

Memorandum of Cooperation (MOC)

Between

The European Mathematical Society (EMS)

and

The Association Kangourou Sans Frontières (AKSF)

This MOC is made between the European Mathematical Society (EMS) and the Association Kangourou sans Frontières (AKSF) on 13.08.2020.

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The Association Kangourou sans Frontières (AKSF), registered association in France, nr.451 952 691 000257 (SIREN), Rue de Castellane 75008 Paris 8, France, www.aksf.org, info@aksf.org, herewith referred to as the AKSF.

PREAMBLE

The main goals of AKSF, which are also shared by the EMS, are:

- **popularization of mathematics among children, so that:**

- they don't have prejudices towards mathematics (and can develop a positive attitude towards mathematics): Children and teenagers unfortunately often develop a negative attitude towards mathematics because of bad grades in school or more generally because of non-inspiring teachers, teaching or even curricula. Math Kangaroo goes in a different direction and tries to show that mathematics is much more than dull calculations but that mathematics is useful, it can be fun and it is everywhere.

- more of them decide to study mathematics or something related (and do e.g. research in mathematics): Math Kangaroo can be an eye opener for talented students. They may on the one hand realize that they have a special talent for mathematics and they may on the other hand also realize that mathematics is fun, that mathematics can be applied and is useful which may motivate them to either study mathematics or a mathematics related STEAM subject which is much needed in current times.

- a lot of them have a good experience with mathematics (and later as policy makers will look favorable towards mathematics): Even if students do not turn in the direction of STEAM subjects Maths Kangaroo may give them a life lasting positive experience. And these young people will be the policy makers of the future so it is crucial that they realise the importance of mathematics. By being open about this and having had positive experiences this is more likely to happen.

The fact that the Math Kangaroo Competition is the largest international math competition in the world in terms of number of participants, makes it attractive for many students who would otherwise not take part in a mathematics competition. Many of the students become an awardee and that becomes a part of their biography.

- **popularization of mathematics among wider population/society**

- with so many children taking part in the competition their parents are appreciating positively the subject of mathematics: Math Kangaroo, being as popular as it is right now, often reaches much further than the classroom. Children talk about it at home, parents and other people look at the questions and see the enthusiasm of the children and hence realize that this competition is first of all obviously very enjoyable but secondly also an important step in the development of so-called skills of the 21st century, e.g. critical thinking, analytical thinking, problem solving, strategies, decision making, etc.

Needless to say that the mathematics in Kangaroo has an impact on parents also as they get involved in the process of supporting their kids. In addition, teachers, especially at primary level (grades 1-6) find Kangaroo problems a nice tool to use in class.

- **popularisation of mathematics in developing countries, e.g. Afghanistan, Iraq, some African countries, etc**

Promoting mathematics learning in developing countries may come through competitions and awards for it. The competition requires more involvement of teachers and gives support to teachers with items they can use in classroom teaching. It also allows them to build up a network of interested and engaged teachers.

In order to achieve the above mentioned common goals there are plenty of reasons for a strong cooperation between EMS and AKSF, which both parties would benefit from:

- AKSF has members from more than 80 countries; these members form an enormous international network with a lot of knowledge about the position of mathematics in the societies of the members' countries, about different curricula, about school systems, about university practices, about financing of education etc.
- AKSF has access to more than 6 million pupils
- Promote talent and giftedness in mathematics (minimize drop outs of gifted students)

- EMS goals, activities, announcements can reach more recipients through AKSF members and through AKSF Newsletter (if established)
- EMS can find access to prospective new members

With this Memorandum of Cooperation (MOC) both parties agree that all specific actions of cooperation will be discussed and agreed case by case.

Signed on behalf of the EMS



Volker Mehrmann, President

Signed on behalf of the AKSF



Meike Akveld, President

Date: 01.09.2020