



EMS

Committee for Developing Countries

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Accademia dei Lincei, Rome

The Mediterranean Youth Mathematical Championship (MYMC)

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1. Organizers

- The Mediterranean Youth Mathematical Championship (MYMC) is currently promoted by:
MIUR, the Italian Ministry of Education
INdAM, the Italian national institute for advanced Mathematics,
ICTP, a UN institution located in the Italian city of Trieste,
the Mathematics departments of the three major universities of Rome (**Sapienza**, **Tor Vergata**, **Roma Tre**),
the MathSciLab of **UNINT**, a small private Roman university,

1. Organizers (continued)

UMI, the major Italian mathematical society,

PLS, an Italian national initiative to increase the number of university students in the sciences.

- Prompted by the Ministry, the four mentioned universities have established a permanent committee in charge of managing the yearly editions of the MYMC.
- The main tasks of the committee are to (i) find a host institution (in rotation) and (ii) get enough money for the MYMC (all participants are totally supported by the organizers).

2. Aims and scope

- The aim of the MYMC is to encourage **Mediterranean youth**, both male and female, to develop an interest in Mathematics, a discipline which has been of great importance for the growth of the cultural community of the Mediterranean, with its many nations and religions.
- All **countries of the Mediterranean** (see map below) are welcome to participate in the MYMC, and sixteen of them have participated so far in at least one of the past three editions (see table below). We expect sixteen or more participants in the fourth edition, due to take place this coming July.

The Mediterranean Youth Mathematical Championship (MYMC)

3. Map of countries



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4. Table of participants

	July 17-19, 2013	July 7-10, 2015	July 20-23, 2016	July 19-22, 2017		July 17-19, 2013	July 7-10, 2015	July 20-23, 2016	July 19-22, 2017
1. Morocco	X	X	X	x	12. Turkey	(X)		(X)	x
2. Algeria			X	x	13. Greece			X	x
3. Tunisia		X	X	x	14. Albania		X	X	x
4. Malta	no (IMO) contact				15. Montenegro	no	no	no	no
5. Libya	unsuitable political situation				16. Bosnia-Herzegovina		X	X	x
6. Egypt		X	X	x	17. Croatia		X	X	x
7. Palestine	X	X	X	x	18. Slovenia	X	X	X	x
8. Israel				?	19. Italy	X	X	X	x
9. Lebanon	X	X	X	x	20. Monaco	no (IMO) contact			
10. Cyprus	X	X	X	x	21. France		X	X	x
11. Syria	unsuitable political situation				22. Spain	X	X	X	x

5. Competition

- Each participating country is represented by a team of four students, **two boys and two girls**, currently in their final three years of high school. They must be good at Mathematics and fluent in English, the working language of the MYMC and nobody's mother tongue.
- The four students of a team **work together** towards the solution of the problems they are given. That is why we say “Championship” instead of “Olympiad”.
- Gold medal for the team in first place, silver medal for the team in second position, bronze medal for all other teams, it is kind of a **festive event**.

6. Competition structure (one day)

- Morning round – A **common list** of problems for all teams. Preliminary ranking of the teams according to their score.
- **Direct clashes** in the afternoon (twice) – First stage: direct clashes between 1st and 2nd ranked teams, 3rd and 4th ranked teams, 5th and 6th ranked teams, etc. Second stage: direct clashes between randomly coupled teams. Each direct clash carries some further points to the teams.
- **Final problem** – A common problem is given to each team, to be solved in at most 10 minutes. The team which first provides the correct answer is awarded “many” points.

7. Further aspects

- Beside the students, a key role is played by chaperons and “guardian angels”.

A **chaperon** is an adult acting as team leader, and also acting *in loco parentis* for most students are under age.

Each team, upon reaching Italy, is assigned a “**guardian angel**”, a young person in charge of assisting the team in any possible way (including acting as an interpreter) until the day of departure.

The interaction among guardian angels and teams is always very effective in promoting a warm atmosphere.

7. Further aspects (continued)

- The MYMC lasts **four days**.

First day for arrivals (at very different times of the day).

Second day for the competition.

Third day for the awards ceremony and a cultural program.

Fourth day for departures.

- All moments aim at a truly **intercultural experience**, conveyed by Mathematics but not limited to it.
- This year we expect to have also a special moment for chaperons (a minisymposium) to avoid them being idle during the competition.

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8. Gallery



Mediterranean Youth
Mathematical Championship

Sapienza University of Rome
July 20-23, 2016



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9. A few pictures from the 2013 pilot edition (Rome, UNINT University)



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10. A few pictures from the 2015 edition (Trieste, ICTP)



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11. A few pictures from the 2016 edition (Rome, Sapienza University)



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12. Two pictures related to the 2017 edition (Rome, Roma Tre University)



13. Keep in touch



Thank you
for your attention
and keep in touch:
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