mentioned above.

For these reasons, ERME has decided to offer a small number of grants to well-motivated initiatives to support emerging communities of research in mathematics education in countries which have been underrepresented so far: Albania, Belarus, Bosnia-Herzegovina, Bulgaria, Croatia, Estonia, Hungary, Kosova, Latvia, Lithuania, Macedonia, Moldova, Montenegro, Poland, Rumania, Russia, Serbia, Slovenia, Slovakia, and Ukraine.

Initiatives for which groups of mathematics education researchers can apply for support can include:

- A conference for a group of scholars (might include doctoral students) who engage or could engage in mathematics education research, as well as critical stakeholders. This must be held in the English language. A list of prospective core participants should be included in the application. Some open places for participants for neighboring countries from the above list should be available;
- Intensive research training within a specific area of mathematics education research deemed particularly relevant for a specific group of scholars, with the same conditions (including list) as above;
- Publication and dissemination of research produced by scholars in one or more of the above countries, excluding any form of salary. The language of such publications must be English.

A budget must be included, not exceeding 5000€ for the part to be covered by ERME; supplementary funds provided e.g. by the applicants' institution may be included in the budget. For the part to be covered by ERME, the following may be applied for:

- Reasonable travel and accommodation expenses, but not salary, of invited (confirmed) experts from other European countries (not including the country or countries benefitting from the initiative)
- Reasonable expenses to cover local costs, excluding any form of salary for organizers or participants.

ERME will prioritize applications according to both breadth (geographical and institutional scope) and depth (scientific quality – as indicative of what this means, see guidelines for CERME-reviews, <http://cerme10.org/wp-content/uploads/2016/01/CERME-10-Review-Guidelines-Final.pdf>).

Applications should be sent by email in the form of one single pdf file with a maximum of 5 pages, to the ERME board, at ermeboard2@gmail.com, before **April 1, 2018**, and include:

- **Motivation**, explaining how the initiative could support the development of a sustainable research community in the region concerned (within the above countries)
- **Description** of the initiative, including dates, place, list of proposed beneficiaries
- **Budget** (in Euro, max. 5000 €).
- **Attachment (outside the 5 pages):**
 - Signed confirmation of participation from **external experts**, if relevant
 - Signed confirmation from a proposed **host institution** (university or recognized scholarly society to subsequently sign a contract for the administration of the funds, and which will be responsible for reporting to ERME)

The ERME board will communicate decisions to all applicants by **June 1, 2018**; these cannot be appealed. ERME reserves the right to reject applications without further motivation, and to abstain from responding to applications which do not conform to the specifications provided above.

No later than three months after a successful initiative has been scheduled to end, a report must be sent to the ERME board, including a financial report documenting the expenses actually encountered. Notice that any un-used funds must at this time be returned to the treasurer of ERME, while any deficit must be covered by the host institution. Any changes to the original plan must be accepted by the ERME board before effectuation, and could under no circumstances be in conflict with the indications given above.