

Preface

We are pleased to introduce to scholars and researchers the selection of papers presented during the International Conference, on Information and Software Technologies – ICIST 2015. This year the ICIST conference, formerly known as the IT Conference, welcomed scholars from all over the world for the 21st time.

In 2012 the proceedings of the conference were published by Springer for the first time, marking a new qualitative step. This volume of the *Communications in Computer and Information Science* series signifies our continuing cooperation, which we are proud of.

The change of the venue of the conference from the second largest city Kaunas to one of the resorts of Lithuania, Druskininkai, resulted in making the event even more attractive to scholars from Western Europe. Moreover, the scope and topics of the conference were also reconsidered to rely on developing fields of information technology the most. Therefore, the topics this year were modified to encourage the submission of papers in the fields of information systems, business intelligence for information and software systems, software engineering, and IT applications. These themes have definitely become indistinguishable objects of discussion in society encouraging researchers to develop interdisciplinary approaches and employ multivariate ways of thinking and analysis. On the other hand, scientific innovation is no longer an issue of academia only, hence the attempt to integrate science into business is also of importance. The organizers of the conference also aimed to promote a link between researchers and industry representatives to foster the development and application of new supporting information technology means. As a result, participants of the conference were also encouraged to take part in both the research sessions and the industrial tutorials on sophisticated technologies that influence to business development as well as consumers' impact on the mentioned development discussed by well-known practitioners. The event was co-located with the conference for the fifth year in a row.

There were 125 submissions this year, and 51 paper were selected for this publication. The number of Program Committee members also increased this year, which reflects the growing attention aimed at improving the quality of submissions and of those accepted for publication afterwards. The papers were reviewed and selected by the Program Committee consisting of 89 reviewers (supported by 62 additional reviewers) representing more than 50 academic institutions. Each submission was reviewed following the double-blind process by at least two reviewers, while borderline papers were evaluated by three or more reviewers. We believe the selection of 51 accepted papers presented in this book is a good reflection of the latest research on the selected topics.

Finally, we would like to express our gratitude to the Lithuanian State Science and Studies Foundation and the Faculty of Informatics of Kaunas University of Technology, whose support made this event and this book possible.

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