



Math4NL news – September 2026

Important Dates	Where	What
September 29, 2026	JADS, 's-Hertogenbosch	4TU+.AMI and Math4NL Industry Day
November 4, 2026	CWI, Amsterdam	Finals of Dutch applied mathematics thesis awards
December 3, 2026	CWI, Amsterdam	Math4NL Community Event: Connecting Mathematics with Industry and Society Across Europe
May 27-28, 2027	TU Eindhoven	Real-world Applications of Geometry and Algebra (RAGA 2027)
July 12-16, 2027	World Forum, Den Haag	ICIAM 2027 Congress
July 25-30, 2027	RAI Amsterdam	ISMP 2027

As a new academic year begins, Math4NL continues to build momentum in strengthening the connections between mathematics, industry and society. The activities highlighted in this newsletter show a community that is increasingly active, visible and outward-looking, nationally as well as internationally.

We look back on two successful summer events: RAGA 2026, where researchers and partners from industry and society came together around real-world challenges in geometry and algebra, and the 4TU+.AMI Community Event in Groningen, which once again demonstrated the breadth and vitality of the Dutch applied mathematics community. Importantly, these meetings are also generating new activities and collaborations that continue well beyond the events themselves.

At the same time, there is much to look forward to this autumn. The symposium Recent Advances in Industrial and Applied Mathematics on 29 September will bring academia and industry together in 's-Hertogenbosch, while the Best Thesis in Applied Mathematics Award will once again put talented young mathematicians and their contributions to real-world problems in the spotlight.

A particularly exciting next step will be the Math4NL Community Event on 3 December in Amsterdam (CWI), where colleagues from the Netherlands will meet representatives of leading European initiatives connecting mathematics with industry and society. Together, we want not only to exchange experiences, but also to explore how we can collaborate more effectively and strengthen the position and impact of mathematics across Europe.

We hope that the new academic year will bring many new connections, ideas and collaborations, and we warmly invite you to take part in the activities described in this newsletter.

RAGA 2026: mathematics meets real-world challenges

On 1–2 June 2026, TU/e hosted another successful edition of RAGA, Real-world Applications of Geometry and Algebra, a two-day meeting bringing together researchers and partners from industry and society. With nearly 80 participants, the workshop saw lively interaction throughout the two days. Topics ranged from localisation and mapping, geometric machine learning and inverse lithography to image processing, computer vision, tomography, path planning, graph robustness and rigidity theory. Participants had the opportunity to interact directly with speakers from organisations including ASML, Canon, Naturalis, ESA, TNO and Sioux.

Math4NL was pleased to support RAGA 2026, together with NWO and TU/e. The meeting is a good example of what Math4NL aims to encourage: bringing mathematicians into direct contact with challenging problems originating in industry and society.



Conference photo by Jan Willem Knopper

An important new element of RAGA 2026 was the launch of two longer-term mathematical challenges. Participants formed working groups during the workshop and have now started working on these problems. The collaboration will continue remotely over the coming months, supplemented by dedicated week-long workshops at TU/e:

- The first, the Foram Modelling Challenge, is organised in collaboration with Naturalis. Foraminifera are single-celled organisms that form shells consisting of chambers arranged in characteristic patterns. The challenge is to develop simple mathematical models describing how these shells grow, together with methods for automatically comparing and analysing specimens. Since shell growth is influenced by environmental conditions, such mathematical tools can ultimately contribute to the study of past and present environments. The working group will meet in person at TU/e on 2–6 November 2026.

- The second, the Pipe Challenge, asks whether the path of an underground pipe can be reconstructed using measurements collected by a swarm of small sensors floating through it. The sensors measure distances to neighbouring sensors while travelling through the pipe; data from those retrieved at the exit must then be used to reconstruct the pipe's shape. The mathematical questions include determining when the available information is sufficient for reconstruction and developing a robust, accurate and computationally efficient method. This group will come together at TU/e on 22–26 February 2027.

The challenge groups will continue their work throughout the academic year, and their results and new ideas will be presented at RAGA 2027, which has already been announced for 27–28 May 2027 at TU/e. RAGA will once again provide a two-day meeting point for geometry and algebra, applications, and interaction between academia and industry. Those interested in contributing to the organisation of the next edition are also invited to contact the RAGA organisers.

More information:

<https://sites.google.com/view/appliedgeometryalgebra/raga/raga-2026>

4TU+.AMI Community Event brings applied mathematicians together in Groningen

On 29 June 2026, researchers from across the Netherlands gathered at the House of Connections in Groningen for the annual 4TU+.AMI Community Event. The event brings together the applied mathematics communities of Delft, Eindhoven, Groningen, Twente and Wageningen, with the aim of strengthening connections, welcoming new colleagues, exploring common research interests and stimulating new collaborations.

The day offered an excellent illustration of the breadth and relevance of applied mathematics. Jeanine Duistermaat (TU Eindhoven) opened the scientific programme with a lecture on statistical methods for dimension reduction of complex temporal multi-omics data. Cristóbal Bertoglio (University of Groningen) subsequently showed how mathematics is quite literally running through our veins: his work combines mathematical modelling, numerical methods and clinical data to develop personalised models of the cardiovascular system.



An important part of the Community Event is giving early-career researchers and newcomers an opportunity to present themselves and their work. A lively poster session was complemented by short presentations from three researchers who recently joined the 4TU+.AMI community: Sara Giarrusso (TU/e), working at the interface of mathematics, physics and chemistry; Gregor Gantner (University of Twente), working on adaptive numerical methods for partial differential equations; and Maïke Meier (University of Groningen), whose research focuses on numerical linear algebra and inverse problems.

The afternoon programme further demonstrated the variety of current applied mathematics research. Daniel Cortild (University of Oxford) presented new results on stochastic gradient descent, Silke Glas (University of Twente) discussed structure-preserving model reduction, and Henk van Waarde (University of Groningen) presented work on energy-based learning in nonlinear resistive circuits. The scientific programme concluded with Nicos Starreveld speaking about science communication and the importance of making mathematics accessible to wider audiences.

Scientific Director Stella Kapodistria also presented recent developments and activities within 4TU+.AMI. Besides supporting research collaboration, 4TU+.AMI promotes exchange in mathematics education, knowledge transfer and community building. These ambitions fit naturally within the broader goals of Math4NL: strengthening the mathematical sciences in the Netherlands and increasing their visibility and impact across science, industry and society.

The day ended with drinks and dinner in Groningen, allowing the many scientific conversations and new connections to continue in a more informal setting. Once again, the Community Event demonstrated the strength and diversity of the Dutch applied mathematics community — and the value of bringing mathematicians from different institutions and research areas together.

More info:

https://www.4tu.nl/ami/News/news/community-event-2026-report/?utm_source=chatgpt.com

Still time to register – and present your poster! Recent Advances in Industrial and Applied Mathematics

On 29 September 2026, the symposium Recent Advances in Industrial and Applied Mathematics will take place at the Jheronimus Academy of Data Science (JADS) in 's-Hertogenbosch. Registration is still open – and participants now also have the opportunity to present a poster during the symposium.

The symposium brings together researchers from academia, industry and research institutes, as well as policymakers, for a full day of inspiring lectures, industrial-academic presentations, discussion and networking. A central aim is to strengthen collaboration between mathematics and industry and to demonstrate how mathematics contributes to solving today's technological and societal challenges.

The programme features keynote lectures by Svetlana Dubinkina (VU Amsterdam) and Peter Grünwald (CWI & Leiden University), as well as four duo presentations by academic and industrial partners. A panel discussion will look ahead to the future role of mathematics, simulation and AI in engineering and industrial innovation.

New: present your work! Participants are invited to contribute to the symposium with a poster. This provides an excellent opportunity to present ongoing research, exchange ideas with colleagues from academia and industry, and make new connections within the Dutch industrial and applied mathematics community.

The symposium also serves as a stepping stone towards ICIAM 2027, the 11th International Congress on Industrial and Applied Mathematics, which will bring the international applied mathematics community to The Hague from 12–16 July 2027.

Registration closes on Monday 21 September 2026. All information can be found here: <https://www.eurandom.tue.nl/event/dutch-industrial-and-applied-mathematics-workshop/>

Still open: 4TU+.AMI Valorisation & Impact Funding

The 4TU+.AMI Valorisation & Impact Funding call is still open for small-scale, high-impact initiatives connecting mathematics with real-world challenges. Projects should involve at least one of the five 4TU+.AMI mathematics institutes together with an industrial or societal partner. A total budget of €70,000 is available, with normally up to €10,000 per project. Applications are evaluated on a rolling basis and the call remains open until the available funds are exhausted. All funds must be spent before 30 November 2026, so interested colleagues are encouraged to apply soon.

The first project has meanwhile been approved. *MCP-Health: A Model Context Protocol for Efficient and Reliable Interpretation of Longitudinal Health Data* brings together Maurits Kaptein and Marta Regis (TU/e) and Omron Healthcare Digital Health Labs. The project will develop an open-source approach for transforming large streams of physiological data, such as heart rate, blood pressure and glucose measurements, into compact, informative summaries that can be processed more reliably and efficiently by large language models. The underlying mathematical challenges involve statistical signal processing, information theory and uncertainty quantification, providing an excellent example of how applied mathematics can contribute directly to reliable AI and digital healthcare.

More information:

<https://www.4tu.nl/ami/News/news/call-for-proposals-valorisation-and-impact-funding/>

Call for Submissions: Best Thesis in Applied Mathematics Award 2026 – deadline September 20!

Math4NL and the Innovation Committee of Platform Wiskunde Nederland invite submissions for the annual Best Thesis in Applied Mathematics Award 2026.

We kindly ask colleagues at universities and universities of applied sciences to bring this opportunity to the attention of talented students and recent graduates whose work demonstrates the strength and societal relevance of applied mathematics.

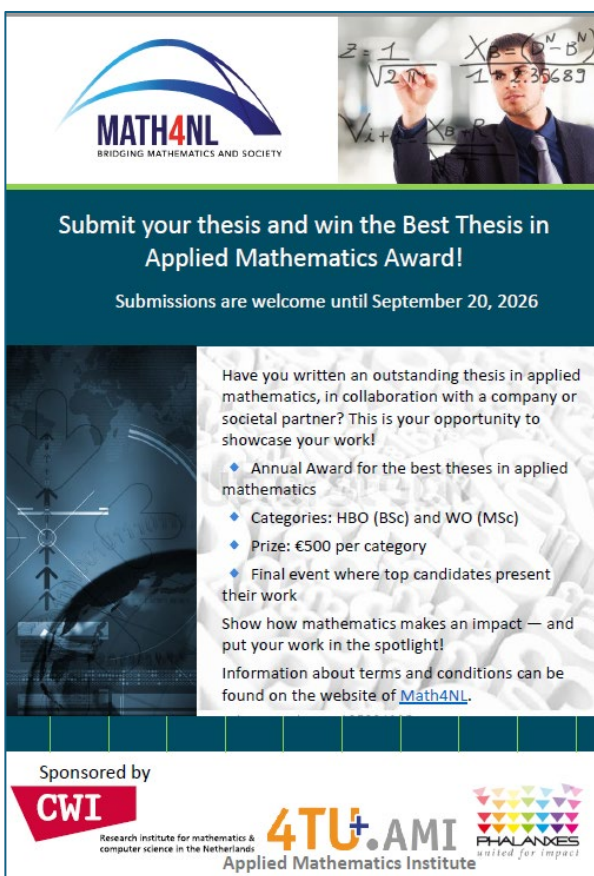
The award recognises outstanding BSc (HBO) and MSc (WO) theses in applied mathematics that were carried out in close collaboration with industry, government, healthcare, or other societal partners. The goal of the award is to highlight the crucial role that mathematics plays in addressing real-world challenges and creating impact beyond academia.

Two categories are available:

- HBO (BSc)
- WO (MSc)

For each category:

- First prize: €500
- Two runners-up prizes: €100
- Finalists will present their work during a dedicated final event in autumn 2026.



MATH4NL
BRIDGING MATHEMATICS AND SOCIETY

Submit your thesis and win the Best Thesis in Applied Mathematics Award!

Submissions are welcome until September 20, 2026

Have you written an outstanding thesis in applied mathematics, in collaboration with a company or societal partner? This is your opportunity to showcase your work!

- Annual Award for the best theses in applied mathematics
- Categories: HBO (BSc) and WO (MSc)
- Prize: €500 per category
- Final event where top candidates present their work

Show how mathematics makes an impact — and put your work in the spotlight!

Information about terms and conditions can be found on the website of [Math4NL](https://www.math4nl.nl).

Sponsored by

CWI
Research Institute for mathematics & computer science in the Netherlands

4TU+.AMI
Applied Mathematics Institute

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united for impact

Eligible theses must have been completed between 1 August 2025 and 15 September 2026. The submission deadline is **20 September 2026**. The final will take place in the afternoon of November 4 at CWI, Amsterdam.

The award is generously supported by **CWI**, **4TU+.AMI**, and **Phalanxes**.

We warmly encourage supervisors and programme directors to share this call within their departments and networks.

More information and submission details can be found on the Math4NL website.

Math4NL Community Event: Connecting Mathematics with Industry and Society Across Europe

How can we strengthen the impact of mathematics on industry and society? And what can we learn from successful initiatives elsewhere in Europe? On Thursday 3 December 2026, Math4NL will organise a special Math4NL Community Event in Amsterdam (CWI), bringing together the Dutch mathematics community with representatives of leading European initiatives that connect mathematics with industry, technology and society.

Across Europe, different and highly successful models have emerged for bringing mathematical expertise to real-world challenges. The December meeting will offer a unique opportunity to learn from these experiences, compare approaches and discuss how we can strengthen the role and visibility of mathematics — both in the Netherlands and internationally.

Among the international organisations and initiatives expected to participate are the UK Knowledge Exchange Hub for Mathematical Sciences, which has developed an ambitious national infrastructure for mathematical knowledge exchange; KoMSO from Germany, with its strong network in mathematical modelling, simulation and optimisation; MACSI at the University of Limerick in Ireland, internationally recognised for its work in industrial and applied mathematics; and representatives from SISSA/mathLab in Italy. EU-MATHS-IN, the European network for mathematics in industry, is also expected to participate.

But this will emphatically not be a meeting only for representatives of these organisations. We warmly invite mathematicians from universities and research institutes throughout the Netherlands, as well as colleagues from industry and other organisations interested in using mathematics to address technological and societal challenges.

The programme will be deliberately interactive and discussion-oriented. International and Dutch participants will share their experiences and organisational models, followed by discussions around questions such as:

- How can we connect mathematical expertise more effectively with industrial and societal needs?
- Which models lead to sustainable long-term collaboration between academia and industry?
- How can we improve the visibility and impact of mathematics?
- What can we learn from different approaches to funding, knowledge exchange, outreach and community building?
- And, perhaps most importantly, how can we work together and avoid reinventing the wheel?

The ambition goes beyond exchanging success stories. We hope to identify concrete opportunities for collaboration, both within the Netherlands and across Europe, and to explore how existing networks and expertise can reinforce one another. The meeting can therefore become an important step in the further development of Math4NL as a strong national platform embedded in a wider European ecosystem for mathematics and its applications.

Whether you already collaborate extensively with industry or society, are looking for ways to start doing so, or simply want to learn more about the possibilities, we very much hope you will join us in Amsterdam on 3 December.

Registration can be done by sending an email to bureau@platformwiskunde.nl, with “Registration Math4NL Community Event” in the subject line.

Further details about the programme, speakers, venue and timetable will follow.

Save the date: 3 December 2026 – and join us in building stronger connections between mathematics, industry and society!

European Collaborative Research Projects – meeting to be announced

In our previous newsletter, we asked whether there was interest in a Math4NL meeting on European collaborative research projects, particularly Horizon Europe projects involving mathematics, industry and other partners. We were pleased to receive considerable interest from the Dutch mathematical community.

Math4NL will therefore organise a dedicated meeting at which we will discuss relevant European funding opportunities, experiences with successful projects, and possibilities for forming new collaborations and consortia.

The date, programme and further details will be announced soon.

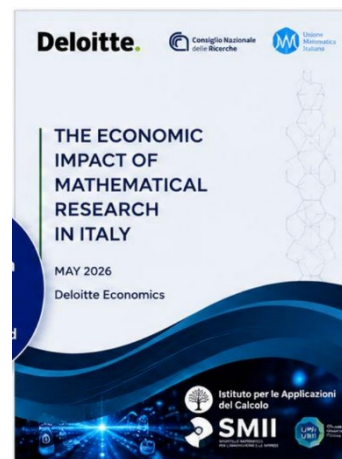
A Stronger European Voice for Mathematics: EMS External Policy Group

The European Mathematical Society (EMS) has established a new External Policy Group with the ambition of strengthening the visibility, influence and impact of mathematics in Europe. The group brings together 14 mathematicians from nine European countries, representing both pure and applied mathematics and combining scientific expertise with experience in policy and engagement. It is chaired by Wil Schilders, Director of Math4NL, while Arjen Doelman, Chair of the PWN Wiskunderaad, represents the Netherlands in the group.

The initiative reflects a growing awareness that mathematics needs a stronger voice in European discussions on science, innovation, education and competitiveness. Mathematics underpins developments ranging from artificial intelligence, quantum technology and cybersecurity to energy, climate, healthcare and advanced manufacturing, yet its crucial contribution is not always sufficiently visible to policymakers and society.

The External Policy Group has identified four main areas of activity: Mathematics & Society, Mathematics Education, Mathematics & Technology, and Policy & Funding. Among the issues to be addressed are the economic and societal impact of mathematics, declining mathematical skills across Europe, the fundamental role of mathematics in AI and other emerging technologies, Open Science and mathematical publishing, and adequate funding for mathematics at national and European level.

A first major ambition is to work towards a European report on the economic and societal impact of mathematics. National impact studies have already been carried out in several countries, including the Netherlands, the United Kingdom, France and Spain. Most recently, in May 2026, an extensive Italian study commissioned by the CNR Institute for Applied Computing and the Italian Mathematical Union and carried out by Deloitte Economics provided striking evidence of the economic importance of mathematics. It estimates that mathematical research and mathematics-intensive professions contribute €680.1 billion in value added – around 34% of Italy's total – and support 8.4 million jobs, approximately 35% of national employment. These figures illustrate just how substantial the economic footprint of mathematics can be.



Building on such national studies, the EMS group aims to collect and compare existing evidence, identify common messages and ultimately produce a European-level assessment of the value of mathematics. Such evidence could become a powerful instrument in discussions with European policymakers about research funding, mathematical education, innovation and Europe's future competitiveness.

The group also wants European mathematical organisations to speak with a stronger common voice. Cooperation with national mathematical societies and organisations such as EU-MATHS-IN, ECMI, EMS Press and zbMATH Open will therefore be important. The ultimate objective is not simply to advocate for mathematicians, but to demonstrate convincingly the value of mathematics for Europe's future and to contribute mathematical expertise to European policy discussions.

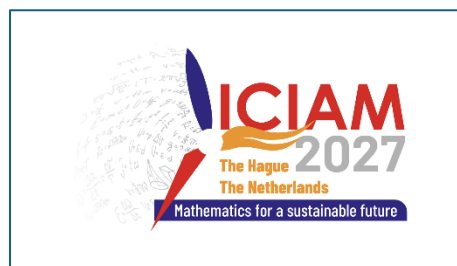
The first concrete outputs are planned for 2027, including the European impact report, a policy brief on mathematics and European competitiveness, and a position paper on mathematics and AI. The broader ambition is clear: to establish mathematics as a critical driver of Europe's scientific, technological and societal future.

Two major international mathematics congresses coming to the Netherlands in 2027 – calls now open!

The summer of 2027 will be exceptional for mathematics in the Netherlands. Within the space of three weeks, the country will host two major international conferences: ICIAM 2027 in The Hague, 12–16 July, followed by ISMP 2027 in Amsterdam, 25–30 July. Both conferences will bring leading mathematicians from around the world to the Netherlands — and the calls for contributions are now open.

ICIAM 2027 – Mathematics for a Sustainable Future

The 11th International Congress on Industrial and Applied Mathematics (ICIAM 2027) is the world's leading congress in industrial and applied mathematics and will be held for the first time in the Netherlands. Under the theme Mathematics for a Sustainable Future, it will showcase the breadth of applied mathematics and its role in science, engineering, industry and society. Special topical days will focus on Energy, Life Science & Health, High Tech Systems, Chemistry, and Water.



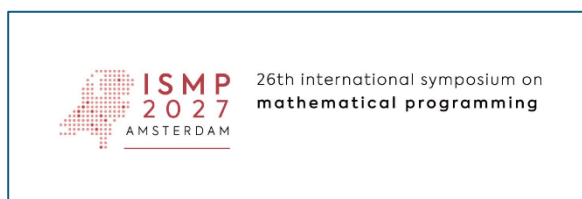
The call for contributions is now open. Proposals can be submitted for minisymposia, consisting of a coordinated set of either four or eight talks on a focused topic, and individual researchers can submit abstracts for poster presentations. The deadline for both is 7 December 2026.

With ICIAM taking place on our doorstep, this is a unique opportunity to showcase the strength and diversity of Dutch industrial and applied mathematics to the international community. Math4NL therefore strongly encourages colleagues throughout the Netherlands to start thinking now about topics for minisymposia, to bring together colleagues from different universities and research institutes — and, where appropriate, partners from industry — and to contribute actively to the scientific programme. Let us make Dutch mathematics highly visible at ICIAM 2027!

More info: https://iciam2027.org/call-for-abstracts/?utm_source=chatgpt.com

ISMP 2027 – the international meeting place for mathematical optimisation

Only nine days after ICIAM closes, the 26th International Symposium on Mathematical Programming (ISMP 2027) will begin in Amsterdam. ISMP is the flagship conference of the Mathematical Optimization Society and has, since 1951, provided an international forum for new developments in mathematical



programming. Its scope covers the full breadth of mathematical optimisation, including linear, nonlinear and convex optimisation, integer and combinatorial optimisation, global and stochastic optimisation, algorithms, applications and software.

Submissions for ISMP 2027 opened on 1 September 2026. The symposium offers the Dutch optimisation community another exceptional opportunity to present its work to an international audience and to help shape the scientific programme of a major conference taking place here in the Netherlands. We therefore warmly encourage researchers to consider contributing and to involve colleagues, young researchers and international collaborators.

More info: https://ismp2027.mathopt.nl/?utm_source=chatgpt.com

Two world-class conferences, one country, one summer: 2027 provides an extraordinary opportunity to demonstrate internationally the quality, breadth and impact of mathematics in the Netherlands. We hope that the Dutch mathematical community will be strongly represented at both ICIAM 2027 and ISMP 2027.