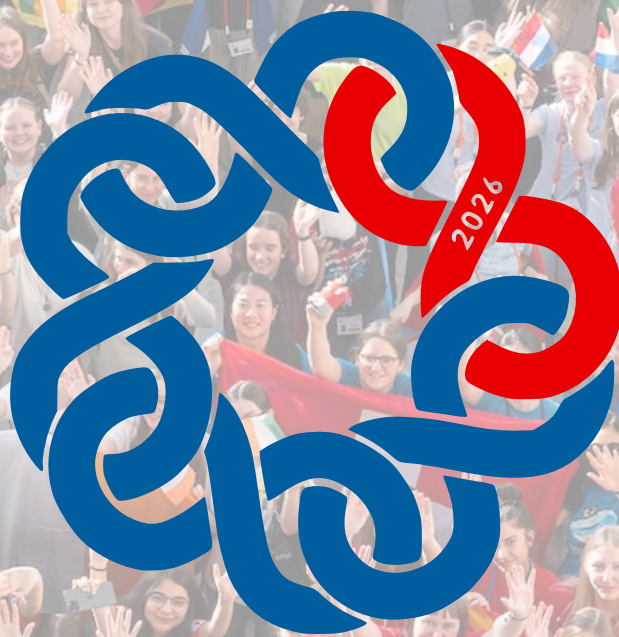
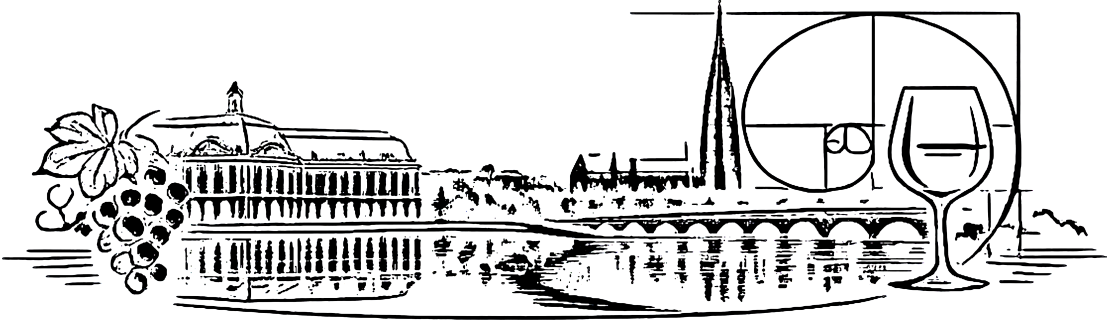


EGMO Final Report



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1 Executive Summary

Main Organizers

*Edwige Cyffers and Aline Cahuzac
on the behalf of Animath
contact: egmo2026@animath.fr*

From **April 9 to 15**, 2026, Bordeaux hosted the **15th edition of the European Girls' Mathematical Olympiad (EGMO)**, an international mathematics competition bringing together nearly 300 high school girls from all over the world. At a time when France was strengthening its efforts to promote equality in science, the EGMO, organized by the association Animath, was not only the first edition to be held in France, but also the first international mathematics olympiad organized in France **since the 1983 International Mathematical Olympiad (IMO)**.

Created in 2012, the EGMO aimed to encourage young girls to pursue scientific studies, to make women in mathematics more visible, and to help fight gender stereotypes.

For one week, teams from **66 countries** were present in the Bordeaux metropolitan area. Each delegation consisted of up to four high school girls selected in their country for their high level in mathematics, accompanied by a team leader and a deputy team leader. The exams, held over two mornings at the University of Bordeaux, featured short but difficult mathematical problems that required ingenuity, original ideas, and elegant proofs rather than lengthy calculations.

The week was also marked by an opening ceremony on Friday, April 10, with the traditional parade of teams, and by a closing ceremony on Tuesday, April 14, dedicated to the announcement of the results and the awarding of medals. These two highlights brought together all the delegations at the Palais des Congrès.

Alongside the competition, the participants had the opportunity to discover the secrets of **Bordeaux and its surrounding region through a program of activities and visits** organized by the volunteers, researchers, and students mobilized for the occasion.

The event also benefited from the support of academic institutions and numerous public and private partners committed to equality between women and men in science.



1.1 Key Figures



15th edition

67 Participating teams
(41 official European, 2 French)

260 contestants (161 official European)

New participation record!

53 coordinators
(15 Problem Selection
Committee members)

590 attendees

46 distinct languages

9517 scanned pages



The problems were proposed by the following countries: Ukraine, India, Bulgaria, Netherlands, United Kingdom, Netherlands.

Awards



1 perfect scorer

30 Gold medals
(15 official European)

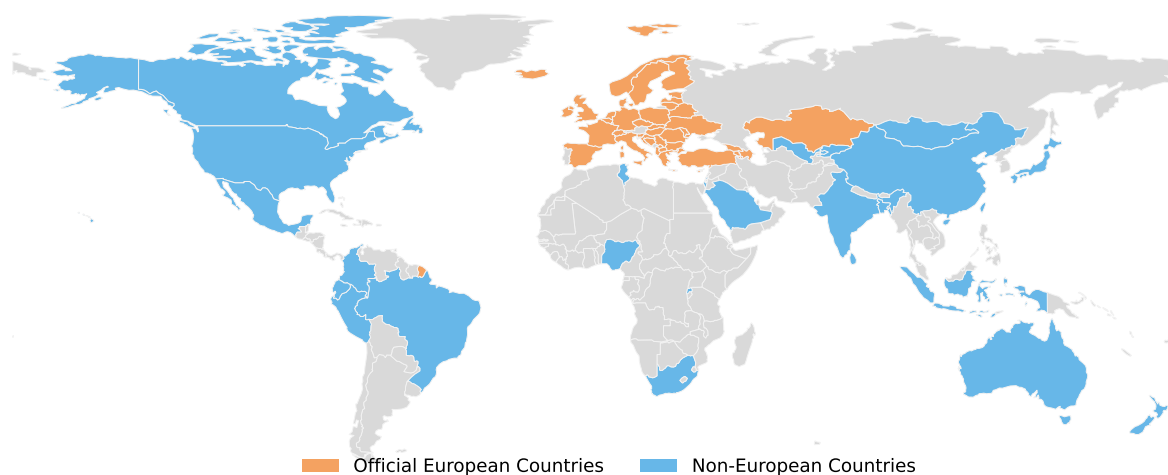
39 Silver medals
(24 official European)

59 Bronze medals
(41 official European)

27 Honorable mentions
(15 official European)

2 Participating Countries

Albania	Germany	Nigeria
Armenia	Greece	Netherlands
Australia	Croatia	Norway
Azerbaijan	Hungary	New Zealand
Belgium	Indonesia	Peru
Bangladesh	India	Poland
Bulgaria	Ireland	Romania
Bosnia and Herzegovina	Iceland	Rwanda
Belarus	Israel	South Africa
Brazil	Italy	Saudi Arabia
Canada	Japan	Serbia
People's Republic of China	Kazakhstan	Switzerland
Colombia	Kyrgyzstan	Slovakia
Cyprus	Kosovo	Slovenia
Czechia	Sri Lanka	Sweden
Denmark	Lithuania	Tunisia
Ecuador	Luxembourg	Türkiye
Spain	Latvia	Taiwan
Estonia	Republic of Moldova	Ukraine
Finland	Mexico	United Kingdom
France	North Macedonia	United States of America
Georgia	Mongolia	Uzbekistan



3 countries participated for the first time: **Iceland**, **Nigeria** and **Rwanda**.

All the countries who participated for the first time in 2025 came back this year: Armenia, Sri Lanka, New Zealand, South Africa and Uzbekistan.

3 Organizing Team

Main Organizers

Edwige Cyffers co-organized EGMO from the outset and joined the EGMO Board as France's representative. She was the main point of contact for international stakeholders and sponsors.

Aline Cahuzac co-organized EGMO from the outset and played a key role in securing Animath's support. She recruited widely within Animath and beyond, and was the main point of contact for French stakeholders.

Participants experience

Auriane Gabaut *Chief Guide* led the team of our 59 guides: Kaou Aouij, Sacha Arroues, Ana Lucia Auer, Tomas Babelis, Antoine Baccomo, Téo Baradat-Fourané, Laury Batista, Corina Baxter, Félix Breton, Bertrand Cahuzac, Irène Cahuzac, Marta Cano Cagigas, Pau Cantos Coll, Mathieu Clavé, Bleuenn Couaran, Victor Dehan, Mathilde Déprés, Tristan Fenot, Alessandro Fenu, Oscar Fontaine, Noah Fraudeau, Amélie Funck, Petruț-Rareș Gheorghieș, Brandon Hinostroza, Ekaterina Kuritsina, Basma Laasri, Lamia Lamrani, Constant Le Bezvoët, Evelyne Le Bezvoët, Max Lehr, Yunjie Luo, Lucia Ma Li, Sophia Mai, Danny Mallitasig, Luca Marchesini, Zsófia Marossy, Luigi Massacci, Anja Matic, Samuel Mendoza, Vincent Michielini, Maëlie Mondelin, Doan-Dai Nguyen, Lucien Peyronnette, Kevin Priol, Tita Rosemeyer, Duncan Sarton, Béatrice Serrurier, Anca Sfia, Samy Sisaid, Veran Stojanovic, Guido Tapia Riera, Anna Telerman, Mathias Thomas, Adrian Ticona Delgado, Valentine Tosel, Manon Trouffier, Camille Vautrin, Jinyang Wu, Sofia Zotova.

Anaïs Meunier *Chief Volunteer* led the team of our multi-task volunteers: Noémie Cerrina, Elad Kalif, Eva Tu, Juliette Barau, Laetitia Caumes, Luis Fernandez, Martin Le Clerc, Monica Guerra Navarro, Patricia Tenera, Quang-Khai Nguyen, Robin Primault, Sara Asad, Tiago Gimenez, Yll Lipovica, Arthur Léonard, Keti Gogishvili, Yanis Le Gall, Jegou Simon

Ketevan Gogishvili designed the EGMO T-shirts and contributed to organize the activities.

Elisa Lorenzo Garcia and **Margaret Bilu** helped to organize the main excursions and activities.

Dominik Stantejsky and **Margaret Bilu** organized transportation to and from Bordeaux.

Auriane Gabaut and **Arthur Léonard** organized the treasure hunt.

Anaïs Meunier organized the meals after the treasure hunt and at Dune du Pilat.

Edwige Cyffers supervised the ceremonies, based on the initial work of **Louisa Tachard**, **Maria Clara Werneck** and **Lamia Lamrani**.

Edwige Cyffers supervised most sponsor activities, goodies, and stands.

Aline Cahuzac supervised sponsor visits and stands on the first and last days.



Jury Organization

Anna Luchnikova was *Jury Chair*. **Mathieu Barré** was deputy jury chair, and supervised the logistics at the jury's hotel for the first days along with **Elisa Lorenzo Garcia**.

Maéna Quenemer was *Chief Coordinator*. The competition had 38 coordinators (30 were women): Gunjan Aggarwal, Aino Aulanko, Paul Averous, Aisha Azhgaliyeva, Naomi Bazlov, Iryna Burak, Dan Carmon, Cemre Çetin, Maya Chouikrat, Stella Čolo, Juni Drakengren, Lovro Drogenik, Kseniia Drozdova, Milica Dukic, Yevheniia Frankevych, Polina Henyk, Luka Horjak, Era Januzi, Rohinee Joshi, Yuliya Kryvitskaya, Glen Lim, Miroslav Marinov, Lana Milani, Eirini Miliori, Suvd Naranbaatar, Karyna Nechyporuk, Andrew Ng, Gabriela Madalina Pirvulescu, Andjela Sarkovic, Besfort Shala, Maryna Spektrova, Gabriella Sztranyák, Azra Tafro, Réka Amélie Wagener, Vanja Wagner, Maria Clara Werneck, Alina Yan, Akos Zahorsky.

Théo Lenoir was *Problem Selection Committee Chair*. The Committee had 14 members, among which seven were women: Emile Averous, Henry Bambury, Alessandra Caraceni, Tímea Csahók, Antoine Derimay, Emilhan Dürrüoglu, Aurélien Fourré, Melek Güngör, Vesna Kadelburg, Viviane Kehl, Yuka Machino, Martin Rakovsky, Baptiste Serraille, Michelle Sweering. All PSC members also served as coordinators.

Invigilation

Julia Kempe was *Chief Invigilator* and seconded by **Elad Kafid** as deputy.

Killian Dengreville and **Alain Delaët** served as *Chiefs Q&A* for the university and for the jury, respectively.

Edwige Cyffers was responsible for the collection and scanning of the papers. Collection was ensured by a mixed team of guides and volunteers. Liaison with the university printing team was handled by **Xavier Caruso**, in particular for uploading the scans to the EGMO server. On the second day, **Arthur Léonard** and **Killian Dengreville** supervised the final sorting of the papers after scanning.

The printing materials were produced by the university based on **Xavier Caruso's** templates and under his supervision.

Communication

Before the event, the communication was handled by the main organizers.

Shortly before and during the event, **Alain Delaët** was responsible for communication and website management. The team consisted of two professional videomakers, one photographer, with a second photographer on the day of the ceremonies, and **Cynthia Filipe**, who managed press relations and social media.

The website was initially created by **Guillaume Garnier**.



3.1 Institutions

Animath



Animath is France's leading association for extracurricular and competitive mathematics. Founded in 1998, it was created to coordinate several programs for middle- and high-school students, including the olympic preparation responsible each year for selecting and training the French IMO team. Over the past 25 years, Animath has also developed a number of successful new initiatives, some specifically aimed at girls, such as the Rendez-Vous des Jeunes Mathématiciennes et Informaticiennes, which brings together young female mathematicians interested in mathematics and computer science so that they can meet and inspire one another.

At the same time, the olympic preparation evolved into the Préparation Olympique Française de Mathématiques (POFM), which now trains hundreds of students each

year and prepares them for around six international competitions, including EGMO. The POFM contributes not only contestants, but also jury and organizing board members, and therefore has solid experience in running international competitions. Before taking on EGMO 2026, it also initiated the creation of the OFM in 2020, a remotely held olympiad for French-speaking countries, and has organized it twice.

Marion Lafage, the accountant, **François Finkbeiner**, the treasurer, and **Fabrice Rouillier**, the president of the association, signed, recorded, and paid the invoices once they had been approved by the EGMO organizers.

Cynthia Filipe is Animath's communications manager. She attended EGMO and managed our social media coverage. It was her first on-site participation in a mathematical olympiad.

Université de Bordeaux

université
de BORDEAUX



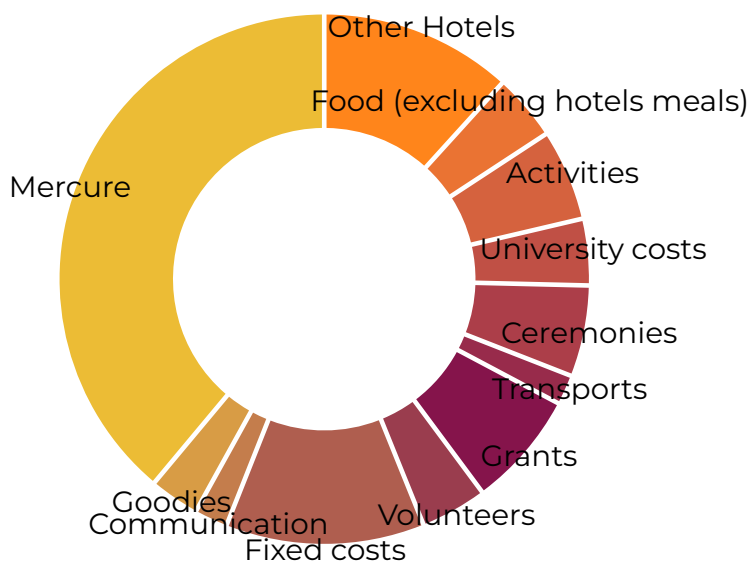
The University of Bordeaux is a public research university in southwestern France, with campuses across Bordeaux and several nearby towns. It has more than 50,000 students, including over 6,000 international students, and counts notable alumni such as Nobel Prize winners and political leaders.

The university rented the rooms needed for the exams and help us in organizing them. They provided useful contacts for the organization of activities and managed several contracts with diverse providers. All printing and scanning tasks, except for Q&A and printing at the leaders' hotels, were handled at the university printing facility by university staff, under **Jean-Marc Martin's** supervision.

The main point of contact was **Sabine Raposo**, *Chargée de projet événementiel et des tournages*, who also helped during the week with the additional support of **Juliette Pierson**.

Xavier Caruso was our internal point of contact, in particular for the advance reception of all items, and one of the most involved organizers.

4 Financial Overview



The main cost of EGMO is the accommodation and meals of the participants. Compared with a traditional EGMO budget, our edition had the following particularities:

- relatively **low transport costs**, due to the use of public transport for most journeys
- strong **support for the participation of non-European countries**, through reduced registration fees (representing roughly €70k in lost revenue) and travel grants (€70k). This support addressed concerns about the inclusion of non-European countries under the current EGMO rules
- major **dependence on private funding**. This reflects the difficulty of securing public funding for this kind of event in France

€1 009k: The total cost of EGMO. This does not include sponsored activities or goodies that were paid for directly by the sponsors. Volunteer work is also not reflected in these plots.

Advice for future host

In comparison to signed contracts before EGMO, we experienced an 5% increase on hotels due to additional needs, and a 30% increase on volunteers costs.

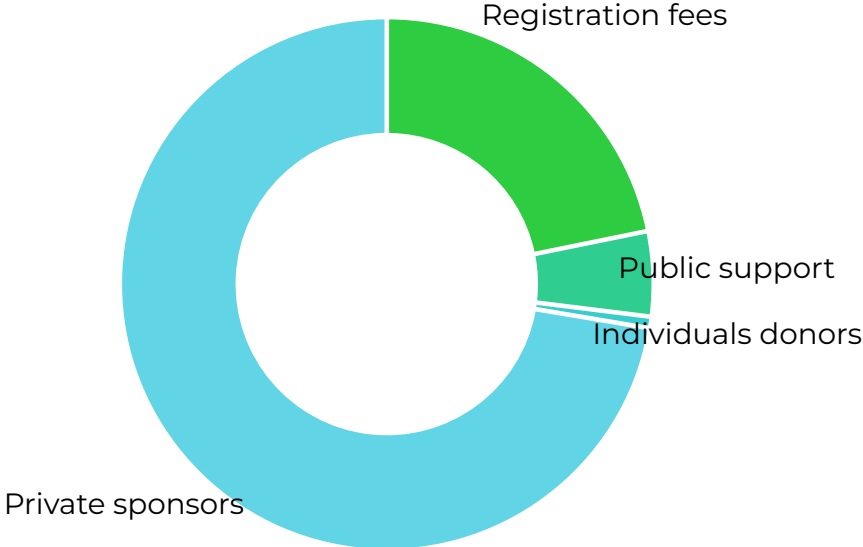
Post-EGMO rectification

Note

This cost can be compared with the total budget of the French preparation to the mathematical olympiads (POFM) which has a annual budget of €140k and with the overall budget of Animath of €475k.

EGMO was supported by 14 private sponsors and 15 public institutions. Although public funding plays a more modest role in the total budget than the private one,

it was important for us to raise awareness about EGMO in the French scientific community.

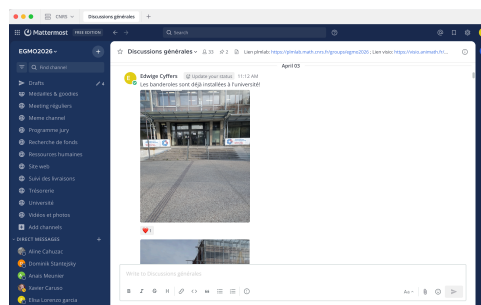


5 Internal Organization

IT tools

The organizing committee worked remotely and only met physically a few days before EGMO, since members live in different parts of France or Europe (sometimes beyond).

Therefore, an efficient online information sharing system was needed. Internal organization were done on a **Mattermost** instance, which gather at the end of EGMO 33 users (more than half being active contributors). This allowed to centralize information without multiplying email threads, and it also offers instant messaging functionalities, useful to send meeting reminders or discuss efficiently.

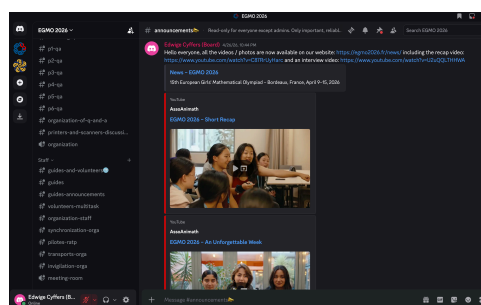


Mattermost Screenshot

The documents such as invoices, minutes from meeting, useful files, templates for goodies were hosted on a **Gitlab**.

Shared sheets, forms and slides were created on a shared Animath **Google drive**.

Two months before EGMO, a **Discord server** was created, with different roles for participants. A Discord server is usually always created for EGMO, the novelty was to include guides and volunteers as well. It enabled organizers to have all information and discussions in one single platform instead of navigating between applications.



Discord Screenshot

This was convenient to share big announcements to everyone, and to help guides and volunteers to connect with other EGMO participants. At the end of EGMO, 317 users were registered to the server. A drawback was that the number of active channels was very high, and muting channels is a bit more challenging than on other platforms.

Guides and volunteers were also invited to a **Whatsapp community**. Channels were created for announcement and for specific tasks. This was an efficient mean to reach everyone, but as on Discord, it requires careful management of permissions of the different groups. The ideal information management would be to have only one platform, but neither Discord nor Whatsapp could fit 100% of members, hence the two groups.

Meetings

Meeting were organized by Aline and Edwige to keep up with the advancement of the different tracks. Meeting were initially happening **every two weeks from October to February**.

From end of February to EGMO, the meetings were held **weekly**, allowing to centralized the planning and to take quickly decisions with a synchronous exchanges. Typically half a dozen to a dozen of volunteers were participating, depending on the topics covered.

Synchronization per track were also done within the 10 days before EGMO, in particular to set up description of each task, attribution of the role to a volunteer and rough timetables.

Guides and volunteers had daily briefings every evening, to prepare the next day. A difficulty was to keep it short enough to ensure focus despite the fatigue of the day, to find time to prepare these meetings, and to synchronize the different places (Hilton and the Mercure during the first days).

Advice for future host

The initial plan was to reimburse volunteers and guides their dinner outside, as hotel dinner were quite expensive in comparison to reasonable options outside. It was however too optimistic from a time management point of view to find time for briefing and scattered dinner, and we advice future host to plan for all meals on-site for volunteers.

On-site dinner for volunteers



6 Venues

Mercure

This was the main hotel of the competition, which we fully privatized for the entire period. The contestants and deputy leaders stayed there for the whole week, and were joined by the leaders after the exams.

The hotel offered a large amount of available space on the ground floor, with 12 separable rooms. The patio was a large square area that accommodated more than 20 meters of buffet space in total for the meals, which helped limit waiting times for participants. The rooms were used for sponsor stands, hotel activities, coordination, and the gala.



Hilton

Located 30 minutes from the contestants' hotel, the Hilton accommodated the leaders and coordinators (145 people) during the first days. It also required two meeting rooms during that period.

Advice for future host

Difficulty of transfer and large quantity of luggages

For the hotel change after the exams, participants were asked to leave their main luggage in the storage room, from where it was transported by van to the appropriate hotel. Several participants did not leave their luggage in the correct place or failed to follow the instruction not to add small or fragile bags. Although only two round trips by van had initially been planned, five were ultimately needed, requiring considerable manpower (a van can transport 250 EGMO Backpacks). The transfer always causes discontent among leaders and deputies, especially for the first day of corrections where deputies would prefer to spend time on corrections rather than transfer.

Radisson Blu, Seeko'o and Tatry

As the initial booking largely underestimated the number of participating teams and observers, we booked these additional hotels near the Mercure during the registration period to meet demand. All coordinators were transferred to the Radisson Blu, guides to the Tatry, and some of the leaders to the Seeko'o.

7 Arrival and Departures Organization

Most arrivals to Bordeaux were by plane, via the airports of Bordeaux Mérignac (BOD) or Paris Roissy Charles de Gaulle (CDG), or by train via Paris. We offered to organize travel from Paris to Bordeaux through group bookings, both to reduce costs and to encourage train travel over flights on this route.

Balancing sufficient connection time with short waiting times for teams and for PSC members and coordinators proved difficult. When group bookings were not possible, individual tickets were also booked on request. Group bookings with SNCF were often challenging: some trains were sold out, and participants were automatically rebooked on trains departing from a different station, requiring more than one hour of transfer by public transport. Because flexibility was needed, many tickets were bought directly by volunteers.

On the arrival day, volunteers in Paris helped participants in transit, in particular between CDG and Paris Montparnasse train station. Upon arrival in Bordeaux, guides accompanied each team from the station or airport to the Mercure. The large coverage of volunteers was appreciated by the travelers and helped the organizers to monitor the situation. Throughout the process, team positions were tracked through a shared spreadsheet.

Several teams and one coordinator encountered visa problems, which caused some participants to arrive late or miss EGMO entirely. Delayed flights also led to missed connections, and we mitigated the consequences as much as possible by reassigning train tickets and arranging alternatives. One team's luggage was lost during air travel, but was found the same day and delivered later, which, given the number of participants, is a rather good performance.

Departures were organized similarly. A Lufthansa strike announced the day before departure required last-minute rebooking. Because Bordeaux public transport operates only during the day, taxis had to be booked for the earliest departures. An accident on the railway tracks near Paris also caused major delays for some participants. Since SNCF does not automatically handle such cases for grouped bookings, we provided letters certifying the connections, which allowed participants to be rebooked free of charge onto later trains.

Advice for future host

Transport

- Leave enough time for connections and for arrival at the airport before departure
- Check planned works on the public transport network, as well as operating hours, especially for early and late arrivals
- Have several people available online, by email and on Discord, as points of contact to anticipate delays and cancellations
- It is crucial to have enough volunteers at all arrival and transfer points. They need clear information on who is expected, where they should go, and what to do in case of problems or whom to contact. This year, they were communicating directly with the organizers and travelers on the main Discord server, which was quite efficient.

8 Branded items

Institutions and sponsors above a given threshold were given the opportunity to distribute goodies to participants. The most generous sponsors were also allowed to add the official EGMO logo to their items. The minimum quantity was 260, corresponding to the number of contestants, and sponsors were encouraged to provide enough items for all participants (590).

Advice for future host

- Prepare, at least one year in advance, a list of possible items for sponsors, and check that they follow the agreed choices
- Prepare the logo in several formats (PDF, PNG, SVG) and versions (full color and monochrome, for light or dark backgrounds)
- Check the items before they are ordered, double-check the quantities, and check them again upon arrival
- Beware of customs: several items were blocked, and it was not easy to resolve the situation

Sponsor branded items

All branded items were successfully distributed, with only the leaflets left over. Receiving the items, preparing the bags, and delivering them to the hotels required careful planning. The university agreed to store the boxes before EGMO and to serve as the delivery point. More than 300 boxes were received over roughly one month. This represented about one small meeting room filled entirely from floor to ceiling.

8.1 Bag preparations



80 bags were prepared in advance, and the remaining 510 were prepared on April 8 on a single production line, in less than three hours of effective work. Preparing the contestants' bags required three stations to insert the items, while the other bags required only two. In addition, two or three people were needed to open new boxes and fold empty ones, and three more to move the prepared bags to the van. Generic bags without T-shirts or badges seem more scalable.

9 Ceremonies

The ceremonies were held at the Palais des Congrès, a modern venue that was privatized on both occasions. The largest amphitheater was booked (1,293 seats), although the upper section was closed to avoid too many empty seats. Participants returned by tram, except for the jury at the opening ceremony, who travelled by coach because of roadwork on the tram during EGMO week. A detailed seating map was communicated to the guides in advance.



As is tradition, the ceremony was accompanied by a live band playing English and French songs. During the opening ceremony, several magic acts were also included.



Asking the audience for an item during the magic show

3 min	Welcome speech
3 min	Speech by Edwige Cyffers
4 min	Musical interlude
30 s	Magic show
30 s	Transition
6 min	Speech by Viviane Kehl, former President of EGMO, on the position of women in olympiads and EGMO
30 s	Transition
2 min	Video by Thales
2 min	Video by TotalEnergies
30 s	Magic show
2 min	Video by Jane Street
30 s	Transition
6 min	Speech by Véronique Bertile, Vice-President of the University of Bordeaux in charge of DEI
30 s	Transition
6 min	Speech by Isabelle Gallagher, President of the SMF
4 min	Musical interlude
30 s	Magic show
3 min	Speech by the President of EGMO
1 min	Transition
34 min	Presentation of the teams
11 min	Magic show
3 min	Closing words
4 min	Musical interlude
4 min	Move to the panoramic area
3 min	Group picture



Pārsla Esmeralda Sietiņa



Viviane Kehl



Isabelle Gallagher

Advice for future host

Few tips

- The use of public transport allows for nearly continuous arrivals, which makes installation easier.
- Most of the decorations, except for the main door, were brought by the organizers to the congress center rather than ordered through the venue. This required additional logistics but reduced costs.
- A no-bag policy saves time at the cloakroom.
- Given the size of EGMO, only photos taken from above can include most of the participants. Moving to a better-lit space with natural light after the ceremony made better pictures, but it takes some trouble to prevent teams from dispersing as soon as the ceremony is over.
- Several people are needed to guide contestants efficiently onto the stage.



The closing ceremony focuses on the medalists and the next year edition. The speeches aim at celebrating what the girls has accomplished and the opportunities waiting from them, from next year EGMO to a research career.



Anna Luchnikova, Jury Chair



Huajin Lou, Perfect scorer



Romania, best European country

3 min	Opening speech
5 min	Video of best moments
30 s	Transition
6 min	Speech by Mura Yaker-son
30 s	Transition
5 min	Music
2 min	EGMO 2026 recap and introduction of the video challenge
5 min	Video challenge winner
30 s	Transition
1 min	Address by the chairwoman of the jury
2 min	Announcement of honorable mention recipients
1 min	Introduction of the bronze medals
14 min	Bronze medalists
1 min	Introduction the silver medals
6 min	Silver medalists
6 min	Music
1 min	Introduction the gold medals and sponsor QRT
4 min	Gold medalists
4 min	Special perfect score
2 min	Best European country
1 min	Transition
1 min	Exchange of flags ceremony
2 min	Speech by EGMO 2027 organizer
3 min	EGMO 2027 promotional video
30 s	Transition
5 min	Music
2 min	Closing speech

10 Exams



Room during exam with see-through bag and transparent EGMO waterbottle on a contestant table.



Contestants waiting to enter the exam rooms.

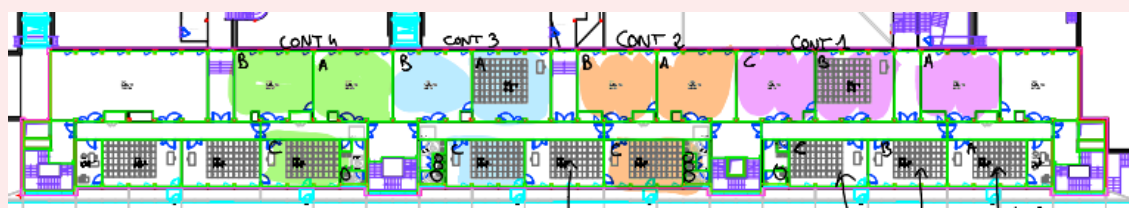
10.1 Venue

A technical challenge of this edition was that the university could not provide a room large enough to accommodate all contestants. In particular, the amphitheatres were designed with long rows of consecutive seats, which would not have allowed contestants to go to the restrooms without disturbing others. Instead, the contestants were split across 12 separate rooms, assigned by contestant number and by alphabetical order of country, with the second French team placed at the end of the alphabet to avoid having two French contestants in the same room.

Three rooms were used as storage rooms, since contestants were only allowed to bring a see-through bag in the exam rooms and a transparent water bottle, which had been provided to all of them the day before the exam. The first room in the corridor was used for scanning and printing during Q&A, and an additional room served as a break room and briefing room for the volunteers. The ground floor was used for lunch and also remained open to volunteers during the exams. The first floor had eight restrooms. Two were unfortunately closed during the weekend because of a water leak. At peak times, contestants were accompanied to another floor to avoid significant waiting times.

Note

Floor plan



Map of the first floor of the building A22. The contestants entered by the stairs near the storage rooms and were then dispatched to their rooms.

To ensure that all the contestants received exactly the same information, the announcements were limited to the ones appearing on the projected timer, which are:

0:00	"You may now open the folders and start to work."
0:25	"There are 5 minutes left to ask questions."
0:30	"No more questions can be asked."
4:00	"You have 30 minutes left."
4:25	"You have 5 minutes left."
4:30	"The examination is over."

10.2 Chief Invigilator report

On both days the exam started essentially on time (Saturday between 9:00-9:07, Sunday at 9:10 sharp for all rooms). We had a slight de-synchronization of the clocks (but not more than plus/minus 3 min in each room) due to some computers projecting the time not refreshing, and three rooms started 30sec, 40sec and 90sec respectively after their clock - these were given this time back at the end). The time-app was fixed and Sunday was completely synchronous with a start at 9:10am.

Q&A worked essentially seamlessly (Sat: 88 questions, Sun: 31 questions, with only one answer delayed by an hour) with all but one answers back within less than 30min and no mix-ups.

Language: Only 3 language issues which were solved within the first 5 min (2 Sat and 1 Sun. Each time the contestant was able to read her other exam while waiting - it was usually the additional language missing). Concerns by leaders were raised during Q&A for two countries because some of those participants asked questions in English - we immediately made sure they had both languages available and knew they could ask in whichever language they wanted).

Incidents: One (remotely) possible case was signaled in which Contestant X was staring a lot at the work/table of Contestant Y - this was resolved by noting that there was no overlapping solution from them. We intervened by gently looking at Contestant X and covering some of Contestant Y's work while she was in the bathroom.

Solution collection: We rigorously made sure no solutions were left behind and erred on the side of extreme caution for scanning. We closed off the rooms immediately after all contestants had left and guarded the rooms diligently to make sure no contestant could re-enter them until all solutions were collected.

Miscellaneous: We made sure noise level was low. When Contestant Z complained about Contestant W being noisy after Day 1 we moved those two tables as much apart as possible (1.5m) on Day 2. All girls were carefully inspected for forbidden items before entering the rooms and were always accompanied to the bathrooms.



Julia Kempe and Edwige Cyffers walking the corridor during the exam. Corridor volunteers are posted, ready to replace invigilators going out of the rooms.



Scanning room during Q&A. On each A3 paper, the map of one of the room is printed, so that the Q&A are given back to the right room. Scanners in the back of the room.

10.3 Volunteers organization

Invigilation was ensured by the volunteers and the guides. For the guides, care was also taken to ensure that they were not invigilating their own country. More precisely, we had the following groups of volunteers:

- 2 deputy leaders shepherds and 5 contestant shepherds to keep contestants and deputy leaders together until the rooms were ready and to manage the flow
- 3 storage room volunteers to store contestants' bags at the beginning and at the end of the exams
- 4 Q&A scanners
- 2 Q&A printers
- 22 Q&A dispatch volunteers
- 24 room invigilators for the first half of the exam
- 24 room invigilators for the second half of the exam
- 6 corridor invigilators (increased to a dozen during restroom rush hour)
- 12 folders to collect the papers after the exam.

Advice for future host

Man power

As EGMO days are already quite dense, it can be helpful to hire invigilators for the duration of the exams, so that volunteers can focus on the most challenging roles (Q&A and folders) and have free time during the rest of the exam.

Volunteers were given coffee and food in the middle of the exam (volunteers of the second shift having a break before the start of their shift, and first-shift volunteers after).

10.4 Q&A setup

The Q&A was one of the great successes of this edition, as it followed a precise pipeline rather than trying to handle the flow as it came. On the first day, 88 questions meant that a new question was asked every 20 seconds on average.

One person in each room was responsible for collecting the Q&A forms (without accepting any question lacking a contestant code). Four people were responsible for going back and forth between the rooms and the scanning room. The remaining volunteers were supervising and handling anomalies. Scanning was done with smartphones rather than a standard scanner, using CamScanner, and the files were directly uploaded as PDFs with the timestamp as the title. The message was liked once the PDF had been printed on the jury side, and the flag emoji of the contestant's country was added once it had been given to the country's leader. Once validated, the answer was scanned by the jury, uploaded to a drive, and printed again to be distributed to the contestant.

Advice for future host

Automation and parallelism

To the best of our knowledge, this was the first time that CamScanner was used instead of a single regular scanner. We strongly recommend adopting this modification. We also recommend going further in the automation by scripting the printing on both sides, so that human intervention is only needed for supervision.

On the jury side, five volunteers were responsible for printing, distributing, and scanning the questions. This number could be reduced with greater automation, since a large share of the time was spent printing and renaming files, tasks that could be handled by a Discord bot or a similar tool.

10.5 Foldering

We refer to **foldering** as the task of collecting the papers in the room after the exam in order to send them to the printing facility, and we designate as **folderers** the volunteers performing this task.

The team was composed of about a dozen volunteers, depending on availability. These volunteers could not be part of the second shift, as they had lunch at 12:30, after an initial briefing. After lunch, a mock session was carried out each day for roughly 15 minutes. Volunteers were then assigned to the rooms to speed up the departure of the contestants, with particular attention to the rooms for Contestant 4, at the end of the corridor. As soon as all contestants had left this section, the door was closed to ensure that no contestant could return, and foldering started while the other contestants were still leaving the floor.

Note**QR code automated splitting**

For the first time, the upload was automated through a script developed by Joseph Myers. For each contestant, on each day, 4 sheets of paper were printed, with a QR code to separate the 3 problems, and 1 sheet for the remaining draft, containing either several problems or no indicated problem on that page. The QR codes were inserted during paper collection, and we then scanned the full batches of papers and uploaded the resulting PDF directly to be processed on the server.

The foldering was done in three parts:

1. distribution of the QR codes and folders separating the contestants' sheets
2. collection of the sheets, interleaving the QR codes in the right places
3. verification of the room and collection of the sheets in folders.

For the first part, the QR code sheets were prepared in advance during the exam, room by room, with one folder for each row of contestants. The chief folderer prepared the first room while the folderers were still helping with the evacuation of contestants. The next rooms were then prepared by the first folderer arriving in each new room.

For the second part, each folderer was assigned a row of contestants and collected the papers, placing the whole row in a folder. Once a row was completed, the folderer moved independently to the next available row.

When the preparation of a contestant's sheet was unclear, the folderer posted a message to a dedicated WhatsApp group and moved on. The chief folderer then came to prepare the folder herself and, if needed, placed it in a separate folder if special action was required at the scanning stage, mainly in the case of written notes on the back. Once the issue had been handled, the message was liked to ensure that no case was missed.

For the third part, once all rows were finished, the chief folderer walked through the room a second time to ensure that no sheet had been left behind, collected the six folders, and brought them to the scanning room. After the first two rooms were done, the first batch was sent directly to the printing facility so that scanning could begin in parallel with the remaining foldering. Once the room had been checked and the papers removed, another separate team of volunteers was in charge of preparing the room for the second day or restoring it for the university.

- Even with additional pressure to speed up the Contestant 4 rooms, more than 15 minutes were needed each day between the end of the exam and the start of collection. The girls were tired after the exam and tended to pack slowly, and to forget some of their belongings.
- The foldering of the first two rooms (around 50 contestants) took around 20 minutes, and the whole collection around one hour and a half (fewer than a dozen contestants accounted for one third of the time. These contestants often came from countries newer to EGMO. Briefing new countries in advance might limit these cases).
- Around 15 minutes were needed from the departure of the folders to the start of scanning at the printing facility. The time lost in transport was clearly negligible compared with the importance of using a professional facility.
- The notebooks were a bad idea: some contestants did not remove their sheets from the notebook themselves, and even when they did, the sheets still had to be cut again to obtain a clean edge for the scanner.
- Scanning itself started around 2:30 pm on both days, with the first batch of scans available at 3 pm and the bulk of scans finished around 4 pm, except for special cases requiring extra time.
- The processing time on the server was significant (30 minutes at peak), and it seems possible to reduce this.
- Special cases and the ordering of sheets required an additional hour and a half.
- On each day, a final check and correction round was carried out by the chief folderer at the hotel before the papers were returned to the leaders.



Folderers in action.



Scanned papers.

11 Jury

11.1 Overall remarks

The jury organization followed the usual schedule:

- the first day was dedicated to the adoption of the problems
- the marking scheme was voted on during the exam on the first day and, due to some disagreements, after lunch on the second day
- paper correction took place in the afternoon and evening of the exam days
- the final day was dedicated to coordination



Jury picking Jane Street goodies during Sunday lunch



Jury eating during the Sunday lunch, invited by Jane Street

Overall, there was less delay than in the previous edition, which can be explained by several factors:

- a slightly better ratio between the number of countries and the number of coordinators
- the marking schemes were also shared on the evening before the exam, which allowed the leaders to spend more time on them before the jury meeting
- the jury spent less time on Q&A, as they were not moved on site and the transmission of the questions was fast

11.2 Coordination day

The coordination day took place at the Mercure and lasted all day, from 8:00 a.m. to past midnight. The schedule was designed to finish at 5:30 p.m., but the combinatorics problem and a few difficult cases made it impossible to start the final jury meeting before 11:30 p.m. This once again raised the now familiar question of whether EGMO should include a second day of coordination, which would unfortunately increase the overall cost of the event drastically.



Few tables during the coordination day.

Most of the tensions arose at the end of the day, when people were already tired and only the most difficult cases remained. The appeal committee was used once.

Coffee and tea were available at all times throughout the event. During coordination, generous coffee breaks were also planned. The food, sponsored by Xantium, helped the jury maintain enough energy throughout the day. In addition, in the evening, the mocktail stand run by Quantco was also available to the jury, not only to the contestants.

A handful of problematic behaviors by leaders or deputy leaders towards coordinators and volunteers occurred. It might be an improvement to develop a clearer code of conduct, together with possible sanctions for leaders, in order to protect the whole community.

One source of delays in coordination is situations in which the language is not spoken by the coordinators. In these cases, the translation was often not precise enough. Automated tools and clearer guidelines on expectations might help make the process smoother.



Women coordinators giving medals at the closing ceremony.

12 Activities and Excursions

EGMO is not only a competition, but also a safe space for the girls to meet and build connections. As such, we considered the activities and excursion a very important part of the program and dedicated a significant amount of money early in the organization to offer a wide range of activities and to ensure that their quality was high. We always briefed the guides carefully on what was expected and on the fact that these activities were not mandatory, but highly worthwhile. A few teams consistently chose not to attend, most often because of fatigue.

12.1 Treasure hunt

We decided to use a professional escape game company for the design and delivery of the treasure hunt. Although the company already offered several treasure hunt packages in Bordeaux, the requirements of the EGMO treasure hunt led to a tailored version:

- the size of the group required staggered starts and as much diversification as possible in the time spent in different locations
- the standard format relies on smartphones connected to the internet for the different stages. As participants might not have a smartphone with internet access, and in order to foster social interaction, we requested a pen-and-paper version instead
- we changed the story to feature a woman instead
- the guides were briefed directly by the company in the morning before the start.



12.2 Afternoon activities

We offered six different activities on each of the two exam days. Teams were assigned based on their preferences and on availability. The guides were responsible for explaining the different activities to their team and making sure that they completed the preference survey together. Overall, we received very positive feedback on the diversity and quality of the activities.

- **Bassins des Lumières** is a digital art center set inside a former World War II submarine base in Bordeaux. Two exhibitions were visited: **Frida Kahlo**, with her iconic paintings projected across the walls and water of the basins, and **The Little Prince**. There were 100 available places.



The Little Prince show



Contestants watching the exhibition

- **Cruise on the Garonne** offered a way to see Bordeaux from the water, with a guided 90-minute cruise along the Garonne on board the **Sirius**, an electric boat operated by Les Bateaux Bordelais. Departing from the Ponton d'Honneur, in the heart of the city, the cruise passed the UNESCO-listed stone façades, the Pont de Pierre, the Pont Chaban-Delmas, and the Cité du Vin, all seen from the river. A canelé, the iconic Bordeaux pastry, was served on board. There were 90 available places.

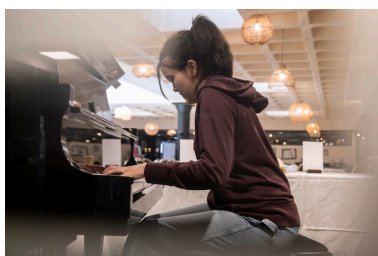


Inside the boat



Outside areas were accessible

- **Pottery Workshop** was held at the Mercure under the guidance of Luc Richard, a sculptor from the Bordeaux area who works on monumental outdoor installations. Participants learned the basics of pottery and created small artworks. There were 30 available places.
- **White Ball** allowed participants to discover the magic of the waltz and its graceful movements, with a lively rock interlude. The activity was open to all skill levels and allowed girls to lead the dance and was organized by several volunteers and guides. There were 40 available places.
- **Magic** invited participants to see and understand magic tricks performed by Louis Guilhamon and David Elka, who also took part in the opening ceremony. There were 30 available places.
- **DIY and free games** In addition, participants could personalize tote bags and play board games freely available at the hotel under the supervision of Ketevan Gogishvili, to encourage interactions between teams.



12.3 Contestants excursion in Saint Emilion

The contestants' excursion took place over the whole of Monday, with departure at 9 a.m. and return at 5 or 6 p.m., depending on the group. Saint-Émilion is remarkable in many ways and was designated a UNESCO World Heritage Site in 1999. Its vineyards have been cultivated since medieval times and shape much of the surrounding landscape, giving Saint-Émilion its distinctive character. Its wines are now renowned as some of the finest in the world.



The contestants were split into 12 groups for the visits, which covered both the vineyards and the wine-making process at Château Balestard La Tonnelle, where lunch was also served. The visit to Saint-Émilion included the monolithic church, the catacombs, and a guided tour with historical commentary.



12.4 Excursion to dune du Pilat

On the final day, the visit to Arcachon Bay was simplified to a visit to the Dune, without a stop in Arcachon as had initially been considered. This decision was made in response to the anticipated difficulty of providing lunch in Arcachon and in order to allow for a more relaxed schedule, in particular for the jury, whose final meeting had ended the night before.

Lunch was provided on site by several local producers with societal impact. The aim was to let participants relax and unwind after the competition, in a breathtaking setting.

Transportation was by coach on both days, with the allocation to buses prepared in advance and checked again on boarding, as some teams were not fully ready to follow the plan.



13 Promoting women at EGMO

While EGMO is girls-only at the contestant level, it remains challenging to increase the proportion of women in other roles. This illustrates the leaky pipeline phenomenon, in which the proportion of women decreases at each stage rather than at a single specific moment. We aimed to address this in several ways: by explicitly raising the issue, as Viviane Kehl did in her speech at the opening ceremony, by helping contestants to envision possible scientific futures, by choosing women whenever this was under the organizers' control, and by encouraging countries to nominate more women.

13.1 Round table with successful women for the contestants

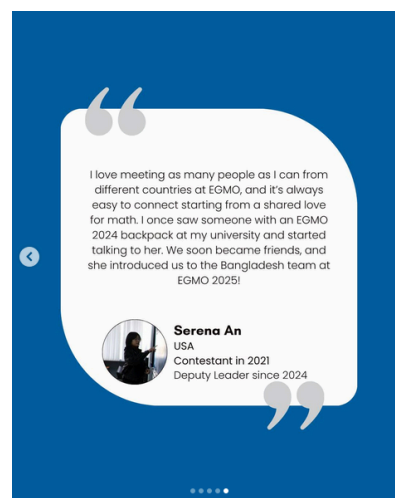
Building on the success of previous discussions on women in STEM at EGMO, and on Animath's long experience with round tables, we organized a round table for the contestants before Monday dinner, when they returned from Saint-Émilion. After a short presentation of the speakers, the contestants were split into 6 groups, and the speakers moved from one group to the next every 10 minutes, leading to one hour of intense discussion.

We were fortunate to have outstanding speakers: Karine Berger, General Secretary of INSEE; Elisabeth Strouse, Emeritus Assistant Professor at the University of Bordeaux; Christelle Glangetas, Postdoctoral Researcher at the University of Bordeaux; Margaret Bilu, CNRS researcher at École Polytechnique; Périne Jaffrennou, Head of Trading Project Development at TotalEnergies; and Mura Yakerson, CNRS researcher at IMJ-PRG Paris.



13.2 Women in leadership positions among the organizers

The two main organizers were women, as were the Chief Guide, Chief Volunteer, and Chief Invigilator. On the mathematical side, although the EGMO rules only require the captain of the Problem Selection Committee to be a woman, we also selected women as Jury Chair and Chief Coordinator. Both were invited to EGMO 2025 to gain additional experience before taking on these roles this year. While building this team was certainly a challenge, it is likely that future hosts could maintain this trend.



Note

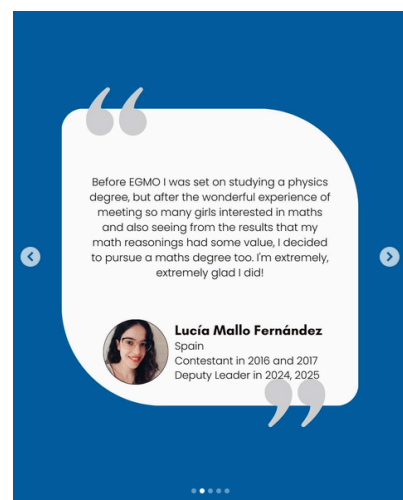
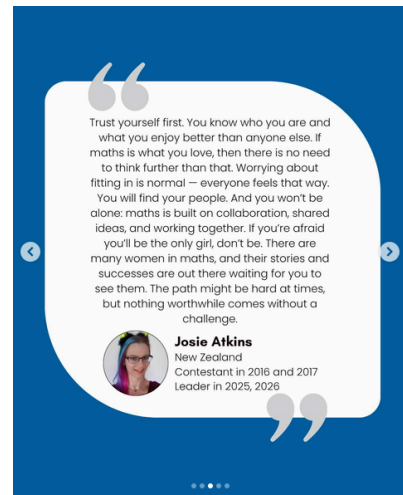
Women in PSC and coordinators

The mathematical success of EGMO lies in the hands of the PSC, which selects the problems, and of the coordinators, who ensure the grading of the competition. However, the proportion of women in these roles is not governed by the EGMO rules and is left to the discretion of the organizers. Few previous editions explicitly pushed for greater female representation, with previous highs being 46% in 2017 and 47% in 2023. We achieved **exact parity** in the PSC (7/14) and had **30 women out of 38 coordinators** not in the PSC, leading to **71% women coordinators**, a new record.

We hope that EGMO 2026 can set a new standard for future editions, showing that coordination can be carried out with a majority of women without difficulty. Recruiting women coordinators is usually considered difficult, as the standard practice is to build the team by invitation only, favoring people already part of the circuit. In contrast, we allowed people to apply freely through a link shared on Discord. We stated that women would be favored when possible, and added an optional field in the form to recommend other women, who were then contacted by email and encouraged to apply. We received 260 applications, of which 170 came from women. This means that we were even forced to turn down very competent women applicants, and we hope they will have other opportunities to coordinate at international olympiads.

13.3 Social media feature women team leaders

To nudge countries to choose women leaders and deputy leaders, we tried to improve the visibility of the women already doing these roles. We share a form with all the countries, encouraging them to fill it and started to publish roughly one month before EGMO, notably for the Pi-Day and the day of women's rights.



Example of EGMO Insta posts

13.4 Communication



Alexandre and Maxime Lorenzo interview Edwige Cyffers for the recap video

The website was online well before EGMO 2025, and we launched our social media coverage during EGMO 2025. This made it possible to build a community early on and to share information about the preparation. Starting about one year in advance seems to be a good time-frame: it is close enough to the event to provide content, while still leaving enough time to build an audience.

We prepared a press kit and shared it with all the media contacts known to the association. We also contacted AFP and independent journalists by phone, email, and social media. Unfortunately, no professional journalists chose to cover the event.

We also spoke directly to the Minister of Education about the event when Animath was invited to a working session dedicated to promoting girls in mathematics.

During the week, coverage was provided by two photographers, Annaelle Dupuis throughout the week and Gautier Dufau on the ceremony days. Two videographers, Alexandre and Maxime Lorenzo, covered the whole week, producing daily reels as well as the final videos.



Cynthia Filipe briefs Aline Cahuzac before the opening ceremony

Our Instagram account generated 200,000 views and reached 900 followers, which is slightly better than the previous year's account (600). Only 12% of the views came from French accounts, which reflects the strong international dimension of EGMO.

14 Preparing EGMO 2027



Croatian contestants with EGMO and Croatia flags at the closing ceremony



Borna Vukorepa introducing next year edition

As Kosovo did for us, we helped Croatia prepare for next year's edition by sharing our experience, favoring Croatian coordinators in the selection process, and offering two free observer registrations in addition to the free registration granted to Borna Vukorepa as a member of the EGMO Board.

Next year's edition promises to be memorable in the remarkable setting of Šibenik, and we wish the organizers every success.

15 Acknowledgements

We credit Gautier Dufau and Annaelle Dupuis for the pictures used in the report, and we thank Maxime and Alexandre Lorenzo for their coverage during the week.

We thank the volunteers for their dedication, ideas, and hard work throughout the week.

We thank all the teams for coming and for bringing their love of mathematics during the week.

We thank all PSC members and coordinators for the quality of their expertise and for their precise and intense work.

We thank the University of Bordeaux for its help in organizing the exams and for providing useful contacts.

We thank all the sponsors who made this event possible and enabled us to offer not only a fair competition, but also a rich experience throughout the week.



EGMO 2026

Bordeaux

France