The eighth edition of this International Conference on Technological Ecosystem for Enhancing Multiculturality – TEEM, was organized to be held again in Salamanca (Spain), the TEEM home, to which it returns every two years. However, the SARS-CoV-2 virus entered the scene, causing the pandemic of COVID-19 [1-5], and it was online on October 21st-23rd, 2020. Nevertheless, the idiosyncrasy and philosophy of this conference lead us to innovate in its format. It has been held in a virtual format, with videos of the presentations, open available in the papers in the conference website’s video section (https://2020.teemconference.eu/papers-in-video/), and synchronous discussion sessions and keynote plenary activities, round tables, and gamified and interactive sessions, which have been recorded and accessible throughout https://2020.teemconference.eu/programme/.

This eighth edition maintains the same principles of the previous ones [6-12], an academic event with the goal to create and consolidate a research community around the Knowledge Society topic from an interdisciplinary perspective [13] and in which one the Ph.D. students [14-21] and novel researchers might have an excellent opportunity to do networking with other peers and to be in contact with consolidated researchers all around the world.

The first edition was very successful, with 83 full papers accepted and published in the ACM proceedings, which are yet indexed in WoS and Scopus, and several special issues published in international and well-ranked journals [22-32]. The Second TEEM edition, TEEM 2014, was held in Salamanca, Spain again. It meant the consolidation of the idea behind the conference. We grew in the number of submissions, 153, and we finally published 102 papers in the conference proceedings. Several special issues in international journals [33-37] were published too. The Third TEEM edition in 2015 was held in Porto, Portugal; it was the first edition that was organized out of the University of Salamanca, starting the series of one year out of the Salamanca scope one year in Salamanca. It was very significant for the maturity of the conference. 90 full papers were accepted to be published in the proceedings, and several special issues have been organized [38-41]. In 2016 TEEM returned to the University of Salamanca and it has received a fantastic respond of the researching community. We have received 235 submissions, of which 165 have been accepted as full papers that are available in these proceedings (30% rejection ratio). Following the association of TEEM with journals, these special issues were organized [42, 43]. The TEEM 2017 was held in the University of Cádiz (Spain), 109 submissions were received, of which 84 were accepted as full papers (23% rejection ratio). These special issues were organized [44, 45]. TEEM 2018 edition was held in Salamanca, 243 submissions have been received, and 151 full papers have been accepted (38% reject ratio), with three special issues associated in different journals [46-48].

TEEM 2019, the last edition, was held in Leon (Spain), 215 submission from which 148 full papers were accepted, that is, there is a 31.17% rejection rate. Associated to 2019 editions three special issues have been yet published [49-51]. The current edition, TEEM 2020, despite having finally been held online, has had 238 submission from which 159 full papers were accepted, that is, there is a 33.2% rejection rate. These papers have involved 437 authors from 26 countries.

The TEEM 2020 is organized in 15 thematic tracks:

- Track 1. Computational thinking and robotics in education [52].
- Track 2. Engineering Education: Professional Demands [53].
- Track 3. Bridging the diversity gap in STEM [54].
- Track 4. Implementation of Qualitative and Mixed Methods Researches [55].
- Track 5. Smart Learning [56].
- Track 6. Educational Innovation [57].
- Track 8. State-of-the-art technologies at the service of medical training and practice to foster Digital Health Ecosystems [58].
- Track 9. Advances on Sustainable Development in Higher Education [59].
- Track 10. Communication, Education and Social Media [60].
- Track 11. Gamification and Games for Learning (GAMILEARN) [61].
- Track 12. Learning analytics: A Time to Shine [62].
- Track 13. Evaluation and guidance in education [63].
- Track 14. Teacher Education for ICT integration in classroom [64].
- Track 15. Identity, technology and education. Identity construction processes in hyperconnected ecosystems [65].
- Track 16. Doctoral Consortium [21].

The computational thinking, engineering education, diversity, qualitative and mixed methods, artificial intelligence in education, educational innovations, education and medicine, sustainable development, communication, learning analytics, education assessment, teacher education and doctoral consortium topics are consolidated topics in TEEM Conference. On the other hand, we welcome Gamification and Games for Learning (GAMILEARN) and Identity, technology and education. Identity construction processes in hyperconnected ecosystems tracks.

The Conference has been opened with a keynote by Daniel Burgos entitled ”Openness as the key factor to support education in times of crisis” [66], available at https://youtu.be/0vmV-tYfCBU. Besides, David Fonseca, Marc Alier and Patricia Sánchez-Holgado developed a
networking session to establish synergies and foster collaboration between researchers from different institutions [67], the recorded session is available at https://youtu.be/SUK7jzQowo.

I would like to thank the members of the Steering Committee for their counsel, the International Scientific Committee for their accurate and timely reviewing, I would also like to thank the Track Chairs for their efforts in organizing the academic issues related to each track, and the Organizing Committee for their huge effort in all the associated tasks that an international conference involves. I would like to do a special mention for the Editors-in-Chief of the linked journals that have offered special issues or slots in their regular issues for those selected and extended papers of TEEM 2020 conference that will have another in-depth review following the guidelines of each journal. Last, but not least, I would like to thank the participating organizations: University of Salamanca, Research Institute for Educational Sciences at the University of Salamanca, GRIAL Research Group [68, 69], and ACM for their support.

Next year, we will continue with Ninth Edition of TEEM Conference that will be held at Barcelona, Spain next 27-29 October 2021, organized by Universidad Politécnica de Barcelona and Universidad La Salle.

Salamanca, Spain, 11th November, 2020
Francisco José García-Peñalvo (TEEM 2020 Conference Chair)

References


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