

Smart Innovation, Systems and Technologies

Volume 95

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Hendrik Knoche · Elvira Popescu
Antonio Cartelli
Editors

The Interplay of Data, Technology, Place and People for Smart Learning

Proceedings of the 3rd International
Conference on Smart Learning
Ecosystems and Regional Development

 Springer

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Preface

This volume contains the papers presented at SLERD 2018: 3rd International Conference on Smart Learning Ecosystems and Regional Development.

Following successful first (Timisoara, Romania in 2016) and second editions (Aveiro, Portugal in 2017), SLERD 2018 was hosted by the Interaction Lab from the Department of Architecture, Design and Media Technology at Aalborg University, Aalborg, during May 23–25, 2018.

The Interaction Lab is an interdisciplinary research group focusing on innovation in the design of new interaction approaches for human-centered digital media applications. The laboratory specializes in applied research with relevant regional, national, and international stakeholders in the areas of health, smart learning, and robotics and has build up a strong research expertise in interaction with special needs groups like citizens with traumatic or congenital brain damage, dementia, dyslexia, as well as indigenous groups, and kindergarten and school children.

The conference was co-organized by the Association for Smart Learning Ecosystems and Regional Development (ASLERD), an international non-profit interdisciplinary, democratic, scientific-professional association that is committed to support learning ecosystems to get smarter and play a central role to regional development and social innovation. “Smart,” thus, are not simply technology-enhanced learning ecosystems but, rather, learning ecosystems that promote the multidimensional well-being of all players of learning process (i.e., students, professors, administrative personnel and technicians, territorial stakeholders, and, for the schools, parents) and that contribute to the increase of the social capital of a “region,” also thanks to the mediation of the technologies. ASLERD, thus, aims at generating a concrete impact by understanding learning ecosystems and accompanying design for “smartness,” fostering the development of policies and action plans, supporting technological impact well beyond prototypes and pilots, promoting networking and opportunities to discuss and debate like the SLERD yearly conference.

SLERD 2018 aimed at promoting reflection and discussion concerning R&D work, policies, case studies, entrepreneur experiences with a special focus on understanding how relevant the smart learning ecosystems (schools, campus,

working places, informal learning contexts, etc.) are for regional development and social innovation and how the effectiveness of the relation of citizens and smart ecosystems can be boosted. The conference had a special interest in understanding how technology-mediated instruments can foster citizen engagement with learning ecosystems and territories, namely by understanding innovative human-centric design and development models/techniques, education/training practices, informal social learning, innovative citizen-driven policies, technology-mediated experiences and their impact. This set of concerns contributes to foster the social innovation sectors and ICT and economic development and deployment strategies alongside new policies for smarter proactive citizens.

The selected scientific papers aim to understand, conceive, and promote innovative human-centric design and development methods, education/training practices, informal social learning, and citizen involvement. These grouped around three main conference themes: (i) places for learning, (ii) learning technologies, and (iii) human-centered design.

SLERD 2018 contributes to foster the social innovation sectors, identifying and discussing ICT and economic development and deployment strategies alongside with new policies for smarter proactive citizens. The proceedings are relevant for researchers and policy makers alike.

In summary, SLERD 2018 offered an exciting program that provided an excellent overview of the state of the art in smart learning ecosystems and was an occasion for bringing research forward and creating new networks.

We are very happy about the final selection of papers, which would not have been possible without the effort and support of our excellent Conference and Program Committees, including more than 50 international researchers. We would like to thank all the ones who, in different roles, have contributed their time to organize the event with enthusiasm and commitment.

April 2018

Hendrik Knoche
Elvira Popescu
Antonio Cartelli

Organization

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