

Preface

Europe has a rich and long history in cartography. Many important improvements in mapping and cartography have been proposed and performed by cartographers and researchers of that region. The long and outstanding history has led to a lively and vivid presence. In recent years we have seen many innovative methods, technologies and applications being developed to depict, communicate, and analyze the earth and its natural and social aspects.

In response to these rapid advances, the first ICA European Symposium on Cartography (EuroCarto 2015) was organized in Vienna (Austria) in November 2015. It aimed to bring together cartographers, GI scientists, and those working in related disciplines to exchange and discuss contemporary developments, research, and results in modern cartography. EuroCarto 2015 was endorsed by the International Cartographic Association (ICA), the Austrian Cartographic Commission of the Austrian Geographic Society, and UN-GGIM: Europe (the regional committee of the global United Nations activities on Geoinformation Management). The event was organized by the Research Group Cartography of Technische Universität Wien (TU Wien). In total, more than 200 scientists from 32 countries participated in the conference.

The symposium featured a keynote from the current ICA president Prof. Menno-Jan Kraak, 77 oral presentations and 29 poster presentations, covering all major aspects of modern cartography. A selection of fully reviewed papers is included in this book and in a special issue of the *International Journal of Cartography*, and is meant as a mirror of the wide range of activities in the realm of modern cartography in Europe. These contributions reflect especially the contemporary areas of interest in cartography including cartographic modeling and design, spatial analysis and geovisual analytics, cartographic technologies, cartographic heritage and education, as well as application development.

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