Twenty times IWMS: A short history

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We briefly describe the development of the International Workshop on Matrices and Statistics (IWMS) series. The first IWMS was held in Tampere, Finland, 6-8 August 1990, and the 20th IWMS is being held in Tartu, Estonia, 26 June – 1 July 2011. An illustrated summary of the talk is presented in the end of this Abstract volume.