The UK launch of the European project *Mathematics in the Making (MiMa)* was hosted by the Mathematics Education Centre at Sheffield Hallam University on 8th October. The Right Worshipful the Lord Mayor of Sheffield (Councillor Peter Rippon) welcomed partners from European universities and organisations in Italy, Germany, Portugal and Hungary together with key stakeholders from organisations supporting mathematics education in England. The launch was attended by teachers from Sheffield schools interested in participating in the project.

The project founder, Professor Emanuela Ughi from University of Perugia, told the audience how she was inspired to start the project. She is both a carpenter and a mathematician and knows how important practical activities are in supporting children in developing their understanding of mathematics. The spirit of the project was evident as participants worked together under the guidance of Professor Albrecht Beutelspacher to transform a single sheet of A4 paper into a pyramid using only folding. The *MiMa* project has developed ten activities for children age 8 – 10, two from each partner country. These activities include making a model of the solar system, exploring the mathematics of a football and devising a mathematics trail in the community. For Professor Hilary Povey from Sheffield Hallam University, one aim of the practical activities was to slow things down in a helpful way to give children time and space to reflect on their mathematics and deepen their understanding. At a UK stakeholders meeting, there was agreement that the project could form a valuable role in helping teachers to implement the new primary mathematics curriculum in England.
This UK launch was just one event in busy week for the MiMa partners as they worked together in Sheffield to finalise the activities, discuss the teacher preparation materials and make short films to support teachers working with the activities. The possibility of developing links between children in participating countries adds a further dimension to this exciting European collaboration.

MiMa project work will be showcased through national exhibitions in the summer of 2015 when children will display and explain their work to the public, encouraging them to engage with the mathematical activities.

To find out more or to express an interest in participating please contact Dr Gill Adams at Sheffield Hallam University (G.Adams@shu.ac.uk).