The 18th edition of the International Conference on Web Based Communities and Social Media (WBC 2021) (part of the IADIS 15th Multi Conference on Computer Science and Information Systems 2021) was held virtually due to the COVID-19 pandemic, during 20-22 July, 2021.

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.

This edition was published jointly with: the 14th International Conference on ICT, Society, and Human Beings 2020 (ICT 2020) and the 13th International Conference on e-Health (EH 2021). These conferences received 139 submissions from more than 21 countries. Each submission was anonymously reviewed by an average of four independent reviewers, to ensure that accepted submissions were of a high standard. Consequently, only 22 full papers were approved which meant an acceptance rate of 16%. A few more papers were accepted as short papers and reflection papers.

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

- International Journal of Web Based Communities” (IJWBC - ISSN: 1477 – 8394)
- the IADIS International Journal on WWW/Internet (IJWI). ISSN: 1645-7641

Besides the presentation of full, short and reflection papers, the conference also included one keynote presentation by Professor Hermann Maurer, School of Computer Science, Graz University of Technology, Austria (co-presented by Dr. Bilal Zaka, COMSATS University Islamabad, Pakistan).
Keynote Presentation:

NETWORKED INTERACTIVE DIGITIZED INFORMATION WILL CHANGE THE WORLD

by Professor Hermann Maurer, School of Computer Science, Graz University of Technology, Austria

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