

## Call for proposals for ERME TOPIC CONFERENCES to be held in 2026

ERME Topic Conferences (ETCs) are conferences organised on a specific research theme or themes related to the work of ERME as presented in associated Thematic Working Groups at CERME conferences. The aim of the ETCs is to extend the work of the Thematic Working Groups in specific directions with clear value to the mathematics education research community.

### Rationale

The idea of ERME Topic Conferences can be traced back to the time when the founders of ERME conceptualised the association and declared the goals for it, increasing the opportunities for Cooperation, Collaboration and Communication among European and extra-European researchers in mathematics education. An ETC should be led by ERME members who have been leading a Thematic Working Group (TWG) at at least two CERME conferences and who have research credentials in the thematic areas proposed. An ETC should build explicitly on European research in mathematics education and attract researchers from Europe or beyond who work explicitly in the thematic areas defined for the ETC.

ETCs normally take place in the year between two CERMEs, which means that we are now looking at conferences to be held in 2026. CERME15 will be held in February 2027, and this should be taken into consideration when planning for an ETC. You will find a list of all previous ETCs here (<http://erme.site/topic-conferences/>). From this list you will see that ETCs have been arranged at different times of the year, but we would suggest a time between March and August/early September.

The fact that this is a European initiative does not mean that all participants must be European. However, the ETCs should be held in Europe and build on European research while valuing wider perspectives. They may have an interdisciplinary or multifaceted nature, bringing together participants that usually attend different TWGs at CERME and/or arise as a collaboration between two or more TWGs. This should be named in the proposal. The preparation of an ETC should follow a procedure similar to the preparation of the TWGs at CERME, using similar guidelines, with suitable adaptations as seen necessary. Besides the communication and collaboration that may evolve from an ETC, the expected result of the ETC is to produce a set of refereed proceedings, under the name of ERME, that should be made available online in the HAL-Archive (and possibly other places), contributing to the advancement of knowledge in our field.

The preparatory work for an ETC will be done by the team of group leaders who have proposed the conference. They should convince the ERME Board that they have a serious research agenda and that an ETC can be valuable in furthering this agenda. The ERME Board will see to it that the ETC maintains a high scientific standard and upholds the spirit of ERME.

## Practical issues

- 1) An ETC may be proposed by an Organizing Committee (OC) which should include at least two CERME TWG leaders or co-leaders, representing one or more TWGs. The TWGs in question must document a high level of activity, by having attracted at least 18 participants (combined in the case of several TWGs) at the most recent CERME conference.
- 2) The ETC must have an International Programme Committee (IPC), representing at least five countries, at least four of them European countries. The IPC should normally include one member of the ERME Board to ensure that the ETC is set up in accordance with ERME principles. The board members are not required to attend the ETC.
- 3) The proposal should indicate both a location and tentative dates, as well as a Local Organising Committee (LOC) responsible for the practical organising of the ETC. A certain overlap between the OC, IPC and LOC is encouraged. Names of members of all three groups must be included in the proposal. The ETC could be carried out virtually, but it is strongly encouraged to aim for a physical meeting. In case of a proposal for a virtual meeting, arguments should be presented for why this is preferred.
- 4) The proposal must include a short abstract on the topic of the conference and a brief description of the state of the art in the field. The proposal must describe the structure of the ETC, and the expected percentage of young researcher participants (from 10 % to 20 %).
- 5) The ETC should aim for a number of participants in the range from 20 to 100, to be selected based on submitted abstracts. The proposal should specify the expected number of participants.
- 6) The initiative will be funded by resources found by the proposers and will not involve the ERME finances.
- 7) Peer reviewed proceedings should be published online. The HAL-archive, where the CERME proceedings are published, is recommended as an outlet for the proceedings.
- 8) After the ETC, the IPC may consider selecting some participants for preparing an edited volume in the ERME series published at Routledge. This volume must go beyond proceedings aiming at more state-of-the-art style, with jointly written chapters.
- 9) The ERME Board has to endorse any ETC to take place under the ERME name. The ERME Board will check the programme structure in order to ensure that the ETC is characterised by the CERME spirit of Communication, Cooperation and Collaboration rather than presentations only.
- 10) The ETC should include an activity for promoting young researchers, e.g., a preconference with workshops or similar activities. This activity should be discussed with the YERME community, particularly with the YERME representatives in the ERME Board.

## Call for proposals

This call is issued to all ERME members. Proposals can be submitted at any time, but not later than **15 August, 2025** to the ERME Board ([zelha.t.pekkan@uia.no](mailto:zelha.t.pekkan@uia.no), [bbarquero@ub.edu](mailto:bbarquero@ub.edu) and [frode.ronning@ntnu.no](mailto:frode.ronning@ntnu.no)). We aim to handle proposals as soon as we can after we have received them. Successful ETCs can be repeated on the basis of a new proposal.

The proposal must contain:

- name of members of OC, IPC and LOC;

- title of and location for the ETC in case of a physical meeting (if a virtual conference is planned, this should be indicated, and argued for);
- planned programme structure (subject to reconfirmation after the submission of contributions) and intended number of active contributions;
- the connection to one or more TWGs;
- details of how the CERME spirit of Communication, Cooperation and Collaboration will be demonstrated;
- first sketches for the proceedings
- ideas for a possible volume in the ERME series would be welcomed.

From the record of previously held ETCs (see <http://erme.site/topic-conferences/>), so far only a few of the TWGs have organised ETCs, but some has indeed organised several.

We encourage all TWGs fulfilling the conditions, especially those who have not yet organised an ETC, to consider applying for an ETC in 2026. As the CERME conferences have grown to the size they have, necessitating limitations in the number of participants, ETCs will be even more important to keep the CERME spirit and promote the 3 Cs in smaller settings.