

Preface

We are happy to present the proceedings of the Second International Conference on Smart Cities held in Málaga, Spain, during June 14–16, 2017. The subject of smart cities is a growing field that has still not reached the whole realm of science, nor many other domains like municipal management, politics, and economy. Research in smart cities is undoubtedly a very important topic, but a young one from a scientific point of view. It is true that many articles are starting to appear in a few other similar conferences and journals. However, the field still needs some time to become established and recognized as a separate domain of study.

Indeed, some of the open issues are very basic: What is the meaning of *smart* in smart city? Is any single paper on, e.g., routes between two points a smart city paper? The number of open questions is large. However, a few things are clear: There are many domains in the city (mobility, energy, construction, citizens, social implications, economy, technology, tourism) and the studies on smart cities should have a corresponding holistic vision in their contents. Idle studies, typical in research to date, need to grow to consider the city and several of its aspects simultaneously. As to the *smart* part, well, who knows what is smart at all? Currently, there is only a fuzzy definition, and again we need to go beyond the mere use of a sensor or a smartphone to make applications *intelligent*.

With this conference, we hope to advance in these and other questions. Our expectations are great in the sense that, at the very least, we are trying to pose the correct questions. In this year's conference, we hope to have contributed toward the creation of a long-lasting series of annual meetings in Málaga where researchers, companies, and even municipal authorities can find answers and advances for the final benefit of citizens and domestic economies. With a clear scientific focus, we also hold industrial demonstrations and promote bold thinking.

The topics of the papers in this volume include studies and tools to improve our knowledge on weather, road traffic, buildings, the behavior of citizens, logistics, frameworks to build and communicate in new services, sensors, simulations, and a wide spectrum of new urban technologies for our near future.

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