

# Preface

This volume contains revised versions of selected papers presented at the seventh biannual meeting of the Classification and Data Analysis Group (CLADAG) of the Italian Statistical Society, organized by the Faculty of Economics at the University of Catania in September 2009.

The conference encompassed 150 presentations organized in 3 plenary talks and 42 sessions. Moreover, one tutorial on mixture modeling took place before the meeting. With 225 attendees from 11 countries, the conference provided an attractive interdisciplinary international forum for discussion and mutual exchange of knowledge. The topics of all plenary and specialized sessions were chosen to fit the mission of CLADAG which is to promote methodological, computational and applied research within the fields of Classification, Data Analysis and Multivariate Statistics.

The chapters in this volume were selected in a second peer review process after the conference. In addition to the fundamental areas of clustering and discrimination, multidimensional data analysis and data mining, the volume contains some chapters concerning data analysis and statistical modeling in areas like evaluation, economics, finance, environmental and medical sciences, industry and services.

We would like to express our gratitude to the members of the Scientific Program committee for their ability to attract interesting contributions. We wish also thank the session organizers for inviting speakers, the chairpersons and discussants of the sessions for their stimulating comments and suggestions. We are very grateful to the referees for their careful reviews of the submitted papers and for the time spent in this professional activity. We gratefully acknowledge the Faculty of Economics of the University of Catania and the Department of Economics and Quantitative Methods, the Department of Economics and Territory, the Department of Sociology and Social Sciences, and the Faculty of Political Sciences for financial support. We are also indebted to SAS, CEUR Foundation and the Foundation for Subsidiarity for their support. A special thank is due to the Local Organizing Committee for this well-organized conference.

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