Introduction to the Program of the 18th Conference on Business Informatics and Preface to the IEEE Proceedings

Business Informatics (BI) continues to be the main domain of research and practice in which organizational concerns in enterprises and society are addressed from the perspective of information processes. In other words, BI is about the information process in companies and ecosystems. These processes describe the way work practices and behavior are observed and their transformation is approached, all based on the moving footprints that social entities leave in the form of information artifacts.

Unquestionably, the BI perspective to the understanding of and deploying improvements in organizations is not the only one as BI does not include all perspectives from organizational theories. But it is also a fact that BI constitutes a domain in which the connection of “business” with “information technology” can be made in a profound manner. This “hinge” across fairly distinct areas of expertise and practice in organizations provides deeper benefits than the already tall orders of constructing better software or automating existing routines. Business Informatics is perhaps the best opportunity that the research and practice communities may find today to resolve the still persisting chasm between Information Systems and Enterprise Operations.

The Conference on Business Informatics (CBI) is unquestionably the main international event that clusters researchers interested in a vast variety of domains that define and instrument BI. This is demonstrated by the number of intersecting tracks that CBI has had over time. The programs of CBI over the last years have continuously explored new domains and merged others into single streams, thus showing the determination of the IEEE CBI Steering Committee and yearly CBI Organizing Committees to incorporate new trends and favor more interaction across conventional silos of research and practice. In particular, the 18th version of CBI that takes place in Paris is not the exception and thus, continues with these valuable and important contributions by promoting new areas of interest in practice and favoring more collaboration across conventional domains of research.

CBI 2016 has 10 tracks that materialize different but intimately related domains in Business Informatics. This year the Conference Program includes some high-points of new interest. Specifically, CBI 2016 has started two new tracks, i.e., Business Analytics, led in this conference by E. Damiani and A. Maedche and Business Informatics and Serious Games, led by I. Boughzala and K. Monu. These tracks add to and complement eight other ongoing domains that have been traditionally hosted in previous years: Business Data Engineering, led by N. Prat and J. Parsons; Business Process Management, led by P. Soffer and P. Fettke; Business Models and Service Innovation, led by H. Mayr and H. Bowmann; Modeling in Business Informatics, led by S. Leist and C. Natschlager, Business Systems Engineering, led by J. Verelst and S. Alter; Semantic Web and Enterprise Systems, led by R. Penaloza and R. Möller; Method Engineering, led J. Akoka and T.W. Ling and finally, Enterprise Architecture and Enterprise Engineering, led by R. Pergl, M. Mira da Silva and E. Proper.

CBI 2016 includes a rich set of Key Notes and discussions organized by the Program Co-Chairs in conjunction with all Track Co-Chairs introduced above. This decision responds to a massive request from previous CBI attendees on the very highly regarded value of these direction-setting and domain-review presentations from distinguished colleagues. While these presentations are not kept in the form of regular papers, they constitute a vital part of CBI and future occurrences of the Conference will continue to build on this rich and critical value-add tradition.
In addition to the regular Program, CBI 2016 includes a number of very important activities, interesting workshops and industry track, Mini Dagstuhls and the Doctoral Symposium. Overall, the Conference continues to strive on the importance and value of allowing enough time for interactions, avoiding parallel sessions and the so-called “paper parade”, i.e., a succession of presentations without any time for debate and ideation across attendees.

The 49 papers included in both volumes of the Proceedings cover most of the above domains, and constitute a rich testimonial selected from many other submitted papers. CBI 2016 received 94 submissions, which were reviewed by at least three referees following a double-blinded review practice maintaining anonymity not only for reviewers but also for authors. Out of all these papers, 33 were accepted and are published as research papers in the main conference tracks, thus yielding an acceptance rate of 35 percent. Additionally, five papers were still found suitable for short presentations during the conference and four of them accepted as workshop contributions. The Program Committee of CBI sincerely hopes that readers will find these papers and presentations stimulating and inspirational.

The Program and Organizing Committee would like to thank all authors, the Track Co-Chairs, the members of the program committee and additional reviewers for their significant contribution, commitment and hard work to make CBI a success in Paris.

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