

Preface

Welcome to the proceedings of ISCRAM-MED 2016, which was held at Universidad Carlos III of Madrid. The conference chairs along with a huge group of devoted and hard-working colleagues, including the program chairs, the Steering Committee members, the Program Committee members, and of course the local organizers, put all their effort to make this third edition a successful event for ideas sharing and networking.

Information systems and technologies can play a key role in crisis management to support preparation, response, mitigation, and recovery processes. Many different technologies can be used to improve decision making and taking, from intelligent systems to social and ubiquitous computing, GIS, games and gamification, and virtual and augmented reality. However, solutions have to be envisaged as sociotechnical systems where the human capabilities, expectations, and goals, both individual and collective, have to be taken into account. Technology is not enough to guarantee a better management process and, therefore, the International Conference on Information Systems for Crisis Response and Management in Mediterranean Countries focuses not only on engineering technologies but also on their application and on the reflective practice from which we can learn how to successfully integrate these technologies in real crisis.

After two editions celebrated in Toulouse (France) in 2014 and Tunis (Tunisia) in 2015, the third event took place in Madrid during October 26–28, 2016, organized by the Interactive Systems Group –DEI Lab of Universidad Carlos III de Madrid (dei.inf.uc3m.es). This conference is an ISCRAM (iscram.org) event organized in Mediterranean countries, alternating between the north and the south of the Mediterranean Sea. In recent years, many crises have taken place around the Mediterranean Sea and there are some common threats in the area that are worth being analyzed in a global way at a Mediterranean level rather than as isolated phenomena. In addition, our shared roots and history as well as common geopolitical issues led to solidarity among people and cross-country interventions. In this context, the conference becomes the perfect forum to exchange and share information and knowledge about these crises, since it provides an opportunity to address and discuss new trends and challenges among academic researchers, practitioners, and policy makers.

In this edition, we received contributions from Algeria, Australia, Austria, Cyprus, France, Germany, Greece, Ireland, Italy, Lebanon, Morocco, Poland, Spain, Sweden, Tunisia, and the UK. Thanks to our program chairs, Ignacio Aedo and Giuliana Vitiello, and the 37 members of the international Program Committee who took care of the peer-review process, we were able to collect three reviews for full papers and at least two for shorter contributions. At the end of this strict review process, 30 papers were accepted in different categories with an acceptance rate of 33.3 % for full papers. Accepted papers, short paper, posters, and demos cover a wide range of cases illustrating the use of technologies like visualization, gamification, sentiment analysis,

mobile computing, crowdsourcing and collective computation, security, social networks, or simulation and modeling. These contributions deal with different aspects of crisis management, including sense making, decision taking, coordination, civic engagement and participation, preparation, and response. The variety of topics and perspectives made the conference program richer and more attractive not only for the academic researchers but also for practitioners.

We also had two outstanding invited speakers representing both academia and other organizations to broaden our perspectives on crisis management. On the one hand, Dr. Anxo Sánchez from the Interdisciplinary Group in Complex Systems (GISC, www.gisc.es) talked about how to derive knowledge about social interaction and human behavior, a topic that could inspire our works on citizen participation or inter- and intra-agency coordination among others. On the other hand, Mr. Nuno Nunes from the International Organization for Migration talked about the role of this organization in Mediterranean crisis and the use of IOM's Displacement Tracking Matrix (DTM), a system to track and monitor displacement and population mobility.

We would like to thank again all the organizers, chairs, reviewers, invited speakers, our sponsor Universidad Carlos III of Madrid, and the participants who made this event possible.

Enjoy this book that collects the contributions of this year as we enjoyed preparing it and spread the word among other communities and researchers to make this community even stronger. Improving our capacity to react and recover from crisis is a common effort in which we can all contribute and there are still many areas and open issues to explore. Let's start working together for ISCRAM-MED 2017!

September 2016

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Information Systems for Crisis Response and
Management in Mediterranean Countries
Third International Conference, ISCRAM-med 2016,
Madrid, Spain, October 26-28, 2016, Proceedings
Díaz, P.; Bellamine Ben Saoud, N.; Dugdale, J.; Hanachi,
C. (Eds.)
2016, XIX, 243 p. 83 illus., Softcover
ISBN: 978-3-319-47092-4