

Preface

This volume contains the papers presented at INSCI 2017, the 4th International Conference on Internet Science, held during November 22–24, 2017, in Thessaloniki, Greece.

This year the conference featured work that used a range of technical and social approaches to shed light on the path toward a more open, interoperable, human-centric, democratic, and trustworthy Internet. This provides a glimpse of an Internet more conducive to social innovation and services, with more intelligence, and with greater involvement and participation across the board.

In order to provide this insight, INSCI 2017 brought together researchers from around the world and across disciplinary boundaries. Together we are able to explore the sociotechnical nature of the Internet through the lenses of computer science, sociology, art, mathematics, physics, complex systems analysis, psychology, economics, law, political sciences, and more. The interdisciplinary nature of Internet science as a field offers the opportunity to develop a holistic understanding of the Internet, from the technical innovations, through their policy implications, to the combined impacts on society.

This conference was built on the success of the First and Second International Conferences on Internet Science, which both took place in Brussels, Belgium, organized by the FP7 European Network of Excellence in Internet Science (EINS) project, with the support of the European Commission. In its third year, the conference moved to Florence, Italy, with a theme in line with, and support from, the Collective Awareness Platforms for Sustainability and Social Innovation (CAPS) initiative. A continued interest in sustainability and social innovation can also be seen reflected in many of the submissions received this year.

In its fourth year, the theme of the International Conference on Internet Science was “Technical and Social Approaches for a Human-Centric, Democratic, and Trustworthy Next-Generation Internet.” This theme aimed to further explore the goals of the Next-Generation Internet Initiative, and to support the overarching goal of the field of Internet Science — to provide the sociotechnical means to exploit the full potential of the Internet for society and the economy. The fourth edition of the conference was organized with the support of the EU CAPS and Next-Generation Internet (NGI) initiatives.

The papers presented in this volume fall into five thematic topics that align with the aforementioned goals:

- Next-Generation Community Engagement
- Online Policy, Politics, and Co-creation
- Understanding and Empowering Digital Citizens
- Data-Driven Research and Design
- Social Media and Online Interaction

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