

# Cooperation between the Societies for Mathematics Education in European Countries – Speaking with a European Voice

Dear colleagues,

The European Society for Research in Mathematics Education (ERME) was founded to achieve a co-ordination of European research in mathematics education. Since 1998 we have been successful in creating a European research community working together through the CERME conferences.

Through the contacts that have been encouraged by ERME, we have become aware that national research communities in many European countries are facing similar challenges related to organization of the field of research and development of policy and practice, such as:

- Supporting talented developing researchers, notably those from younger generations;
- Securing better grounding for attempts to improve teacher education, develop new curricula and establish national standards, in research-based knowledge and activity;
- Establishing a funding environment which supports sustained development of mathematics education as a research field.

Many of these questions might benefit from being discussed at a European level as well as a national one.

In many countries there are national Societies for Mathematics Education which especially provide a supportive environment for both new and expe-

rienced researchers to improving the learning of mathematics, e.g., the British Society for Research into Learning Mathematics or the German Society for Mathematics Education.

We want to explore possibilities of closer cooperation between the Societies for Mathematics Education in European countries. If we speak with a European voice, we will have greater influence when discussing the kinds of issues highlighted above with the European, national and university administrations, and with other political bodies.

This cooperation might take several forms:

- Establishing a network linking the Societies for Mathematics Education in the European countries.
- Identifying key issues which could valuably be explored on a European level.
- Initiating some collective work on what is widely agreed to be a priority issue.
- Considering holding a meeting to help take these activities further.

First of all, we would like to ask you whether you and your society might be interested in a cooperation. Please give us a brief reply as soon as you have had an opportunity to consult key colleagues in your organisation.

Yours sincerely

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