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Community*. Preliminary report.

Mathematics as a discipline prides itself on the international character of its research. Reference works frequently ask contributors to identify the subjects of biographical articles by a single adjective specifying 'nationality'. Such adjectives often seem to misrepresent the mathematical culture of the individual in question. One can ask whether in such cases the identifiers are not unhelpful and better omitted. Questions about the nationality of mathematicians born in Central and Eastern Europe late in the 19th and early in the 20th century serve as test cases for the usefulness of the quest for nationality. (Received June 23, 2008)