

# Call for Applications Emerging Regional Centre of Excellence – ERCE 2020–2024

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ERCE (Emerging Regional Centre of Excellence) is a label awarded by the EMS-CDC (European Mathematical Society-Committee of Developing Countries) to centres which have achieved an outstanding level in their area of influence in research and education, thus attracting students from other regions and countries. Indeed, the education of master and PhD students is an asset for raising the quality and diffusion of mathematics worldwide, and it has particular value in the developing world. ERCE centres are among those which play an important role in training students in their region, particularly those students coming from less developed areas.

With the global proliferation of emerging economies worldwide, there are varying degrees of development among developing countries, just as there are within the developed world. Very good centres exist in emerging economies where students from the least developed regions can be trained to the master level and beyond. Indeed, the most talented students may wish to pursue further education after the master's degree and be eligible for a PhD. A higher number of masters and PhDs is an enrichment for any country in terms of human resources with specialised high competence. A full education obtained in one of the outstanding centres in the region is a better guarantee for returning to the original country and as such is an effective way of fighting brain drain, whilst also being cost effective.

In this spirit, the first ERCE centre was awarded in 2011. Since then, 9 institutes have been awarded. Please visit the webpage of the EMS Committee for Developing Countries, under the page ERCE, for a complete list:

<https://nickpgill.github.io/emscdc/erce>

With the success of this scheme the committee is now opening a new call for applications. Here are some details.

## About ERCE

The ERCE label is a recognition of excellence awarded for a period of four years. It provides a number of advantages to the awarded institution:

- The label adds prestige and visibility to the centre, which will then likely attract more and better students..
- Often, in turn, this will secure funding from local and regional sources.

Moreover, the CDC maintains a particular relationship with these centres:

- The CDC will give advice, whenever needed, related to scientific training and education programmes.
- The CDC will make grants available to support ERCE centres activities. Allocation of limited funding will be done via calls restricted to ERCE centres.
- The CDC will facilitate experienced lecturers to give short or medium-length courses, e.g. by involving the Voluntary Lecturers Scheme run by the IMU.
- The CDC will facilitate European hosts for researchers from these centres for visits and/or collaborations.

## How to apply

The application must be sent by e-mail to the address:

EMS Office <ems-office@helsinki.fi>

Deadline for this application is: **February 15th, 2020**

The application must be written in English and should be as comprehensive as possible. Here is a list of important pieces of information that should be contained in the applications:

1. ERCE centre Director
  - Name, title, place of the institution, academic affiliation, address, email and other relevant contact information.
  - CV.
2. Vision statement of the ERCE centre
  - An aspirational description of the centre and how it will play a leading role in the region.
  - Plans (covering 4 years) for how to implement such a vision.
  - Within these plans, a motivated list of feasible activities that could be supported internationally, if funding were available.
3. Background material about the applying institute
  - a. Webpage address of the institute (in English).
  - b. General presentation of the centre: location, facilities. If a multi-university centre, clarify the institution's position in the academic structure.
  - c. List of academic staff (professors, lecturers, PhD students) that will be associated with the ERCE centre, with details of the subject area of interest and possibly homepages.

- d. List of significant publications from the last 10 years by the academic staff involved in the ERCE centre.
- e. List of master programmes (description).
- f. List of PhD programmes (description), if applicable.
- g. Number of students (national and international) subscribed to the master/PhD programmes (number to the last 4 years). For international students, add information about the country of origin.
- h. Information about the policy of enrollment of international students (qualification requested, subscription fees, grants, etc.).

Pay particular notice to the following point:  
The application **must** elaborate in detail on **all the criteria** for participation.

*Sophie Dabo*

*Chair of EMS Committee of Developing Countries*  
*<https://euro-math-soc.eu/committee/developing-countries>*

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