

Explanations of the ERME Board and the Local Organizing Committee about limitations of participants

Some colleagues were surprised to discover that the number of participants is limited.

Please, be assured that we do our best to follow the SPIRIT OF CERME!

We provide in this message some facts and information, and the way the ERME board, the IPC and Nada Vondrova as the Chair of the Local Organizing Committee (LOC) manage this question.

1. The limit for CERME set by ERME Board is 500. This limit was decided in order to make the conference both an inclusive but also a cooperating and working event. The number of TWGs set by ERME Board was 20. The limit of 500 would ensure that the number of papers and participants in each group is manageable. ERME members expect that CERME is a working event and thus big groups are not appropriate.

This is not new. For CERME 6, in Lyon, the number of participants was restricted to 540 participants (plus accompanying persons).

2. In August, seeing that the interest in CERME 9 in Prague might be bigger than usual, the limit was raised to 550, and the following note was put on the website prior to the beginning of the registration process:

"Please note that the number of participants will be limited to 550 on a first register - first serve base. The submission of a paper or poster alone *does not* guarantee a place, so we recommend to register as soon as possible."

As it was not necessary to pay any deposit of the conference fee at the time of filling in the registration form, all authors could have registered easily.

In October, all TWG leaders and co-leaders were informed by a separate e-mail that the number of places is limited and that should register to secure the place.

3. We received about 515 paper and 100 poster proposals - a record number which, in principle, is a great success for CERME 9, but as often, this is accompanied by challenges to be solved. The TWG leaders pushed the concept of inclusion to its limit and accepted nearly all paper proposals and if not, they encouraged the authors to resubmit as posters. In some groups, the number of papers is between 30 and 40.

This led to the fact that we had to add some co-chairs; in addition, the TWG leaders will have to consider an organisation favouring the collaborative work, taking in account that it is not realistic to consider that everybody should be able to read between 30 and 40 papers before the conference.

4. When the number of registered participants reached 550, the registration was closed in order for us to ensure that we will have places for authors. The authors were informed on the web that they should write to the submission office. The registration office registered these people manually one by one and informed them by e-mail.

6. We now have about 650 participants! We have several people who are not authors on the waiting list - they were informed that we will inform them when a place is available.

All registered people who have not paid yet were asked by e-mail whether they planned to attend in order for us to offer the places to other people on the waiting list. Some withdrew, but not many. We plan to check who paid by the end of the year, and to inform the people who did not pay at the beginning of January that they should let us know whether or not they plan to attend. If they do not respond, their place will be offered to others.

7. The plan for CERME was done for the number of 500-550. Thus having 100 people more will have several challenges for which Nada Vondrova and the LOC are trying to find solutions.

We hope that these elements will help all CERME participants and those who were excluded to have a sound picture of the situation for CERME 9 in Prague.

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Konrad Krainer (The Chair of IPC)

Viviane Durand-Guerrier (The President of ERME)

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