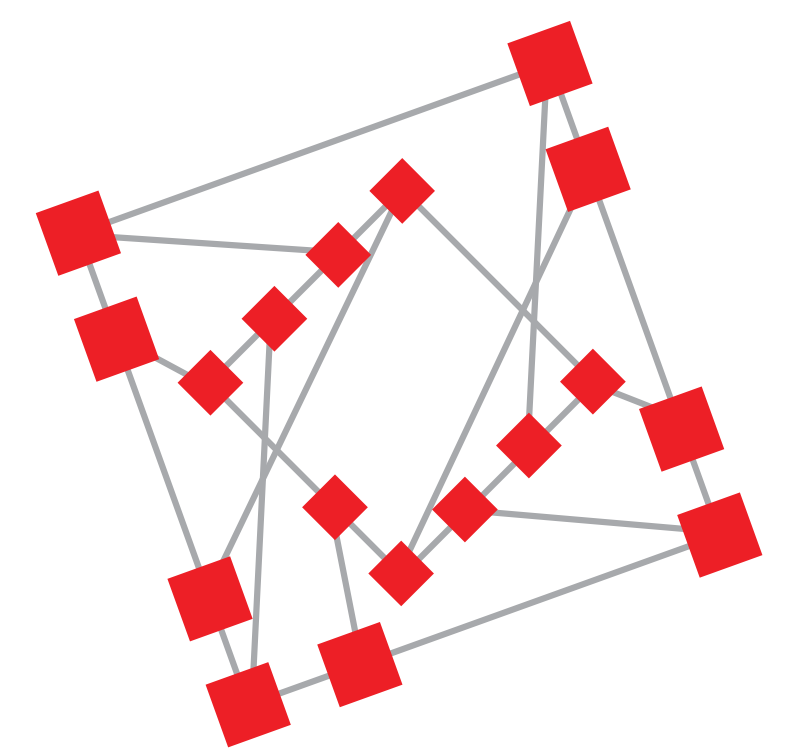


Activities on popularization of Mathematics among school students in Croatia

Croatian Mathematical Society (www.matematika.hr, hmd@math.hr)



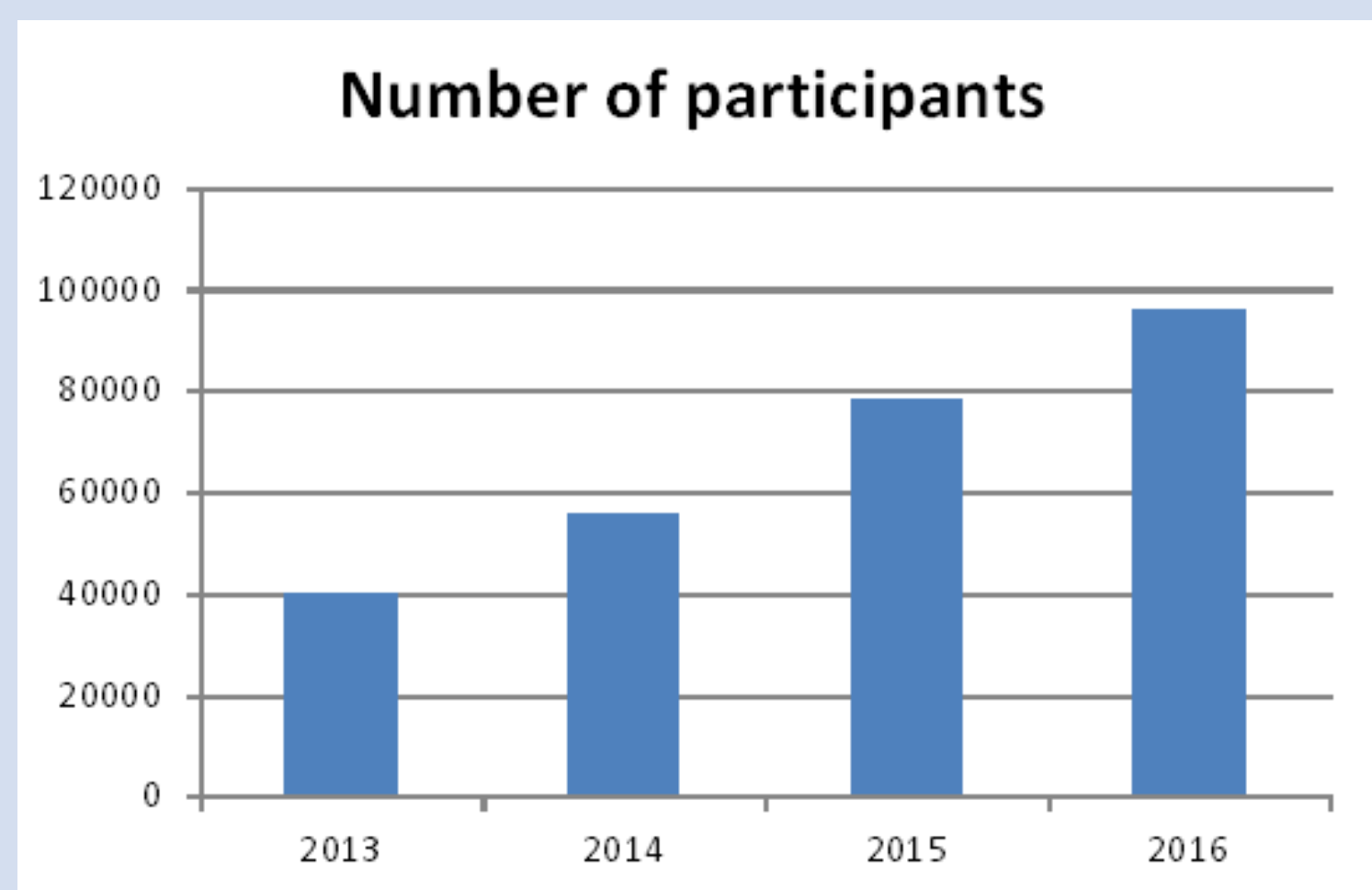
Introduction

Activities on popularization of mathematics among school students in Croatia are done in many different ways. Most of such activities are organized by the Croatian Mathematical Society but some other associations and local societies also significantly participate in it.

Mathematics evening

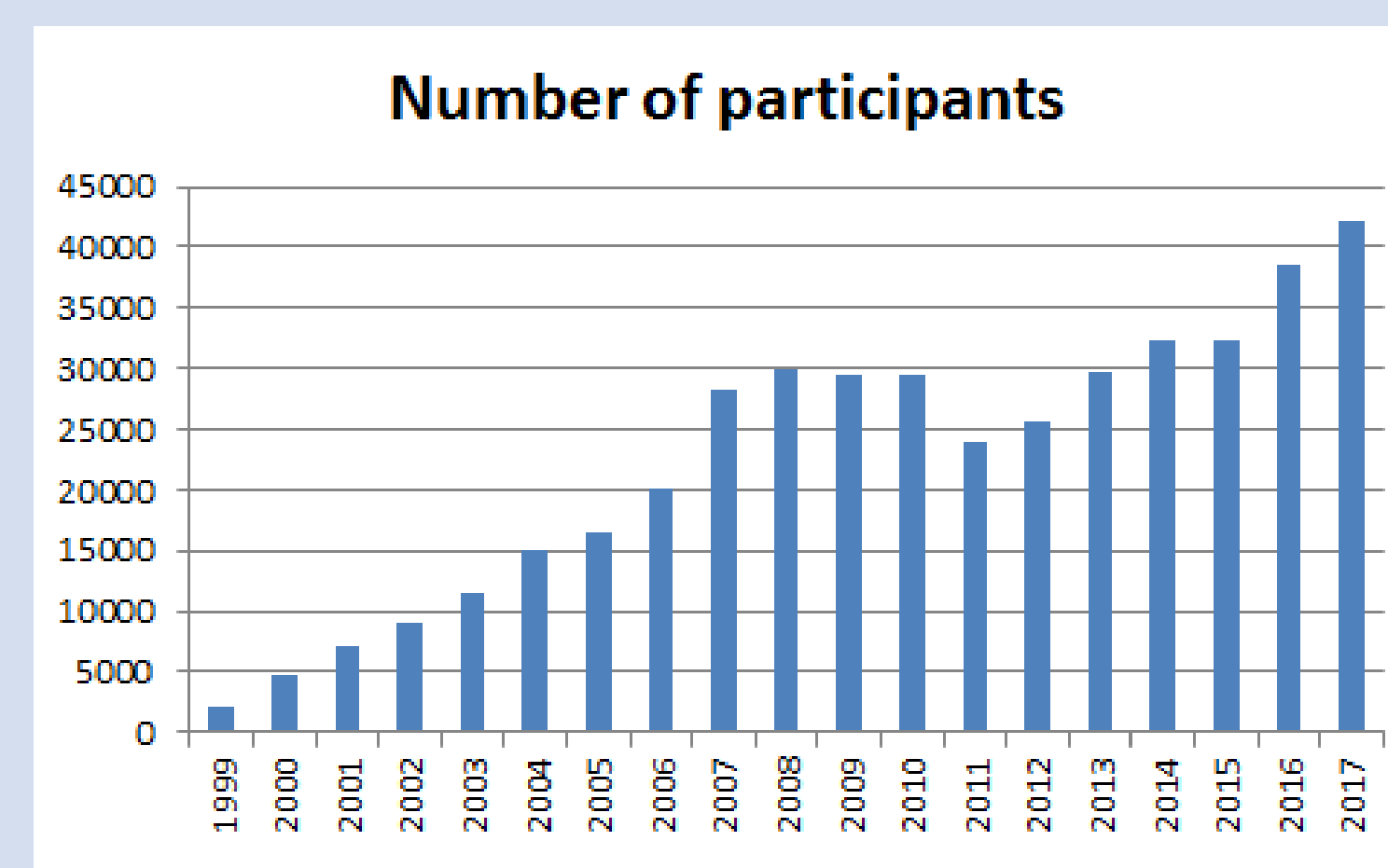
Mathematics evening is a series of interactive workshops organized in schools which help promote a positive attitude towards mathematics. Parents' participation is also encouraged.

This project is focused on modelling everyday problems as well as on the fun part of mathematics. Major events are happening on the same day (at the beginning of December) in the whole country. The materials for this event are prepared in advance and given to the schools participating in it. The project started in 2013 and the number of participants is growing year by year.



Mathematical Kangaroo

Mathematical Kangaroo is an annual mathematical competition with more than 50 participating countries. There are seven levels of participation. Competition is focused on popularization of mathematics and the key competence tested is logical reasoning.



Association *Marin Getaldić*

Association *Young gifted mathematicians Marin Getaldić* (www.mmm.hr) is an organization formed in 2008 by former competitors and math students.

They play very important role in promoting mathematics among school students, and are organizing various activities: workshops for school students in Zagreb, visits to schools from different towns in Croatia, publishing teaching materials on their website, introducing their own database of collected and sorted mathematical problems, introducing and organizing the European Mathematical Cup for high school students since 2012, conducting the Tournament of Towns competition in Zagreb, organizing mathematical camps in summer and winter, etc.

National competitions

Mathematical competitions in Croatia have existed since 1959, and are organized for students from 4th to 12th grade (different problems for each grade). Secondary school students (9th–12th grade) are divided into two categories: category A (mathematical grammar schools) and category B (all others).

There are three rounds of competition: City, County and National (except for the 4th grade). In the previous years, approximately 17500 participants in the City round, 3200 participants in the County round and 180 participants in the National round participated.

After the National competition, the top 20–30 students from category A are invited to the Croatian Mathematical Olympiad, a three-round competition for selecting teams for international competitions.

Winter and summer activities

Association *Marin Getaldić* has been organizing winter schools (for approximately 50 students) since 2014, and summer camps (for approximately 100 students) since 2010. These camps last one week and they take place in some smaller towns.



Centres for gifted students

Besides many activities in the capital city of Zagreb, important efforts are being undertaken in other cities. The first centre for gifted school students was organized in 2008 in the city of Varaždin. Their students, and the students from the surrounding area progressed significantly. Such centres are now organized in Zadar, Split and other cities as well.

Math festivals

Team competitions called *Math festivals* focused on popularization of mathematics have become very popular. The most popular has been organized in the city of Pula annually since 2006, with more than 700 school students from the whole country participating. Similar events are now organized in Split, Varaždin and other cities.

International competitions

Croatian high school students participate at the International Mathematical Olympiad (IMO), Middle European Mathematical Olympiad (MEMO), Romanian Master of Mathematics (RMM) and the Mediterranean Youth Mathematical Championship (MYMC).

School activities

Projects for gifted students (XVth gymnasium, Zagreb), mathematical summer school on specific topics (Vth gymnasium, Zagreb), workshops, team competitions and other events are organized by various schools in Croatia.

Workshops/training

Workshops for the top 50–60 participants in the National competition are organized every year in December and June by the Croatian Mathematical Society. This incorporates training for national teams participating in international competitions. A three-week training camp is organized for IMO and MEMO competitors.

Publications

Several mathematical journals for school students are published. *Matematičko-fizički list* is the oldest one (it has been published since 1950). It is intended for secondary school students as well as the electronic journal *Math.e*. Journal *Matka* is mostly intended for primary school students and it has been published since 1992.

