

Preface

We are happy to present you this book, *Information and Software Technologies*, which is a collection of papers that were presented at the 23rd International Conference on Information and Software Technologies, ICIST 2017. The annual conference took place during October 12–14, 2017, in Druskininkai, Lithuania.

The book consists of four chapters, which correspond to the four major areas that are covered during the conference, namely, Information Systems, Business Intelligence for Information and Software Systems, Software Engineering, and Information Technology Applications. These chapters are further subdivided according to the eight special sessions that were held at the conference. They are the following: (a) Innovative Applications for Knowledge Transfer Support, (b) e-Health Information Systems, (c) Information and Software Technologies for Intelligent Power Systems, (d) Intelligent Methods for Data Analysis and Computer Aided Software Engineering, (e) Intelligent Systems and Software Engineering Advances, (f) Smart e-Learning Technologies and Applications, (g) Language Technologies, and (h) Internet of Things in Mobility Applications.

Every year ICIST attracts researchers from all over the world, and this year was not an exception – we received 135 submissions from 35 countries. More importantly, there were participants from many more countries, which indicates that the conference is truly gaining more and more international recognition as it brings together a vast number of brilliant specialists who represent the aforementioned fields and share information about their newest projects. Since we always strive to make the conference presentations and proceedings of the highest quality possible, we only accept papers that present the results of various investigations directed to the discovery of new scientific knowledge in the area of information and software technologies. Hence, only 51 papers were accepted for publishing (i.e., 38% acceptance rate). All the papers were reviewed and selected by the Program Committee, which comprised 106 reviewers (together with 69 additional reviewers) from over 90 academic institutions. As usual, each submission was reviewed following a double-blind process by at least two reviewers. When necessary, some of the papers were reviewed by three or four reviewers. Our deepest thanks and appreciation go to all the reviewers for devoting their precious time to produce truly thorough reviews and feedback to the authors.

We would also like to express our gratitude to the general chair, Prof. Eduardas Bareiša (Kaunas University of Technology), as well as to the session chairs and co-chairs Prof. Irene Krebs (Brandenburg University of Technology Cottbus-Senftenberg), Prof. Justyna Patalas-Maliszewska (University of Zielona Góra), Prof. Rolf Engelbrecht (Pro-Rec), Assoc. Prof. Vytenis Punys (Kaunas University of Technology), Prof. Giedrius Vanagas (Lithuanian University of Health Sciences), Prof. Algirdas Pakštas (Vilnius University), Assoc. Prof. Vira Shendryk (Sumy State University), Dr. Marcin Woźniak (Silesian University of Technology), Prof. Emiliano Tramontana and Prof. Christian Napoli (University of Catania), Assoc. Prof. Danguolė Rutkauskienė

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In addition, we would like to thank the local Organizing Committee, the Faculty of Informatics, Kaunas University of Technology, for the conference would not have been a great success without their tremendous support. We are also thankful to the Research Council of Lithuania for financial support.

The proceedings of the ICIST 2017 conference are published as an issue in the *Communications in Computer and Information Science* series for the fifth time. This would not be possible without the kind assistance that is provided by Leonie Kunz, Aliaksandr Birukou, and Ingrid Beyer, all from Springer, for which we are utmost grateful. We are very proud of this collaboration and believe that this fruitful partnership will continue for many more years to come.

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