

Preface

The International Conference on Informatics in Economy (IE) is an established tradition having reached its 15th edition in 2016. It was initiated in 1993 by the Academy of Economic Studies in Bucharest (ASE Bucharest), Romania, in collaboration with the Institut National des Sciences Appliquées de Lyon (INSA de Lyon), France, thus becoming the first scientific event to foster a scientific community in the area of business information systems in Romania. The conference promotes research results in business informatics and related computer science topics such as: cloud, distributed and parallel computing, mobile-embedded and multimedia solutions, e-society, enterprise and business solutions, databases and data warehouses, audit and project management, quantitative economics, artificial intelligence, and data mining.

Starting with 2012, the conference has taken place annually in Bucharest and its proceedings have been indexed by ISI Thomson. The 2016 edition of IE (<http://www.conferenceie.ase.ro/>) was held in Cluj Napoca, Romania, and co-organized by Babeş-Bolyai University – an occasion to also celebrate 25 years from the founding of the Business Information Systems Department and line of studies at UBB Cluj Napoca. In order to extend the international visibility of the event, this was the first edition of IE to have its proceedings published in Springer’s *Lecture Notes in Business Information Processing* series – an ideal dissemination channel, considering the conference topics.

This volume includes extended versions of the best papers presented at the IE conference during June 2–3, 2016. A total of 89 papers were presented, out of which 31 were submitted as extended revised versions for inclusion in this volume. The proceedings review process involved at least three reviewers for each submission and the final selection comprises ten full papers, three short papers and one invited keynote paper.

The two keynote papers address the emerging paradigm of agile modeling method engineering in business informatics (Prof. Dr. Dimitris Karagiannis, University of Vienna, Austria) and mechanisms for next-generation smart grids (Dr. Valentin Robu, Heriot-Watt University Edinburgh, UK). The rest of the table of contents is grouped into five topical sections: “Distributed Systems,” “Information Systems Adoption,” “Knowledge Representation and Processing,” “Domain-Specific Data Analysis,” and Computational Models.

We take this opportunity to express our gratitude to the founders of the business information systems studies and scientific community in Romania and in the universities co-organizing this event – Prof. Florin Gheorghe Filip - member of the Romanian Academy (chair of the IE Conference), Prof. Gheorghe Ioan Roşca (former rector of Bucharest University of Economic Studies), Prof. Ştefan Ioan Niţchi (former head of the Business Information Systems Department at Babeş-Bolyai University of Cluj Napoca), and Prof. Dan Racoviţan (former dean of Economic Studies at Babeş-Bolyai University Cluj Napoca).

We thank the authors who submitted their work and addressed the suggestions for improvement gathered both during the conference presentations and the proceedings review process; we also thank the reviewers and members of the Program Committee, who provided their expertise in selecting the best papers and for suggesting improvements; we are grateful for the inspiration and research challenges raised and discussed by the two invited keynote speakers; and, of course, this volume would not have been possible without the extensive technical support and guidance provided by the Springer team led by Ralf Gerstner.

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Gheorghe Cosmin Silaghi
Robert Andrei Buchmann
Cătălin Boja

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Silaghi, G.; Buchmann, R.A.; Boja, C. (Eds.)

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