BSCT Workshop
BSCT 2018 Workshop Chairs’ Message

We have a great pleasure to hand over to the readers the volume that contains papers selected for presentation at BSCT 2018: 1st Workshop on Blockchain and Smart Contract Technologies held on July 19–20, 2018 in Berlin, Germany. The event was co-organized with the 21st International Conference on Business Information Systems. It was a debut of the workshop and judging by the numbers - a very successful one.

In fact, the mentioned success of the event exceeded wildest expectations of the organizers. When we planned the organization of this new workshop we knew that there is an urgent and growing need from the researchers as well as business perspective to meet on the common ground in order to facilitate and accelerate the exchange of ideas and knowledge in the area of the workshop. In our conservative estimates we presumed the number of submissions to be around 15. But the submission system pointed this number in a week before the deadline. Two days before the deadline the number doubled. Ultimately the process ended with 46 submissions, tripling the initial anticipations. On the one hand we were really excited with the achieved level but on the other hand we were full of doubts whether we will be able to stand up to the high quality organizational characteristics that we are all accustomed to. As one may expect such abundance raise numerous organizational issues.

After all, the whole set of mentioned 46 papers were thoroughly reviewed. We managed to administer around 130 reviews in a short period of time. As a result of the review process 21 works were accepted for presentation and publication after additional editorial review. This way we reached the very decent level of acceptance rate at around 45%. The workshop covered a wide area of topics. There are also many challenges appearing on the horizon as the blockchain technologies are in a phase of swift advancement. Despite some turbulences on the cryptocurrencies markets we are certain that the blockchain and smart contract will thrive, develop and continue to emerge in many new usages. That is why we are strongly convinced that the workshop as a platform for discussion and sharing thoughts will be even more important in the years to come.

As a final point, the chairs would like to express their heartfelt gratitude to all the participants and especially authors whose attendance and contribution allowed to organize this very successful event. We believe that the workshop is all about community. Therefore the voice of the participants is of utmost importance to us. Programme Committee members are those people whose role is always undervalued. That is why we would like to state the words of our deepest thankfulness towards them. It is only thanks to their knowledge, sound judgment and kind support that the workshop took place in its final shape. Without this hard work of the PC the organizers would not be able to make the selection of the best works.

Finally, as usual we would like to direct our sincere appreciation to the organizers of the hosting conference (BIS2018). Without doubts their organizational know-how
and assistance was one of key factors of success. The next BIS Conference will take place in Seville, Spain which for sure will be the venue of the 2nd Workshop on Blockchain and Smart Contract Technologies as well. Thus we would like to invite all this year participants, submitters and newcomers to the planned event in 2019.

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