

# Preface

This volume contains revised versions of the selected papers presented at the 8th biannual meeting of the Classification and Data Analysis Group (CLADAG) of the Italian Statistical Society, organized by the Department of Economics and Management of the University of Pavia, in September 2011.

The conference has encompassed 170 presentations, organized in 3 plenary talks and 46 sessions. With 230 attendees from 10 different countries, the conference provided an attractive interdisciplinary international forum for discussion and mutual exchange of knowledge. The topics of all plenary and specialized sessions were chosen, in a peer-review process, to fit the mission of CLADAG which is to promote methodological, computational and applied research, within the fields of classification, data analysis and multivariate statistics.

The contributions in this volume were selected in a second peer-review process, after the conference. In addition to the fundamental areas of clustering and discrimination, multidimensional data analysis and data mining, the volume contains manuscripts concerning data analysis and statistical modelling in application areas like economics and finance, education and social sciences and environmental and biomedical sciences.

We would like to express our gratitude to all members of the scientific program committee, for their ability in attracting interesting contributions. We also thank the session organizers, the invited speakers, the chairpersons and the discussants of all sessions for a very stimulating scientific atmosphere. We are very grateful to the referees, for their careful reviews of the submitted papers and for the time spent in this professional activity.

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