

PRESENT AND FUTURE ROLES OF ONLINE MATH COMPETITIONS IN THE EDUCATION OF TWENTY-FIRST CENTURY YOUNG STUDENTS

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With this panel, we intend to exchange ideas and hear the perspectives of several people who, in different ways and at some stage, have been connected to the web-based mathematical competitions Sub12 and Sub14, held by the Department of Mathematics, of the Faculty of Sciences and Technology of the University of Algarve.

We invite to bring in his/her own personal perspective: a former participant in the competitions because it will allow us to appreciate what such experience meant to his learning of mathematics and the importance it had in his academic and personal life; the mother of a former participant who has followed, for several years, the involvement of his son in the competitions and was beside him at the Finals, in order to knowing her vision with respect to parental involvement in these competitions, comprising the inclusiveness and educational purposes they embrace; a mathematics schoolteacher, who has supported several of her students throughout the various editions of the competitions, inside and outside the classroom, to hear her testimony on the advantages taken from their participation for mathematics learning and how she sees the role of the school in face of those and other beyond-school activities.

As an introductory topic, we will offer a possible characterization of the young participants in the competitions, which was based on the results of the implementation of an online survey in 2012, in all schools of the Algarve, targeting students from 5th to 8th grades, whether or not participating in these competitions.

Our challenge is to provide a multiple glance over the role of web-based mathematical competitions on the mathematics education of 21st century children and consider future developments of this kind of projects.

Invited Members of the Panel:

Ana Cristina Bacalhau Coelho, mother of a former participant in the competitions.

Bruno Pedrosa, former participant in the competitions, currently graduate student of Medicine.

Dora Nunes, Mathematics Teacher at the Group of Schools Padre João Coelho Cabanita, Loulé, Algarve.

Eugénia Castela, collaborator of the Problem@Web Project, Faculty of Economy, University of Algarve and CIEO.