The 14th edition of the International Conference on Web Based Communities and Social Media (part of the IADIS Multi Conference on Computer Science and Information Systems 2017) was held in Lisbon, Portugal, during 20-22 July, 2017.

This conference was organized by the International Association for Development of the Information Society (IADIS).

The World Wide Web has migrated from information space into opportunities for social communication. Social Media are growing rapidly and play an increasingly important role in the development of Online Communities. They are all about identity, reputation, presence and relationships. Web based communities announce themselves both in our professional and private life through several new media such as LinkedIn, Twitter, Plaxo, etc. In order to keep up to date with the pace of these new technological developments this IADIS Conference offers a dedicated overview and informative discussion on today’s most relevant issues in new media for social life on the web.

The mission of this conference was to publish and integrate scientific results and act catalytically to the fast developing culture of web communities, while helping to disseminate and understand the latest developments social media and their impact. Submissions were accepted under the following seven main topics: The History, Architecture and Future of Virtual Communities; Cyborgs, Teleworking, Telemedicine, Art Games and Learning Communities; Virtual Communities for People with Special Needs; Group Processes and Self-Organization; Expanding Markets through Virtual Communities; Virtual Communities for People with Special Needs and Social Media.

The 2017 edition was integrated into the ICT, Society and Human Beings (ICT 2017) conference. In general, the ICT conference pays attention to societal changes, global and more local organisational and institutional changes, changes in values and in lifestyles, as well as individual cognitive effects and changes, motivational and emotional changes. It also appeals to solution-building in terms of desirable goals and actions for reaching a Good Information Society.

The ICT 2017 conference received 126 submissions from more than 30 countries. Each submission was anonymously reviewed by an average of five independent reviewers, to ensure that accepted submissions were of a high standard. Consequently only 23 full papers were approved which meant an acceptance rate of 18%. A few more papers were accepted as short papers and posters.

Extended versions of the best papers were selected to be published in:

- International Journal of “Web Based Communities” (IJWBC); ISSN: 1477 - 8394 (4 issues per year)

- the IADIS International Journal on WWW/Internet (IJWI). ISSN: 1645-7641
Besides the presentation of full papers, short papers, reflection papers and posters, the conference also included two keynote presentations from internationally distinguished researchers: Professor Thomas C. Reeves, (Professor Emeritus of Learning Design and Technology, College of Education, The University of Georgia, USA) and Dr. Dr. Norbert Streitz (Scientific Director, Smart Future Initiative, Germany).

Keynote Presentation:

**HUMAN LEARNING, MACHINE LEARNING, AND E-LEARNING: CONFLICT OR CONFLUENCE?**

by Professor Thomas C. Reeves, Professor Emeritus of Learning, Design and Technology, College of Education, The University of Georgia, USA

Keynote Presentation:

**RE-DEFINING THE “SMART EVERYTHING” PARADIGM TOWARDS RECONCILING HUMANS AND TECHNOLOGY**

by Dr. Dr. Norbert Streitz (Scientific Director), Smart Future Initiative, Germany

In general, this edition offered once again a great opportunity to all their participants to discuss with success the most significant aspects regarding the theme web based communities.


**Program Committee Members:**

Agisilaos Konidaris, Technological Educational Institute of Ionian Islands, Greece
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