



# Mathematics Unites

***On 14 March, the International Day of Mathematics will be celebrated worldwide***

Press information

(14.03.2022, Paris). On 14 March, the International Day of Mathematics (IDM), proclaimed by UNESCO, will be held under the theme *“Mathematics Unites”*. This theme reflects that the planet shares one mathematical language, which is the language of science.

Organized by the International Mathematical Union, the IDM features a mixture of virtual and face-to-face celebrations, including celebrations in classrooms. IDM 2022 is celebrated in more than 90 countries with over 1100 individual events.<sup>1</sup>

*“This Day is all about remembering that mathematics concerns us all, that it writes the world and makes it intelligible. It is a gift of endless generosity: there is still so much to explore.”*, says Audrey Azoulay, Director-General of UNESCO<sup>2</sup>.

*“Mathematics, with its many technical applications, is the spiderweb that underpins all areas of our lives. The same mathematical tools can have applications in very diverse areas. Kids in schools all learn the universal language of mathematics that opens the world to them. And mathematics unites all basic sciences that will be celebrated in the International Year of Basic Sciences for Sustainable Development 2022.”*, says Christiane Rousseau, chair of the IDM governing board.

The special feature of IDM 2022 is the [Mathematics Unites Photo Challenge](#): more than 3270 individuals, schools and organizations have submitted a photo to illustrate “Mathematics Unites”. The photos will be made available in a public gallery to all under a free and open license.

IDM 2022 is celebrated on all continents: from Uzbekistan to the Philippines, from Guinea to Rwanda, from the Dominican Republic to Peru, from Moldova to Montenegro, people all over the world are organizing festivities. An [international live celebration](#) in five languages (Arabic, Portuguese, English, French and Spanish) will take place on 14 March, 11:00 to

<sup>1</sup> Browse the map of [www.idm314.org](http://www.idm314.org)

<sup>2</sup> Source: [https://unesdoc.unesco.org/ark:/48223/pf0000380846\\_eng](https://unesdoc.unesco.org/ark:/48223/pf0000380846_eng)

18:00 UTC. Also, [48 hours of live coverage](#) on the IDM website will start at 00:00 New Zealand time and end at 24:00 Pacific time. The international celebration is complemented by national and local competitions, conferences, exhibitions, and talks, organized by mathematical societies, research institutes, museums, schools, universities, etc.

A special series of online teacher trainings with participants from Africa will accompany the IDM this year. It will start with a Portuguese workshop for primary and secondary mathematics teachers from Mozambique, Angola, Portugal, Cap Verde and São Tomé and Príncipe. This series is supported by the Simons Foundation with the goal to further engage with Africa and Latin America in the coming years and to expand the network for local IDM celebrations.

The tool kit *Mathematics for Action: Supporting Science-Based Decision Making* published by UNESCO will be [launched](#) on IDM 2022 at 10:00 UTC. The [open access tool kit](#) consists of a collection of lively two-page briefs highlighting the role of mathematics in addressing the SDGs of the UN 2030 Agenda, for instance how to monitor an epidemic, to model climate change or to measure biodiversity.

The 2022 theme was proposed by Yulija Nesterova, a student from Canada: *“Mathematics unites, to signal that it is a common language we all have and a common subject with which to find one another.”*

Oh Nam Kwon from Korea reflects on the topic: *“Through the symbolic representation of mathematical ideas, communication occurs that stands to break cultural barriers and unites all people.”*

The IDM is an opportunity to show that mathematics can provide tools to model social phenomena and conflicts and to highlight how cooperation has often proved the best way to resolve conflicts for the benefits of all. More than ever, access to truth and science-based decision making are needed for a peaceful world.

The date of 14 March is already known as *Pi Day* and celebrated in many countries around the world. It is named after the important number  $\pi$ , the ratio between the circumference and diameter of a circle and approximately equal to 3.14. The IDM celebration expands Pi Day to include the whole spectrum of mathematics. In view of 2022 theme, *“Mathematics Unites”*, schools are invited to work on *Proofs without Words*, that need no translation.

The IDM website is the main hub for the International Day of Mathematics, online at [www.idm314.org](http://www.idm314.org).

It hosts information material to be used by press and organizers (including logos and flyers in different languages) as well as [proposals for activities](#) related to the theme for everyone interested in hosting an event. All the official material provided through the website is under an open license, which means it can be freely shared, translated, and adapted.

## Partners:

The **International Mathematical Union (IMU)** is an international non-governmental and non-profit scientific organization, with the purpose of promoting international cooperation in mathematics.

The IDM is communicated and supported by the IDM website, which is hosted by **IMAGINARY**, a non-profit organization to communicate modern mathematics.

## Sponsors:

The **Klaus Tschira Foundation** (which supports natural sciences, mathematics, and computer science in Germany) sponsors the website and the IDM communications.

The **Simons Foundation** sponsors specific IDM activities within Africa and Latin America.

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**Pictures:**

The logo and all pictures below can be used freely for articles about the International Day of Mathematics. Please find high-resolution versions via the “Download Link”. The pictures are from locally organized events (exhibitions, workshops, festivals) to celebrate mathematics.

Logo of the International Day of Mathematics: <https://www.idm314.org/logos.html>

Press Kit page with images and press releases: [https://www.idm314.org/press\\_kit.html](https://www.idm314.org/press_kit.html)



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