Preface to SeCoGIS 2014

Recent advances in information technology have changed the way geographical data were originally produced and made available. Nowadays, the use of Geographic Information Systems (GIS) is not reserved anymore to the specialized user. GISs are emerging as a common information infrastructure, which penetrates into more and more aspects of our society. The technological drift implies a profound change in mentality, with a deep impact on the way geographical data needs to be conceptualized. New methodological and data engineering challenges must be confronted by GIS researchers in the near future in order to accommodate new users' requirements for new applications.

The SeCoGIS workshop intends to bring together researchers, developers, users, and practitioners with an interest in all semantic and conceptual issues in GISs. The aim is to stimulate discussions on the integration of conceptual modeling and semantics into various web applications dealing with spatio-temporally referenced data and how this benefits end-users. The workshop provides a forum for original research contributions and practical experiences of conceptual modeling and semantic web technologies for GIS, fostering interdisciplinary discussions in all aspects of these two fields and highlighting future trends in this area. The workshop is organized in a way to stimulate interaction amongst the participants.

This edition of the workshop received 10 submissions, from which the Program Committee selected 3 very high quality full papers corresponding to an acceptance rate of 30%. Another 3 very good papers were also accepted as short papers which will also be presented and published in the proceeding of the workshop. The authors of the accepted papers are world-wide distributed, making SeCoGIS a truly international workshop. A keynote talk and all the accepted papers are organized in three sessions. The first session is dedicated to a keynote. The second session is focused on the semantic based qualitative movement and network analysis and the third session is organised around semantic based spatiotemporal databases design and analysis.

We would like to express our gratitude to the Program Committee members for their qualified work in reviewing papers, the authors for considering SeCoGIS as a forum to publish their research, and the ER 2013 organizers for all their support.

July 2014

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