

Preface

We live in an interconnected world where increasing flows of goods, information and individuals strengthen the links among companies and nations at an unprecedented pace. This scenario is reinforced by the rising prosperity and participation of emerging economies, and by the dissemination of digital technologies. Aiming at an effective participation in today's interconnected production contexts requires the development of specific knowledge that can inform managerial practice for taking full advantage of the existing opportunities.

This volume presents the best papers from the ICIEOM-CIO-IIIE 2015, “XXI International Conference on Industrial Engineering and Operations Management”, “9th International Conference on Industrial Engineering and Industrial Management” (XIX Congreso de Ingeniería de Organización) and “International IIE Conference 2015”. The motto of ICIEOM-CIO-IIIE 2015 International Conference was “Engineering Systems and Networks: the way ahead for industrial engineering and operations management”. The conference provided a unique forum to disseminate, to all branches of industry, information on the most recent and relevant research, theories and practices in industrial engineering, management and operations. The chapters gathered in this volume offer a multidisciplinary and timely overview of the key themes that drive the current research in the field of industrial engineering and management, and that are driving the debate between researchers and practitioners from different industry sectors.

The ICIEOM-CIO-IIIE 2015 received a total number of 353 submissions, addressing a multidisciplinary range of industrial engineering and operations management topics, and creating a rich setting for three conference days of vibrant debate. A total of 200 of such submissions were selected for presentation at the conference. This volume presents a selection of 39 of the presented papers.

The Organizing and Scientific Committees of ICIEOM-CIO-III 2015 express their gratefulness to all the authors, invited speakers and the members of the Program Committee who have generously committed their time and expertise in the rigorous process of revision of the submitted manuscripts and provided key ingredients to set up a conference of very high standards, built on the experience of previous editions of ICIEOM, CIO and III.

Aveiro, Portugal

Marlene Amorim

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Amorim, M.; Ferreira, C.; Vieira Junior, M.; Prado, C.
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