



## THE WORKSHOP ON “RAISING THE PUBLIC AWARENESS OF MATHEMATICS” IN ÓBIDOS (PORTUGAL)

This year Óbidos hosted again an international workshop: “Raising the Public Awareness of Mathematics” (organizers: E. Behrends, Berlin; N. Crato, Lisbon; J.F. Rodrigues, Lisbon; see <http://c2.glocos.org/index.php/RPAM/rpam2010>).

The opening was on September 26, 2010, it took place in connection with a “mathematical afternoon” organized by the Portuguese Mathematical Society (SPM) in cooperation with the town of Óbidos. At this event mathematical films and lectures for a general public were presented.

One of these lectures was given by G.-M. Greuel, the current president of ERCOM (the EMS committee of the European Research Centres on Mathematics), the other by H. Leitão about mathematics in the Age of Discoveries.

Later, one could participate in a reception for an itinerant mathematical exhibition (“Medir o Tempo, o Mundo, o Mar”) on the use of geometry to measure the universe and help astronomical navigation, jointly organised by the SPM and the Museum of Science of the University of Lisbon. The exhibition and a reception took place at a local art gallery.

Also, at the occasion of this public awareness event, the website [www.mathematics-in-europe.eu](http://www.mathematics-in-europe.eu) of

the EMS was “officially” launched. And the fact that many members of the EMS/RPA committee were present in Óbidos was used to discuss in a separate meeting the next steps in connection with the realization of this website.

“Raising the Public Awareness of Mathematics” was a joint initiative of CIM (Centro Internacional de Matemática, Portugal) and the rpa (“raising public awareness”) committee of the EMS. About 40 participants from Europe and the USA attended this workshop. In more than 30 lectures information concerning various rpa activities was presented. Four aspects were of particular importance:

1. National experiences
2. Exhibitions / Mathematical Museums
3. Popularization activities
4. Popularization: why and how?

A number of talks was of a more “fundamental” character. It should be noted that the results of this workshop will be published as a book: “Raising Public Awareness of Mathematics” (Springer, 2011). Everyone who wants to realize rpa projects in the future is invited to profit from the experience of the experts who met in Óbidos.