



# Summer JIM Days

7–11 July 2025

by **Carla Rizzo\***

The Summer Jovens Investigadores em Matemática Days (Summer JIM Days) were held at the Department of Mathematics of the University of Coimbra from 7 to 11 July 2025. The event was jointly organized by the Centre for Mathematics of the University of Coimbra (CMUC), the Centre for Mathematical Studies of the University of Lisbon (CEMS.UL), the Mathematics Center of the University of Porto (CMUP), the Centre for Research and Development in Mathematics and Applications of the University of Aveiro (CIDMA), and the Research Centre in Mathematics and Applications of the University of Évora (CIMA).

The event brought together a total of 74 participants, including early-career researchers (within 10 years of

the PhD), PhD students, and master's students from a wide range of institutions. Designed as a vibrant platform for scientific exchange and community building, the Summer JIM Days were founded on the belief that scientific progress thrives through effective communication, meaningful connections, and dynamic networking. These guiding principles shaped both the scientific and social components of the programme.

The scientific programme was comprehensive and balanced, combining advanced lectures with opportunities for active participation and included a total of 20 invited speakers. It comprised 2 minicourses, 5 plenary lectures, 21 contributed talks of 25 minutes each distributed across thematic parallel sessions in algebra, analy-

\* Centro de Matemática da Universidade de Coimbra



sis, geometry, mathematical physics, and applied mathematics, a poster session featuring seven contributions, and 5 short presentations in a five-minute lightning-talk format.

Complementing the lecture-based programme, the conference also included a panel discussion on career opportunities for mathematicians, featuring researchers from diverse professional contexts who addressed topics such as transitions between academic and non-academic sectors, strategies for developing competitive applications, and considerations regarding work–life balance.

Furthermore, three thematic roundtables were organized to encourage open dialogue on issues of particular relevance to early-career researchers. These focused respectively on Women in Mathematics, exploring equity, diversity, and the creation of inclusive academic environments; Science Communication, reflecting on the role of communication in enhancing the visibility and societal impact of mathematical research; and Mental Health in Academic Careers, promoting awareness, destigmatization, and the development of supportive academic cultures. These interactive sessions fostered a constructive exchange of experiences and perspectives, complementing the more formal components of the programme.

A structured social programme was integrated into the event to reinforce its community-building aims and

to allow participants to continue scientific discussions in an informal setting. Activities included a speed-networking session enabling participants to meet fellow young mathematicians efficiently and expand their professional networks, a board-games evening providing a relaxed environment for informal connection, a guided tour of Coimbra highlighting the historical and cultural richness of the city, and a social gathering at Parque Verde, which offered space for informal conversations and friendly sporting activities.

The Summer JIM Days received financial support from the research centres CMUC, CEMS.UL, CMUP, and CIDMA, as well as from FCT (Fundação para a Ciência e a Tecnologia) and CIM (Centro Internacional de Matemática). Support from CIM was particularly significant in expanding the conference's opportunities for networking and collaboration by funding the social activities. This contribution also ensured the event's full accessibility, as no registration fees were charged, thereby enabling broad participation in all activities.

Feedback collected through evaluation forms sent after the event indicated a very high level of participant satisfaction, with an overall average score of 4.75 out of 5. This evaluation highlights the strong scientific quality of the programme, the relevance of the thematic discussions, and the effectiveness of the event in fostering an inclusive and stimulating research environment.