



Schweizerische Mathematische Gesellschaft  
Société Mathématique Suisse  
Swiss Mathematical Society

## Annual Report of the SMS President – Year 2023

### 1 Summary

The year 2023 has seen a lot of activities of the Swiss Mathematical Society (SMS).

On the side of the regular spring meeting and fall meeting the SMS co-sponsored about half a dozen mathematical conferences.

The two scholarly journals of the SMS had a successful year with many excellent publications.

SMS was involved in several outreach activities and it supported early career researchers who were lacking the funds to attend some conferences.

The weekly electronic Newsletter of the SMS provides timely information on mathematical events in Switzerland. Members of the SMS can subscribe to the electronic Newsletter on the [SMS website](#).

On December 31, 2023, the SMS had exactly 500 active members.

We are aware of two members who deceased in 2023: Prof. Dr. André Haefliger and Prof. Dr. Arwed Keller. André Haefliger has been an honorary member and a past president of the SMS.

### 2 Journals of the SMS

The SMS owns two scholarly journals. Both are published open access by the EMS Press, an entity of the European Mathematical Society. In the sequel we summarize the reports by their editors in chief:

#### 2.1 *Commentarii Mathematici Helvetici* (CMH): Based on Report by Eva Bayer, Chief Editor.

2023	Number of submitted papers	Number of submitted pages	Number of accepted papers	Number of accepted pages	Number of rejected papers	Number of rejected pages
	253	7027	14	441	224	5615

The average time between submission and publication is 22 months. The number of published papers in 2023 (Volume 98) is 16, for a total of 875 printed pages.

The backlog was quite high, hence most papers were rejected. This was done very quickly (in most cases). Before sending out a paper for refereeing, we ask for 2-3 quick overall opinions, and only did go ahead if they are all excellent. In 2022 we accepted several very

long papers, hence the editorial board was especially selective in 2023. The collaboration within the editorial board and with the EMS Publishing House is excellent.

We welcomed a new editor in November 2023, Javier Fresan (Paris).

In the name of SMS I like to thank Eva Bayer and the whole editorial board of CMH for their excellent work and dedication.

## **2.2 Elemente der Mathematik: Based on Report by Norbert Hungerbühler, Chief Editor:**

In 2023 appeared the four journal issues 78/1, 78/2, 78/3 and 78/4 with interesting and diverse articles, reviews and problems.

The number of book reviews was not so large, and as a result there did not appear a review in one of the issues. Christoph Thäle, who is in charge of the reviews together with Martin Jakob, would like to leave the editorial team. However, no successor for this task could be found so far.

The new Short Notes section introduced in 2016 has proven its worth. Several entertaining mathematical pearls were offered to our readers in the year under review. Since there are hardly any comparable forms in other journals, the Elemente also fill a gap in the market with this offer. The short notes appear in random order, depending on the input, and without box text and CV before the problem section. They are subject to the same strict scientific criteria and the same review process as the usual articles and are also treated as independent articles by the publisher.

The double-blind review introduced in 2020 has been well received by authors and reviewers alike and has proven itself valuable. The authors, in particular, consider this approach to be particularly fair. We are therefore continuing the process. The good cooperation with EMS Press should be emphasized: the cooperation with the team in Berlin works smoothly. The backlog was around 14 months in the year under review.

On the financial side it is great that the Elemente der Mathematik can be acquired by institutions for a very reasonable prize and that the journal is open access through the program 'subscribe to open' of the EMS. Members of SMS can have a personal subscription at an annual rate of CHF 32 and we encourage all members to subscribe to the journal personally.

In the name of SMS I like to thank Norbert Hungerbühler and the whole editorial board of the Elemente for their excellent work and dedication.

## **3 Mathematical events and conferences supported by the SMS**

Throughout the year 2023 there were many mathematical events and conferences which were supported by the SMS:

- The SMS doctoral day was held in Neuchatel on March 14, 2023. It was organized by Elisa Lorenzo García (UniNE) and Léonard Tschanz (UniNE) and gathered approx. 40 PhD students from all Swiss universities.

[SMS Doctoral Day 2023](#)

- SMS Spring meeting and general assembly was held in Bern on June 6, 2023. It was organized by Jan Draisma (Bern).

[SMS Spring Meeting.](#)

- SMS Fall meeting and Swiss Geomtry Day was held at the UniDistance Suisse Campus in Brig on October 23, 2023. It was organized by Thomas Mettler from UniDistance.

[SMS Fall Meeting.](#)

- 12th Swiss-French Workshop in Algebraic Geometry was held in in Charmey, Switzerland from January 30–Febrary 3, 2023. It was organized in part by Philipp Habegger (Basel) and Julia Schneider (EPFL).

[Swiss-French Workshop in Algebraic Geometry](#)

- Fribourg MAPS – Metric Analysis, Parametrizations, and Surfaces, was held in Fribourg, Switzerland from April 13–15, 2023. It was organized by Annina Iseli (University of Fribourg).

[Fribourg MAPS](#)

- The Borel Seminar 2023 on “Lattices in Negative Curvature” was held in Les Diablerets (Switzerland) from July 17–21, 2023. It was organized by Martin Deraux (Grenoble), Vincent Emery (BFH Biel) and Ruth Kellerhals (Fribourg).

[Borel Seminar 2023](#)

- The Young Topologists Meeting 2023 was held at EPFL from July 24 – 28.

[Young Topologists Meeting 2023](#)

- The conference “GRAZP: Groups and Rigidity Around the Zimmer Program” was held in Ventotene (Italy), September 11–16, 2023. It was organized by Claire Burrin (UZH), Alessandra Iozzi (ETHZ) and Michah Sageev (Technion).

[Ventotene Conference 2023](#)

## 4 Travel support of the SMS for early career researchers

On a regular basis the SMS evaluates requests for travel support from early career researchers. Using funds from SCNAT and SMS it was possible to support about a dozen early career researchers so that they were able to participate in some scientific event.

## 5 Outreach Activities

The SMS continued to sponsor a number of activities aimed at mathematical outreach. In 2023 the SMS supported e.g. an activity aimed at school children called ‘Mathe im Advent’. This yearly outreach program started in Germany with support of the Deutsche Mathematikervereinigung and the program started with good success now also in Switzerland.

Zürich, May 20, 2024



Joachim Rosenthal  
President SMS