

Preface

The Association of Geographic Information Laboratories for Europe (AGILE) was established in 1998 to promote academic teaching and research on GIS at the European level. Since then, the annual AGILE conference has gradually become the leading GIScience conference in Europe. It provides a multidisciplinary forum for scientific knowledge production and dissemination. From that perspective, it can be regarded as a full successor of the preceding EGIS (European Conference on Geographical Information Systems) and JECC (Joint European Conferences and Collaboration) conferences, which dominated the European GI-conference scene during the nineties.

For the sixth consecutive year, the AGILE conference promoted the edition of a book with the collection of scientific contributions that were submitted as full papers. Those papers went through a competitive review process. The 15th AGILE conference call for full papers of original and unpublished fundamental scientific research resulted in 46 submissions, of which 24 were accepted for publication in this volume after a thorough selection and review process.

The papers submitted to the Program Committee can be considered to contribute to GIScience developments and to the success of the 15th AGILE conference which takes place in Avignon, France, under the title 'Bridging the Geographic Information Sciences'. As the bridges of Avignon and the Gard which have crossed the History, as the painter Van Gogh who travelled from the Netherlands to South of France, this year's conference emphasizes that geoinformation science, geomatics and spatial analysis are sciences where different disciplines, epistemologies and scientific cultures meet. We think that the papers included in this volume nicely reflect these different fields, and we hope and are convinced that this will stimulate scientific discussions during the conference.

Indeed, the scientific papers published in this volume cover a wide diversity of GIScience related themes, including: Spatio-temporal Data Modeling and Visualisation; Spatial Data Infrastructures; Geo Web Services and Geo Semantic Web; Modelling and Management of Uncertainty; Spatio-temporal Data Quality and Metadata; Mobility of Persons, Objects and Systems, Transports and Flows; Spatial Analysis, Geostatistics, and

Geo Information Retrieval; Modelling and Spatial Analysis of Urban Dynamics, Urban GIS; GIS and Spatial Analysis for Global Change Modelling, Impact on Space; and Geographic Information Science: links with other disciplines and citizens.

Organizing the program of an international conference and editing a volume of scientific papers requires time, effort and support. It would not have been possible without the contributions of many individuals and organizations. We would like to thank the authors for their high-quality contributions, which are invaluable for an edited volume. Moreover, we would like to thank the reviewers for their difficult tasks to evaluate the proposals and select those contributions that are really worthwhile for inclusion in this book. The double-blind review process, by demanding at least 3 reviewers per submission, ensures high scientific quality of the selected papers. In addition, we would like to thank the AGILE Council and members for their active support in making this volume a valuable publication in the field of Geoinformation Sciences and this conference a successful event. Many thanks also to Jagannath Aryal and Julio Rojas-Mora who spent a long time to check the English quality and verify the Springer format of the articles.

We would also like to thank several partners for their kind contribution to this conference:

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- Springer Publishers for their willingness – already for the sixth time – to publish these contributions in their academic series Springer Lecture Notes in Geoinformation and Cartography;
- Softconf (<http://www.softconf.com>) for their useful START server to manage the review process and the relationship between committees and authors and their very efficient post-sales service responsiveness.

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