TEEM 2016 Preface

Francisco J. García-Peña\no
GRIAL Research Group,
Research Institute for Educational Science
University of Salamanca
fgarcia@usal.es

Welcome to The Fourth International Conference on Technological Ecosystem for Enhancing Multiculturality, TEEM 2016

Three years ago we started an amazing challenge in the Research Institute for Educational Sciences at the University of Salamanca (http://iuce.usal.es) with the TEEM first edition [8; 25]. It meant a new way to organize an academic conference, by the way we wanted to maximize the creation of a research community around the Knowledge Society topic from an interdisciplinary perspective [17] and in which one the PhD students might have a good opportunity to make networking with other peers and to be in contact with consolidate researchers all around the world [7; 15; 16].

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 [4-6; 9-13; 23; 31; 35].

The second TEEM edition, TEEM 2014 [14], 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 [22; 28; 33; 34; 36] were published too.

The third TEEM edition in 2015 [2] was held in Porto, Portugal, being 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 [1; 27; 29; 37].

The TEEM 2016 (https://2016.teemconference.eu/) returns to the University of Salamanca and it has received and amazing 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, it means a 30% rejection ratio. All of the submitted papers were, at least, double blind reviewed. These papers have been organized in 16 thematic tracks:

- Track 1. Computational thinking in pre-university education.
- Track 2. Engineering and technological learning in educational and professional contexts.
- Track 4. New publishing and scientific communication ways: Electronic edition, digital educational resources.
- Track 5. Learning analytics: Needs and opportunities.
- Track 6. LifeLong Education.
- Track 8. Latest Technology Trends in Health Sciences Education.
- Track 10. Teacher Education research and ICT.
- Track 11. Gamification ecosystems.
- Track 12. Educational innovation.
- Track 13. New trends in Digital humanities.
- Track 14. 7th International Workshop on Software Engineering for E-learning (ISELEAR’16).
- Track 15. Communication, Education and Health Promotion.
With regard to the TEEM 2016 conference participants, 384 authors and co-authors distributed by 27 countries are presented in the proceedings. Besides, the International Program Committee has been incremented up to 189 members distributed by 26 countries.

In addition, this year the conference also serves as host for several activities apart of the parallel sessions to present the papers submitted to the conference. First of all, TEEM this year supports activities and dissemination events carried out by SNOLa (Spanish Network of Learning Analytics) [3]. This thematic research network, funded and supported by the Spanish Ministry of Economy and Competitiveness TIN2015-71669-REDT, organizes two workshops during the conference to gather experiences in developing research networks in both Spain and international contexts. These experiences are going to be shared by six recognized international speakers invited by the conference and the different attendees to the conference that have participated in research networks and research associations in previous years and funding calls.

Also, TEEM Conference hosts the workshop "Designing collaborations: could design probes contribute to better communication between collaborators?" [32] where researchers from different countries and research areas try to collaborate and discuss about Digital Humanities. This workshop is carried out in conjunction to COST ENeL (http://www.exlexicography.eu/) research network and the ExploreAT European research project (http://exploreat.usal.es/).

In the opening session of the conference the H2020 WYRED project (netWorked Youth Research for Empowerment in the Digital society) will be presented in a keynote conference [26] by Dr. Nicholas A. Kearney.

In the track about Computational thinking in pre-university education [24] the TACCLE 3 – Coding [18; 20; 21; 38] European Project will be represented by several papers.

I would like to thank the members of the Steering Committee for their counsel, the International Program 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 2016 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 [19; 30], European Commission, The regional government of Junta de Castilla y León, and ACM for their support.

Next year, we will continue with Fifth Edition of TEEM Conference that will be held at the University of Cádiz, Spain next 18-20 October 2017.

Salamanca, Spain, 31st October, 2016

Francisco José García-Peñalvo (TEEM 2016 Conference Chair)

References


