



Math4NL news – October 2026

Important Dates	Where	What
October 29, 2026	NWO, The Hague	PWN Strategy 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

Mathematics continues to demonstrate its essential role in scientific progress, industrial innovation and technological development. At the same time, rapid advances in artificial intelligence, new European research opportunities and growing demands for collaboration between academia and industry are creating both challenges and exciting possibilities for the mathematical community. This October edition of Math4NL News reflects these developments and highlights a range of activities aimed at strengthening the position and impact of mathematics in the Netherlands and beyond.

We look back on the successful symposium *Recent Advances in Industrial and Applied Mathematics*, held on 29 September in 's-Hertogenbosch. In particular, the lively panel discussion on engineering simulation in the age of AI underlined an important message: mathematical understanding, physical modelling and rigorous validation remain indispensable for developing reliable AI applications.

Looking ahead, several events offer opportunities for engagement. The PWN Strategy Day on 29 October will address European research and innovation opportunities and the implementation of the new Dutch Mathematics Strategy, with particular attention to strengthening connections between mathematics and professional practice. On 4 November, the finals of the Math4NL Thesis Prizes will showcase outstanding young mathematical talent, alongside discussions on AI and future career opportunities.

European collaboration is another central theme of this newsletter. We highlight forthcoming Horizon Europe funding opportunities, practical training offered by RVO, and a new PWN white paper demonstrating the contribution of mathematics to defence-related innovation.

A major highlight will be the Math4NL Community Event on 3 December in Amsterdam, bringing together leading European initiatives that connect mathematics with industry and society. The ambition goes beyond exchanging experiences: we want to identify practical ways to turn promising contacts into lasting collaborations and explore how European networks can reinforce one another.

Finally, we look ahead to an exceptional summer for mathematics in the Netherlands, with ICIAM 2027 in The Hague and ISMP 2027 in Amsterdam. Both conferences offer outstanding

opportunities to showcase Dutch mathematical research internationally, and we strongly encourage the community to contribute.

We hope this newsletter will inspire new ideas, collaborations and initiatives, and we warmly invite you to participate in the activities described in the following pages.

Mathematics Meets Industry: From Scientific Advances to Trustworthy AI

On 29 September 2026, the Jheronimus Academy of Data Science (JADS) in 's-Hertogenbosch hosted the symposium *Recent Advances in Industrial and Applied Mathematics*, jointly organised by 4TU+.AMI and Math4NL. The event brought together mathematicians, researchers and representatives from industry to explore recent scientific developments and the increasingly important role of mathematics in industrial innovation.

The scientific programme featured keynote lectures by Svetlana Dubinkina (VU Amsterdam) and Peter Grünwald (CWI and Leiden University), alongside four joint presentations by academic and industrial partners. These contributions illustrated the breadth of contemporary industrial and applied mathematics and the importance of bringing mathematical research into direct contact with real-world challenges. The presentations, poster session and informal discussions provided opportunities to exchange ideas and explore new collaborations.

Beyond the Black Box: Making AI Work for Industry



A highlight of the day was the closing panel discussion, *On the Brink of a Revolution: Engineering Simulation in the Age of AI*. The discussion addressed a fundamental question: how can artificial intelligence accelerate engineering simulation while delivering results that industry can genuinely trust?

Several important messages emerged. First, **accuracy alone is not sufficient to establish trust**. AI models may perform impressively on familiar data but become unreliable when confronted with unexpected situations.

Understanding uncertainty, recognising limitations and ensuring reliability are therefore essential. Second, the panel emphasised the importance of combining AI with mathematical modelling, physical principles and domain expertise, particularly in industrial applications where data may be scarce or expensive to obtain.

The discussion also highlighted that successful implementation requires more than a well-performing algorithm: the entire process, from data collection and model development to deployment, monitoring and human decision-making, must be considered. At the same time, participants warned against underestimating the rapidly evolving capabilities of AI. Continuous experimentation, critical assessment and openness to new developments are essential.

Perhaps the most important conclusion was the need for **stronger collaboration between mathematicians, industry and AI researchers**, translating promising ideas into concrete projects. In a world where technological developments are accelerating, rapid innovation and effective knowledge exchange may become even more important than protecting individual innovations.

The symposium demonstrated once again that mathematics is not becoming less relevant in the age of AI. On the contrary, mathematical understanding, modelling and rigorous validation are essential for turning AI's potential into reliable industrial applications.

More information: [Symposium website – Recent Advances in Industrial and Applied Mathematics](#)

Celebrating Young Mathematical Talent: Thesis Prizes, AI and Future Careers

On Wednesday 4 November 2026, Math4NL will organise the final of the Best Thesis in Applied Mathematics Award 2026 at the Centrum Wiskunde & Informatica (CWI) in Amsterdam. Six talented young mathematicians, three from universities of applied sciences (HBO) and three

from research universities (WO), will compete for the awards by presenting their graduation research. Their short pitches will demonstrate how mathematics contributes to solving real-world challenges in industry and society.

But there is much more to the afternoon! The programme also addresses two important questions for young mathematicians: *How will artificial intelligence change the way mathematicians work? And what career opportunities await after graduation?*

In his keynote lecture, “*Can We Trust AI-Generated Code? RIDGE and the Mathematics of Validation*”, Kees Oosterlee (Utrecht University) will explore the rapidly evolving capabilities of AI in mathematical research and scientific computing. While AI can generate code and propose solutions at remarkable speed, mathematical understanding and rigorous validation remain essential. Rather than making mathematicians redundant, these developments create new opportunities and make strong mathematical expertise more important than ever.

A second session, “*A Degree. What Next?!*”, brings together recent graduates who will share their experiences of starting a career in industry, continuing their studies or pursuing a PhD. This interactive discussion offers students and young researchers an opportunity to ask questions and explore their own future career paths.

The afternoon concludes with the announcement of the thesis prize winners and an informal networking reception.

We warmly invite HBO and WO students, PhD candidates, young researchers and everyone interested in applied mathematics to join us, support the six finalists and discover the exciting opportunities ahead!

Practical information:

- **Date:** Wednesday 4 November 2026, 13:30–17:30
- **Venue:** Turing Room, CWI, Amsterdam
- **Registration deadline:** 31 October 2026

Registration is required: [Register here for the Math4NL Thesis Prize Final 2026](#)

Shaping the Future of Dutch Mathematics: European Opportunities and Stronger Industry Connections

On Thursday 29 October 2026, Platform Wiskunde Nederland (PWN) will organise a strategic meeting at NWO in The Hague to discuss important developments in the Dutch and European mathematics landscape and the implementation of the new national strategy for mathematics.

Of particular interest to the Math4NL community is the first session, focusing on European research and innovation opportunities for mathematicians. The discussion will address recent

developments in *AI in Science*, as well as opportunities within current and future European funding programmes, including the next Framework Programme (FP10) and the proposed European Competitiveness Fund. Special attention will be given to strengthening the participation of mathematicians in collaborative European research projects, particularly within Pillar II of Horizon Europe, where cooperation with industry and other disciplines is essential. Practical experiences and recommendations for becoming involved in such projects will also be discussed.

The second session will focus on implementing the new Dutch Mathematics Strategy. PWN and the Wiskunderaad are developing six concrete action lines, addressing mathematics education, artificial intelligence, connections across educational sectors, interaction with



professional practice and mathematics policy. Two action lines are particularly relevant to Math4NL:

- strengthening connections between society and the different levels of education (MBO, HBO and WO),
- and breaking down barriers between mathematical research and its applications in industry and society.

Participants will be invited to contribute ideas and suggestions for turning these ambitions into concrete activities.

The meeting offers an opportunity to help shape the future of mathematics in the Netherlands, strengthen collaboration across the mathematical community and identify new possibilities for connecting mathematical expertise with European innovation and societal challenges.

Practical information: Thursday 29 October 2026, 14:00–17:30, followed by networking drinks until 18:30. Venue: NWO, Laan van Nieuw-Oost-Indië 300, The Hague. The meeting will be conducted in English.

Registration: Please confirm your attendance by **21 October 2026** via bureau@platformwiskunde.nl.

Strengthen Your Horizon Europe Proposal: Free Impact Training by RVO

Preparing a successful Horizon Europe proposal requires more than excellent scientific ideas. Applicants must also demonstrate how their research will generate meaningful scientific, technological, economic and societal impact. To help researchers and their partners meet this challenge, the Netherlands Enterprise Agency (RVO) is organising two free training sessions on developing convincing impact plans for Horizon Europe projects.



The training focuses on developing clear impact pathways and strengthening the impact section of collaborative European research proposals. It is particularly relevant for researchers who are preparing to coordinate or participate in Horizon Europe consortia, including mathematicians seeking to connect their expertise with industrial and societal challenges.

The sessions are open to participants from Dutch universities, research institutes, innovative companies and other organisations. Both sessions will take place at RVO in The Hague, will be conducted in English, and are free of charge.

Upcoming training dates:

- **25 November 2026**, 09:30–16:30
- **9 December 2026**, 09:30–16:30

Math4NL strongly encourages mathematicians interested in European collaborative projects to take advantage of this opportunity. A convincing impact plan can make an important difference in a competitive Horizon Europe application.

More information and registration:

[Horizon Europe Impact Training – 25 November 2026](#)

[Horizon Europe Impact Training – 9 December 2026](#)

New Horizon Europe Opportunities for 2027: Mathematics at the Heart of European Innovation

The European Union is preparing a new round of Horizon Europe funding opportunities for 2027, offering exciting possibilities for collaboration between mathematics, industry and other scientific disciplines. Particularly relevant is *Cluster 4: Digital, Industry and Space*, which supports research and innovation in areas where advanced mathematical methods play a fundamental role.

According to the Netherlands Enterprise Agency (RVO), approximately €705 million will be available for Cluster 4 calls in 2027. Opportunities cover a wide range of technological challenges, including digital technologies, industrial innovation and space applications. Mathematical modelling, simulation, optimisation, scientific machine learning, uncertainty quantification and digital twins are among the areas in which mathematicians can make essential contributions.

On 12 October 2026, RVO organised a free online webinar introducing the 2027 opportunities within Cluster 4. The webinar explained the forthcoming calls, how to prepare proposals, how to participate in European consortia, and what support is available through the Dutch National Contact Points.

European opportunities also extend beyond Cluster 4. The 2027 calls within *Cluster 6: Food, Bioeconomy, Natural Resources, Agriculture and Environment* offer further possibilities for mathematical contributions to challenges involving climate, biodiversity, sustainable water management and environmental systems. According to RVO, approximately €556 million is available across 50 topics in the Cluster 6 work programme for 2027.

For the Dutch mathematics community, these programmes provide excellent opportunities to strengthen international collaborations and demonstrate the value of mathematics in addressing major technological and societal challenges. Math4NL encourages researchers to explore the forthcoming calls, contact potential partners and start preparing collaborative proposals well in advance.

More information:

[RVO webinar: Horizon Europe Cluster 4 – Opportunities for 2027](#)

[RVO: Horizon Europe Cluster 4 – Digital, Industry and Space](#)

[European Commission: Horizon Europe funding opportunities](#)

Mathematics for Defence: New White Paper Highlights Dutch Expertise

Mathematics plays a crucial role in addressing many of today's defence and security challenges. To highlight this contribution, Platform Wiskunde Nederland (PWN) has published a new white paper, *Mathematics for Defence Challenges*, demonstrating how mathematical expertise available in the Netherlands can support innovation in the defence sector.

Building on the Dutch Defence Industry and Innovation Strategy 2025–2029, the white paper identifies relevant mathematical expertise in five priority areas: smart materials, sensors, quantum technology, space technology and intelligent systems. It illustrates how mathematical modelling, simulation, optimisation, statistics, control theory and artificial intelligence can contribute to technological developments in these areas.

The publication aims to strengthen connections between the mathematical research community, industry and defence organisations, while also helping research consortia identify relevant mathematical expertise for collaborative projects. Math4NL is ready to facilitate such connections, while respecting the individual ethical choices of researchers regarding participation in defence-related research.



Read the full white paper on the [Math4NL website](https://math4nl.nl). For enquiries about potential collaborations, contact info@math4nl.nl.

Math4NL Community Event 2026: Connecting Mathematics with Industry and Society Across Europe

From First Contact to Lasting Collaboration – Learning from European Success Stories. How can we build stronger and more lasting connections between mathematical research, industry and society? And what can the Netherlands learn from successful initiatives elsewhere in Europe?

On **Thursday 3 December 2026**, Math4NL will organise a special international Community Event at **CWI in Amsterdam**, bringing together representatives of leading European organisations that connect mathematics

with industrial and societal challenges, alongside researchers, industry representatives and knowledge-exchange professionals from the Netherlands.

Across Europe, different approaches have emerged for bringing mathematical expertise to real-world problems. The programme will feature presentations from MACSI (Ireland), the UK Knowledge Exchange Hub for Mathematical Sciences, KOMSO (Germany), SIMAI/SISSA (Italy), the Swiss Network for Mathematics in Industry, EU-MATHS-IN and Math4NL. These organisations represent different models, ranging from university-based research centres and national knowledge-exchange networks to European cooperation structures.

But the meeting will go well beyond presenting success stories. A central question is how to turn promising contacts into successful, long-term collaborations. How do we identify industrial challenges and connect them with the right mathematical expertise? What roles should dedicated bridge-builders play? Which organisational and funding models work best? And how can promising mathematical solutions progress from initial ideas to proof-of-concept, implementation and wider application?

The morning and early afternoon will be devoted to the experiences of the participating European organisations. The programme will then move into interactive breakout discussions, where participants will compare approaches, identify practical lessons and explore opportunities for future collaboration. The ambition is to formulate concrete recommendations for strengthening the Dutch mathematics–industry ecosystem and to identify possibilities for closer European cooperation.

Importantly, these challenges are not unique to mathematics. Researchers from other scientific disciplines, representatives of industry and government, research funders and knowledge-exchange professionals are therefore explicitly welcome. The event offers an opportunity to exchange experiences across disciplinary and national boundaries and to explore how research and practice can inspire and strengthen one another.

We warmly invite everyone interested in building stronger connections between research, industry and society to join us in Amsterdam!

Practical information

- **Date:** Thursday 3 December 2026
- **Time:** 10:00–17:00, followed by networking drinks (arrival from 09:30)
- **Venue:** Centrum Wiskunde & Informatica (CWI), Amsterdam
- **Registration:** Send an email to bureau@platformwiskunde.nl with “Registration Math4NL Community Event” in the subject line.

More information and programme: [Math4NL website](https://math4nl.nl)

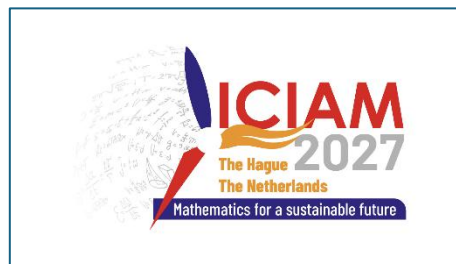


Two major international mathematics congresses coming to the Netherlands in 2027 – calls now open!

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.