Research into the history of teaching and learning mathematics received considerable impact from the 1970s. Highlights on this way were the Topic Study Group entitled The History of Learning and Teaching Mathematics, that continued at ICME-11 in Monterrey (2008). Moreover, The International Journal for the History of Mathematics Education was launched in 2006. Two events, in particular, have shown the impact on this field of research in the community of mathematicians, mathematics educators, and historians: the Symposia organized for celebrating the Centenary of the journal L’Enseignement Mathématique (Geneva, 2000) and ICMI (International Commission on Mathematical Instruction, Rome, 2008).

These premises formed the basis for conceiving the idea of a conference presenting on-going research. “On-going Research in the History of Mathematics Education” held from June 21-24, 2009, at Fjölbrautaskólinn í Garðabæ (Garðabær College) in Garðabær, a town close to Reykjavík, the capital of Iceland. It was the first time that an international conference was exclusively devoted to this subject.

The various contributions answered the conference’s aim of learning what is going on in this field by digging in their historical sites of specific competence. The papers deal with the following issues: Reflections on methodology; interdisciplinarity and contexts of mathematics teaching; the internationalization of education with particular reference to ICMI; teaching of geometry; the movement of modern mathematics; movements in the development of mathematics education in specific countries; transmission to another country; teaching practice.