



Encontro Nacional da SPM 2022

by **Mário Bessa***

By the beginning of the XIV Century, grounded on heresy accusations, the Templars were extinguished, only to be brought to life some years later in Tomar, the so called *last city of the templars*. Exactly, seven centuries after that, the face to face national meetings of the *Portuguese Mathematical Society* (SPM) were resumed, after the cancellation of the 2020 event courtesy of COVID, but brought to life in 2021 as the online event whose impact and quality could be witnessed by the 700+ participants. The Direction of the SPM in the term 20-22 had the goal of promoting the National Meetings of SPM as a major forum to gather the top experts on research, education, outreach and history, and for that many world class scientists from Portugal as well as foreigners were invited to deliver plenary talks or parallel sessions.

From July 18 to 20, 2022 Tomar, with the high patronage of the President of the Republic of Portugal and a panel of speakers of enormous quality that included 8 ERC (European Research Council grant) recipients, was the stage for a meeting organized around SPM's main pillars: research, teaching, history and outreach. It was three days of intense work, learning and discussion of ideas in the pleasant Tomar's summer; a city that knows how to welcome and a local organization by the *Polytechnic Institute of Tomar* for whom the highest compliments will always be scarce. There were 250 participants spread all over 132 lectures in parallel sessions with a panel of speakers that covered most of the areas and aspects of mathematics. To organize this event it was necessary an impressive mobilisation of the Portuguese mathemati-

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cal community, from all corners of Portugal. There was a magnificent talk open to the entire city and to all audiences by Rogério Martins, the main character of the internationally awarded program *Isto é Matemática* on SIC notícias. At the end, the enormous value of the Portuguese mathematician Afonso Bandeira of the Swiss ETH Zurich was justly acknowledged with the *António Aniceto Monteiro Prize*, a prize that was awarded for the first time in this event and had an international jury of unquestionable reputation, and the sponsorship of SPM-UNILABS. A final word of thanks to all the entities that sponsored the meeting, including many research centers and the CIM, and to the countless mathematicians and staff that worked very hard to make the event possible.