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Mensagem da EU-MATHS-IN e resposta da EMS
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Mensagem EU-MATHS-IN (1 de Outubro de 2014)

Dear members of the National Networks, as well as EMS(-AMC)/ECMI leadership, dear all,

As was reported by Volker Mehrmann end of last week, we had a fruitful discussion in Brussels on September 25. Several recommendations were made, and we are following up on these. Also, we will be present at the workshop on November 6-7 in Brussels to discuss the outcomes of the online consultation on "Mathematics and digital science". This Friday, a representative will be present at the information day on e-infrastructures, for which we will submit a proposal in January.

It also became clear we need to persist in our efforts to take mathematics, mathematical sciences and MSO to a higher level in Brussels. Looking at how other disciplines are proceeding is enlightening. I discussed it with Volker and also with Dietmar Hoemberg (ECMI) the last few days in Berlin (at the MSO workshop), and we think that besides the actions already mentioned, we should undertake another action, namely writing a vision for MSO.

The idea came up as we came across the Vision paper by the European Technology Platform for HPC, see www.etp4hpc.eu. They are one of the 36 European Technology Platforms. A European Technology Platform (ETP, see http://cordis.europa.eu/technology-platforms/home_en.html) is an industry led forum. ETPs provide a framework for stakeholders, led by industry, to define research priorities and action plans on a number of technological areas where achieving EU growth, competitiveness and sustainability requires major research and technological advances in the medium to long term. The European Commission is committed to a structured dialogue on research priorities with ETPs.

EU-MATHS-IN is comparable to the ETPs, which are ordered along 6 main Technology Platforms such as Energy, Bio-based economy and ICT. There is also a button (on the home page of the ETPs) for "Cross ETP initiatives", but there are no entries here yet. Maybe EU-MATHS-IN would qualify to become the first entry here.

In any case, we feel that it would be good to write a vision document, something like "Vision MSO 2025". As was also apparent in the workshop organized by Volker in the past 2 days, there are many big challenges, and if we join forces and have the right road map, these challenges may be addressed and solved in the next 10 years. This would hugely benefit industry.

In view of the foregoing, the following questions:

1. Do you think it is a good idea to prepare a vision document for MSO? (We envisage it could be signed by EU-MATHS-IN, ECMI and EMS)
2. Are you willing to nominate 1 person from your NN/organisation to take part in the writing of the document?

If the general feeling is that this is a good idea, we will quickly start up the process, as we feel that the vision document should be ready within a few months. This is to make sure that it can still be input for the EU work programme for 2016-2017, that will be published after the summer of 2015. We will start with a 1-day physical meeting in October, date to be determined, to discuss and to assign tasks.

I enclose several documents that give you an idea of what we would like to produce: (a) the ETP for HPC Vision paper (b) the Vision document for mathematics produced in The Netherlands (c) the vision document produced in the USA for mathematics. We do not need to start from scratch, we can use the aforementioned reports as a starting point.

Please let me know your answers to the above questions before the end of this week.

Best wishes,

Wil Schilders
EU-MATHS-IN

Resposta EMS (3 de Outubro de 2014)

Dear Wil,
Dear Colleagues,

I strongly support your plan. Let me add that the importance and necessity of having good vision papers was discussed in the meeting of President of EMS member Societies last April. Member societies were encouraged to follow the model of your country (the VisieWiskunde document) and also of the UK. In addition to the papers you send to us, there is also the Deloitte report from the UK, which is very informative. The French colleagues pointed out that papers somehow of a similar type exist in France and are available on

<http://smai.emath.fr/spip.php?article36&lang=fr>

I must admit that I could find time to have a look on them.

I will bring the matter for discussion at the AMC and the EC and hope to be able to nominate a qualified thinker and writer to the team.

Best wishes,

Marta

Resposta EU-MATHS-IN (3 de Outubro de 2014)

Dear Marta,

Thank you very much for your support! I would like to add that we also produced a Deloitte report in The Netherlands, and presented it to the ministry of Economic Affairs on April 10 of this year. Enclosed is a digital version of this report. In fact, we launched a "3-stage rocket" (in order to bring mathematics into a higher orbit, so to say): 1=vision document 2=Deloitte report 3=book of success stories. I enclose also the latter, but it is in Dutch. However, by glancing through it you will get a good impression of the content. It is good to know that the President's meeting expressed this view, and that you will bring it to the AMC (where I will also be present) and the EC. We are committed to start on this very soon.

Thank you again, and best wishes,
Wil