



General purpose of the ICMs

The International Congresses of Mathematicians (ICMs) are the most important IMU activity and need correspondingly careful preparation. Every ICM should reflect the current activity of mathematics in the world, present the best work being carried out in all mathematical subfields and different regions of the world, and thus, point to the future of mathematics. The invited speakers at an ICM should be mathematicians of the highest quality who are able to present current research to a broad mathematical audience.

Responsibilities of the ICM Structure Committee

The ICMs have traditionally been organized in the form of a number of invited one-hour plenary lectures, to be held without other parallel activities. In addition, there is a number of sections defined in terms of different subfields of mathematics. In each section there is number of 45-minute sectional lectures. The sections take place in parallel throughout the ICM. In addition, there are a small number of one-hour prize lectures associated with various prizes (Fields, Nevanlinna, Gauss, Chern, and Leelavati) and named lectures (Noether and Abel). The possible overlap of speaker for a prize lecture and plenary or sectional talk may result in changes in the program, as no person gives more than one talk at an ICM.

Traditional target numbers are

- 20 plenary lectures
- 180 sectional lectures distributed over 18–20 sections
- 10 prize and named lectures (in addition, there will be shorter laudatory talks in connection with the prizes)

It is difficult to increase these numbers substantially without extending the duration of an ICM.

The Structure Committee (SC) is responsible for the preparation of the Scientific Program of the ICM. It decides the structure of the Scientific Program, in particular,

- the number of plenary lectures,
- the sections and their precise definition,
- the target number of talks in each section,
- other kind of lectures, and
- the arrangement of sections.

The size and content of the sections should reflect the development of contemporary mathematics and should both reflect the importance and the volume of activity in the various subfields of mathematics.

The prize lectures and named lectures cannot be altered by the SC. It is understood that the SC will employ the programs of previous ICMs as guidelines for its decisions. The SC may also propose other activities like discussion panels, non-mathematical talks, and talks aimed at the general public.

If the SC wants to propose more radical changes in the structure of an ICM, it should make a proposal to the Executive Committee (EC), which then will decide in the matter.

The responsibility to decide the speakers resides with the Program Committee.

Composition of the Structure Committee

The SC should be composed of up to 10 experienced high-level mathematicians with a broad view on mathematics. Experience from former Program Committees is an advantage. It is important the SC has a good gender balance, and a wide geographical and scientific distribution. It is proposed that each member is appointed for a four-year term, with the possibility for second four-year term. In order to secure continuity of the SC, it is proposed that the terms of office in the SC are staggered. The EC decides on the composition of the SC. The names of the members of the SC are made public on the IMU web site.

Proposed timeline for the Structure Committee

The work of the SC starts in the year ICM-5. It should aim for two physical meetings, where at least a majority of the members can be present. Other members participate using modern communication technology if possible. The Chair of the SC should participate at the General Assembly meeting in the year ICM-4 to present the preliminary findings of the SC and receive advice from the Delegates and Representatives at the GA meeting. The SC should present their preliminary findings after the GA meeting to the AOs, allowing them to comment, and make proposals. The Chair of the SC should be present at the EC meeting in the year ICM-3. The SC should complete their task in the year ICM-3. The decisions of the SC are presented in a report to the EC, and the report is made available to the AOs, and, in particular, to the Program Committee.

The start up

To establish an SC requires the endorsement of the GA, and to create the SC the first time requires special measures:

1. The EC decides for a chair of the SC at its meeting in March 2018, pending the endorsement of the GA. The (potential) chair of the SC is invited to attend the GA as on Observer.
2. The EC starts to select the SC after the GA.