Foreword from the STAST 2014 Workshop Chairs

We are glad to write, for the forth time, the preface of the proceedings of the “Socio-Technical Aspects in Security and Trust” international workshop. STAST is a scientific event that was born to foster and support an interdisciplinary approach to computer security and trust. The first edition of the workshop took place in 2011 at the University of Milano, in Italy, hosted by the International Conference on Network and System Security (NSS). All subsequent editions see STAST as a workshop affiliated to the Computer Security Foundation Symposium (CSF). The 2012 and 2013 venues were, respectively, Harvard University and Tulane University in the United States of America. This year the workshop reaches its forth edition, taking place in Vienna in the occasion of the Vienna Summer Logic 2014. We have been organising this workshop since its inception, every year inviting various prestigious researchers as program chairs. This year in particular, Probst and Ashenden worked particularly hard and effectively to define an appealing scientific program. A Computer Scientist and a Social Scientist respectively, they successfully collaborated embodying the interdisciplinary facets of the workshop. We insist that this interdisciplinary fingerprint is not only a sign of distinction for our event, but also an effective measure to seriously address the socio-technical questions that security and trust pose today to society and researchers.

Security and trust are socio-technical properties in fact, and as such they must be studied. We realise that security cannot be achieved by simply strengthening the protocols without adequate consideration that users may perceive it variously, in the full range from a help to a burden. Also, trust has a cognitive, social and educational character that stems from how people evaluate risks and take decisions. By following a socio-technical approach to security and trust, STAST successfully yields insights that could escape a more traditional, purely technical analysis. Hence, a call for researchers from different disciplines, such as Sociology, Psychology and Informatics, to construct a holistic vision of security and trust. We are pleased to conclude this foreword by thanking the Program Chairs, the Program Committee members and all the external reviewers for their excellent work. We also thank the authors and the speakers for their contribution to the continuing success of our initiative. To our readers we wish to enjoy this volume.

Giampaolo Bella and Gabriele Lenzini