Welcome to CMC 2016, the Seventh International Conference on Concept Mapping, and to Tallinn, Estonia.

We returned to Estonia for the seventh conference in the series as a more mature, experienced community. As participation has expanded and now includes more papers from the Middle East and Asia, we have welcomed into our community participants from countries that had not previously taken part in the conference.

CMC 2016 was smaller than previous conferences. The financial situation in many parts of the world prevented a number of authors from attending personally. We opened virtual participation so that they could present their work, and many in the Cmappers community took advantage of this option. But just as with concept maps, smaller is sometimes better. We had the opportunity to get to know each other better, and having part of the conference on a cruise ship to Stockholm helped consolidate our community, both academically and socially.

This Springer volume consists of a small set of selected full papers from CMC 2016. The remaining full papers, posters, and innovative experiences, including all papers in Spanish and Portuguese, were published as regular conference proceedings books.

Once again we had a strong program that covered a variety of topics resulting from the Program Committee’s tough time selecting the papers to be presented orally, virtually, or as posters from a large number of high-quality submissions. We again thank the members of the Program Committee for their effort and hard work. And of course, the conference could not have taken place if it were not for all the authors that are willing to share their work with the concept mapping community.

Outstanding invited speakers complemented the high quality of papers: Joseph D. Novak, who joined us via videoconference, and Joel J. Mintzes, Jari M. Lavonen, Brian Moon, and Tobias Ley shared their insight, knowledge, and experience in their talks.

The Local Organization Committee performed a wonderful job, not only with the organization of the conference, but also by making sure we felt at home in Tallinn and on the cruise ship and that we had a great time through the superb social program.

Finally, we thank the sponsors whose support was crucial in making the conference a reality.

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