Introduction to Analytics and Decision Support for Ecosystems Minitrack

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The workshop organizers would like to welcome you to HICSS-49 and the Analytics and Decision Support for Ecosystems Minitrack. This minitrack is the first one we are arranging at HICSS, following multiple workshops and roundtable discussions organized in the US as well as in Europe. With this minitrack, we continue our quest for better understanding, supporting and managing ecosystems.

With a rapidly changing business environment, fast product cycles, and decreasing average life expectancy of today’s companies, there is a sense of urgency to find effective methods and techniques to understand and manage ecosystem complexity. To empower and manage the process of change, program managers, policy analysts, business executives, and entrepreneurs strive to anticipate opportunities beyond their current line of sight. They want to deploy high-impact formal and informal collaboration. They want to know which systemic factors may produce counterintuitive results in the short term and what time is required to see the lasting impact. They need insights on how resources and co-creation can be orchestrated to facilitate transformations in a business ecosystem. In short, they need support for their decision making. The requirements for this support vary. Some need methods and techniques to support the analysis of the current situation for a shared understanding; some need to detect patterns, make sense, simulate, predict, learn, take action and improve performance of the ecosystem.

The aim of this minitrack is to bring together researchers and practitioners interested in taking a step beyond what is currently done for presenting, exploring and understanding ecosystems and their data through analytics and decision support. Hence, our call was for perspectives from business, policy, computational sciences, and social sciences. We welcomed submissions across a range of topics, including analytics, ecosystem modeling, simulations, visual support, collaboration systems for multi-actor decision support, network orchestration and system leadership; with multiple research approaches.

For the workshop, we received a significant number of high-quality submissions and could ultimately only accommodate 6 papers, concentrating on empirical studies and applications. We would like to thank the reviewers for their invaluable comments, which inspired both the authors as well as the organizers.

Please join us for exciting presentations and discussions in the workshop. We are looking forward to insights for analytics and decision support for ecosystems!