

The annual Math Job Fair in Paris, an annual big success

The 13th December 2017 took place in Paris, in the City of Science and Industry Museum, the 7th version of the *Forum Emploi Maths* (FEM), the French Math Job Fair. More than 1900 people registered this year to participate in this whole day event where companies and academic employers have stands, and where plenty of students come from all over France to get information about employment and jobs, mainly in the industry, but also in the academic world.



The poster (© M.J. Esteban)

The FEM is organized since 2012 by [AMIES](#), the Agency for the relations of Mathematics with Enterprises and the Society, the [SFdS](#), the French Statistical Society, and the [SMAI](#), the French Society for Applied and Industrial Mathematics. Other partners are the [FSMP](#) et [FMJH](#) foundations, the [Institut H. Poincaré](#) and the learned societies [SMF](#) et [ROADEF](#).

(for more details see <https://www.forum-emploi-maths.org/>)

Over the years the number of participants has increased in a continuous manner, and this has forced the organizers to change place several times, because more space was needed to host so many stands and activities. Since last year the *Cité de la Science et de l'Industrie* Museum has hosted the event, a large and convenient space over several floors being available there.



Looking at the program (© Camille Cier)



General view (© M.J. Esteban)

This year more than 1900 registered for the event, and there were 42 industrial stands and 41 academic ones.



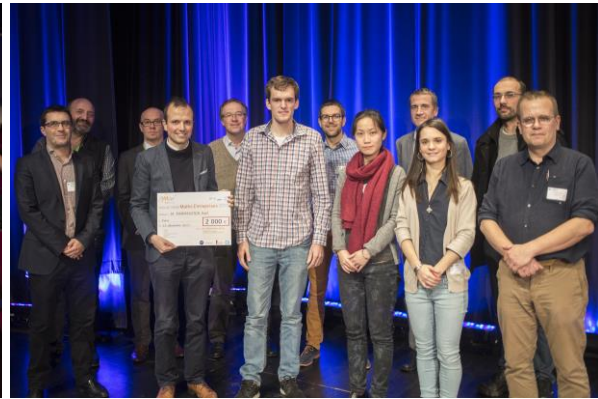
The « Paris ICM 2022 » Bid announced on the big screens, over the stands (© M.J. Esteban)

At FEM the students are given not only the opportunity of meeting possible future employers, but there is also a number of activities, talks, presentations, etc., that can help them make choices or better understand how to find a good job of their taste. This year a number of technical talks were given, and three round tables were organized, one about "Mathematics, Bank and insurance", another one about "Mathematics and digital science" and the final one about "Mathematics, key to innovation". The latter was coordinated by Christoph Sorger, former director of Mathematics at CNRS and its participants were Olivier Bousquet, Head of Machine Learning Research, Google research Europe, Maria J. Esteban, president of ICIAM and Axelle Lemaire, former deputy minister in charge of digital affairs.

The day ended with the AMIES thesis prizes' award ceremony. A very beautiful and interesting day, not only designed for students, but also for companies and academic departments and schools offering attractive master programs. For them also the day was interesting, since they could meet potential students and workers in their companies.



Two of the round tables that took place during the FEM (© Camille Cier)



Young people enjoying a presentation (© C. Cier)

After the thesis prizes award ceremony (© C. Cier)

The day started with a video address by the Deputy Minister in charge of digital affairs, M. Mounir Majhoubi. Several officials visited the FEM, among them, Thierry Coulhon, Advisor for High Education, Research and Innovation of the President of the Republic Emmanuel Macron.



Address of Mr. Mounir Mahjoubi (© Camille Cier)



The organizers, some VIP visitors and the participants in the last round table (© Camille Cier)

The program is not the same every year, and some times there has also been very interesting presentations about how to prepare a CV when a PhD holder goes to a job interview, or how to behave during the interview itself or to take care of oneself's online reputation. All extremely practical and well thought, this being done by very experienced companies dedicated to manage the career of PhD holders.

The FEM initiative has encountered an incredible success that few people foresaw. Nobody could believe that the FEM would become the Math event most attended in France. Other European countries have tried to imitate this French initiative without much success. It is not easy to organize a successful Math Job Fair indeed. First one has to manage to convince enough companies to come, and pay to have a stand, and more importantly, send several people who will spend the whole day meeting students, explaining their business, and spotting possible good recruits. Also one has to invest lots of time and energy making the event known among students. In France this has been done through a very well-organized network of master programs and math departments which publicize the event and sponsor the participation of their students in the FEM. But a very dedicated team of mathematicians set-up by the three organizers and their staff, especially that of AMIES, is the real key of FEM's success.