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Computational Science and Its Applications – ICCSA 2021

21st International Conference
Cagliari, Italy, September 13–16, 2021
Proceedings, Part VI

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Preface

These 10 volumes (LNCS volumes 12949–12958) consist of the peer-reviewed papers from the 21st International Conference on Computational Science and Its Applications (ICCSA 2021) which took place during September 13–16, 2021. By virtue of the vaccination campaign conducted in various countries around the world, we decided to try a hybrid conference, with some of the delegates attending in person at the University of Cagliari and others attending in virtual mode, reproducing the infrastructure established last year.

This year's edition was a successful continuation of the ICCSA conference series, which was also held as a virtual event in 2020, and previously held in Saint Petersburg, Russia (2019), Melbourne, Australia (2018), Trieste, Italy (2017), Beijing, China (2016), Banff, Canada (2015), Guimaraes, Portugal (2014), Ho Chi Minh City, Vietnam (2013), Salvador, Brazil (2012), Santander, Spain (2011), Fukuoka, Japan (2010), Suwon, South Korea (2009), Perugia, Italy (2008), Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia (2007), Glasgow, UK (2006), Singapore (2005), Assisi, Italy (2004), Montreal, Canada (2003), and (as ICCS) Amsterdam, The Netherlands (2002) and San Francisco, USA (2001).

Computational science is the main pillar of most of the present research on understanding and solving complex problems. It plays a unique role in exploiting innovative ICT technologies and in the development of industrial and commercial applications. The ICCSA conference series provides a venue for researchers and industry practitioners to discuss new ideas, to share complex problems and their solutions, and to shape new trends in computational science.

Apart from the six main conference tracks, ICCSA 2021 also included 52 workshops in various areas of computational sciences, ranging from computational science technologies to specific areas of computational sciences, such as software engineering, security, machine learning and artificial intelligence, blockchain technologies, and applications in many fields. In total, we accepted 494 papers, giving an acceptance rate of 30%, of which 18 papers were short papers and 6 were published open access. We would like to express our appreciation for the workshop chairs and co-chairs for their hard work and dedication.

The success of the ICCSA conference series in general, and of ICCSA 2021 in particular, vitally depends on the support of many people: authors, presenters, participants, keynote speakers, workshop chairs, session chairs, organizing committee members, student volunteers, Program Committee members, advisory committee members, international liaison chairs, reviewers, and others in various roles. We take this opportunity to wholeheartedly thank them all.

We also wish to thank Springer for publishing the proceedings, for sponsoring some of the best paper awards, and for their kind assistance and cooperation during the editing process.

We cordially invite you to visit the ICCSA website <https://iccsa.org> where you can find all the relevant information about this interesting and exciting event.

September 2021

Osvaldo Gervasi
Beniamino Murgante
Sanjay Misra

Welcome Message from the Organizers

COVID-19 has continued to alter our plans for organizing the ICCSA 2021 conference, so although vaccination plans are progressing worldwide, the spread of virus variants still forces us into a period of profound uncertainty. Only a very limited number of participants were able to enjoy the beauty of Sardinia and Cagliari in particular, rediscovering the immense pleasure of meeting again, albeit safely spaced out. The social events, in which we rediscovered the ancient values that abound on this wonderful island and in this city, gave us even more strength and hope for the future. For the management of the virtual part of the conference, we consolidated the methods, organization, and infrastructure of ICCSA 2020.

The technological infrastructure was based on open source software, with the addition of the streaming channels on YouTube. In particular, we used Jitsi (jitsi.org) for videoconferencing, Riot (riot.im) together with Matrix (matrix.org) for chat and asynchronous communication, and Jibri (github.com/jitsi/jibri) for streaming live sessions to YouTube.

Seven Jitsi servers were set up, one for each parallel session. The participants of the sessions were helped and assisted by eight student volunteers (from the universities of Cagliari, Florence, Perugia, and Bari), who provided technical support and ensured smooth running of the conference proceedings.

The implementation of the software infrastructure and the technical coordination of the volunteers were carried out by Damiano Perri and Marco Simonetti.

Our warmest thanks go to all the student volunteers, to the technical coordinators, and to the development communities of Jitsi, Jibri, Riot, and Matrix, who made their terrific platforms available as open source software.

A big thank you goes to all of the 450 speakers, many of whom showed an enormous collaborative spirit, sometimes participating and presenting at almost prohibitive times of the day, given that the participants of this year's conference came from 58 countries scattered over many time zones of the globe.

Finally, we would like to thank Google for letting us stream all the live events via YouTube. In addition to lightening the load of our Jitsi servers, this allowed us to record the event and to be able to review the most exciting moments of the conference.

Ivan Blečić
Chiara Garau

Organization

ICCSA 2021 was organized by the University of Cagliari (Italy), the University of Perugia (Italy), the University of Basilicata (Italy), Monash University (Australia), Kyushu Sangyo University (Japan), and the University of Minho (Portugal).

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Contents – Part VI

International Workshop on Digital Transformation and Smart City (DIGISMART 2021)

Analysis of Regional Imbalances in Italy Based on Cluster Analysis	3
<i>Massimo De Maria, Mauro Mazzei, Oleg V. Bik, and Armando L. Palma</i>	
New Smart Mobility Applications: Preliminary Findings on a Pilot Study in the Municipality of Artana	21
<i>Mauro D'Apuzzo, Azzurra Evangelisti, Daniela Santilli, Stefano Buzzi, Mauro Mazzei, and Viviana Bietoni</i>	

International Workshop on Econometrics and Multidimensional Evaluation in Urban Environment (EMEUE 2021)

The Benefit Transfer Method for the Economic Evaluation of Urban Forests	39
<i>Francesco Sica and Antonio Nesticò</i>	
The Effects of Covid-19 Pandemic on the Housing Market: A Case Study in Rome (Italy)	50
<i>Francesco Tajani, Pierluigi Morano, Felicia Di Liddo, Maria Rosaria Guarini, and Rossana Ranieri</i>	
The Contribution of the Most Influencing Factors on the Housing Rents: An Analysis in the City of Milan (Italy)	63
<i>Pierluigi Morano, Francesco Tajani, Felicia Di Liddo, Rossana Ranieri, and Paola Amoroso</i>	
The Paradox of Fiscal Inequality in Italy: Exploratory Analyses on Property Tax Rates.	77
<i>Rocco Curto, Alice Barreca, Giorgia Malavasi, and Diana Rolando</i>	
The Financial Costs in Energy Efficient District. Alternative Scenarios from the Demo Sites of the CITYFiED Program	93
<i>Simona Barbaro and Grazia Napoli</i>	
Inclusive Strategic Programming: Methodological Aspects of the Case Study of the Jonian Valleys of Peloritani (Sicily, Italy)	109
<i>Giuseppe Bombino, Francesco Calabrò, Giuseppina Cassalia, Lidia Errante, and Viviana Vinci</i>	

New Housing Preferences in the COVID-19 Era: A Best-to-Worst Scaling Experiment	120
<i>Marta Bottero, Marina Bravi, Caterina Caprioli, Federico Dell’Anna, Marta Dell’Ovo, and Alessandra Oppio</i>	
An Analysis of the Methods Applied for the Assessment of the Market Value of Residential Properties in Italian Judicial Procedures	130
<i>Francesco Tajani, Felicia Di Liddo, Paola Amoruso, Francesco Sica, and Ivana La Spina</i>	
Integrated Statistical Data for Planning Social Housing in the City of Taranto	142
<i>Paola Perchinunno and Francesco Rotondo</i>	
Reconstruction as an Opportunity to Promote Local Self-sustainable Development of Shrinking Territories in Seismic Inner Areas in Central Italy	153
<i>Luca Domenella, Marco Galasso, Giovanni Marinelli, and Francesco Rotondo</i>	
Urban Regeneration Processes and Social Impact: A Literature Review to Explore the Role of Evaluation	167
<i>Maria Cerreta and Ludovica La Rocca</i>	
Using Artificial Neural Networks to Uncover Real Estate Market Transparency: The Market Value	183
<i>Laura Gabrielli, Aurora Greta Ruggeri, and Massimiliano Scarpa</i>	
Creative Ecosystem Services: Valuing Benefits of Innovative Cultural Networks	193
<i>Giuliano Poli and Gaia Daldanise</i>	
Ecosystem Services and Land Take. A Composite Indicator for the Assessment of Sustainable Urban Projects	210
<i>Pierluigi Morano, Maria Rosaria Guarini, Francesco Sica, and Debora Anelli</i>	
Building Industry and Energy Efficiency: A Review of Three Major Issues at Stake	226
<i>Sergio Cioppello, Laura Gabrielli, and Ezio Micelli</i>	
An Evaluation Model for the Optimization of Property Sales in Auction Markets	241
<i>Francesco Tajani, Pierluigi Morano, Marco Locurcio, Paola Amoruso, and Carmelo Maria Torre</i>	

Urban Transformation Interventions: A Decision Support Model for a Fair <i>Rent Gap</i> Recapture	253
<i>Pierluigi Morano, Francesco Tajani, Vincenzo del Giudice, Pierfrancesco De Paola, and Debora Anelli</i>	
An Optimization Model for Supporting the Property Asset Allocation Decision-Making Process	265
<i>Francesco Tajani, Marco Locurcio, Pierluigi Morano, and Debora Anelli</i>	
The Risks Assessment in the Project Financing Initiative for the Cemetery Expansion Intervention in a Small Town in Southern Italy	277
<i>Marco Locurcio, Pierluigi Morano, Francesco Tajani, Felicia Di Liddo, and Carmelo Maria Torre</i>	
A Citizen-Led Spatial Information System for Collaborative (Post-) pandemic Urban Strategies: The Ponticelli Experience, Naples (Italy)	293
<i>Maria Cerreta, Luigi Liccardi, and Maria Reitano</i>	
The Knowledge Phase of the Strategic Programming: The Case Study of the Jonian Valleys of Peloritani (Sicily, Italy)	307
<i>Giuseppe Bombino, Francesco Calabrò, Giuseppina Cassalia, Lidia Errante, and Viviana Vinci</i>	
International Workshop on Transformational Urban Mobility: Challenges and Opportunities During and Post COVID Era (FURTHER 2021)	
Developing Flexible Mobility On-Demand in the Era of Mobility as a Service: An Overview of the Italian Context Before and After Pandemic.	323
<i>Tiziana Campisi, Chiara Garau, Giovanna Acampa, Francesca Maltinti, Antonino Canale, and Mauro Coni</i>	
Factors Influencing Public Transport Demand in Sicily During COVID-19 Era: A Study of Commuters' Travel and Mode Choice Behaviors	339
<i>Socrates Basbas, Georgios Georgiadis, Tiziana Campisi, and Giovanni Tesoriere</i>	
Standard Cost of Local Public Transport in the Post-COVID-19 Era: The Italian Case	354
<i>G. Acampa, M. Grasso, C. M. Parisi, D. Ticali, and A. Severino</i>	
COVID-19's Effects over E-commerce: A Preliminary Statistical Assessment for Some European Countries	370
<i>Tiziana Campisi, Antonio Russo, Giovanni Tesoriere, Efsthathios Bouhouras, and Socrates Basbas</i>	

The Impact of COVID-19 Pandemic on the Perception of Public Transportation Users in Amman (Jordan)	386
<i>Motasem Darwish, Tiziana Campisi, and Ghaida Abu Rumman</i>	

International Workshop on Geodesign in Decision Making: Meta Planning and Collaborative Design for Sustainable and Inclusive Development (GDM 2021)

Landscape Information Modelling to Improve Feedback in the Geodesign International Collaboration for Carbon Credit Enhancement in Metropolitan Regions – The Case Study of Fortaleza, Brazil	405
<i>Newton Moura, Joana Guedes, Emiliano Cavalcante, Morganna Oliveira, Ana Maia, Anne Castro, Eugênio Moreira, Daniel Cardoso, and Vitor Sampaio</i>	

Decision Making and Geodesign: A Collaborative Territorial Planning Proposal for the Metropolitan Region of Belém, Pará, Brazil	420
<i>Alan Nunes Araújo, Tiago Barreto de Andrade Costa, Bruno Daniel das Neves Benitez, Fabricio Martins Silva, and Joabi Luiz Lima De Lima</i>	

Geodesign Applied to Propositional Scenarios of Medium and Long-Term Sustainable Projects for Rio de Janeiro Metropolitan Region, Brazil	437
<i>Tiago Badre Marino, César Henrique Barra Rocha, Ashiley Adelaide Rosa, and Tiago Augusto Gonçalves Mello</i>	

Geodesign Using GISColab Platform: SDI Consumed by WMS and WFS & WPS Protocols in Transformative-Learning Actions in Planning	448
<i>Ana Clara Mourão Moura, Christian Rezende Freitas, Vanessa Tenuta de Freitas, and Ana Isabel Anastasia de Sa</i>	

Geodesign Brazil: Trees for the Metropolitan Area of São Paulo	463
<i>Adriana Afonso Sandre, Amanda Lombardo Fruehauf, Augusto Akio Lucchezi Miyahara, Ashiley Adelaide Rosa, Cíntia Miua Maruyama, Giuliano Maselli Locoselli, Leticia Figueiredo Candido, Magda Adelaide Lombardo, Matheus Aguiar Coelho, Rafael Pollastrini Murolo, Riciane Maria Reis Pombo, Taícia Helena Negrin Marques, and Paulo Renato Mesquita Pellegrino</i>	

The Potential of Geodesign for the Optimization of Land Use in the Perspective of Sustainability: Case Study of the Metropolitan Region of Campinas	476
<i>Andréia Medinilha Pancher, Ana Isabel de Sá, Marcelo Costa, and Tiago Oyan Aguiar</i>	

Using Geodesign to Plan the Future of Macapa Metropolitan Region, State of Amapa, Brazil: A Support to Expanding Collaborative Technical Performance.	491
<i>Gustavo Adolfo Tinoco Martínez, Fabiana Carmo de Vargas Vieira, Caroline Cristiane Rocha, Ana Corina Maia Palheta, and Sara Heloiza Alberto Neri</i>	
Asynchronous Mode in the Webgis: A Challenge to Ensure Greater Popular Participation	507
<i>Patricia PortoCarreiro, Patricia Vieira Trinta, and Thiago Lima e Lima</i>	
11th International Workshop on Future Computing System Technologies and Applications (FiSTA 2021)	
Deep Fake Recognition in Tweets Using Text Augmentation, Word Embeddings and Deep Learning.	523
<i>Senait G. Tesfagergish, Robertas Damaševičius, and Jurgita Kapočiūtė-Dzikienė</i>	
Development of an RL-Based Mechanism to Augment Computation Offloading in Edge Computing	539
<i>Shintaro Ide and Bernady O. Apduhan</i>	
An Initial Assessment of a Chatbot for Rumination-Focused Cognitive Behavioral Therapy (RFCBT) in College Students.	549
<i>Alana Lucia Souza Oliveira, Leonardo Nogueira Matos, Methanias Colaço Junior, and Zenith Nara Costa Delabrida</i>	
Price Forecasting with Deep Learning in Business to Consumer Markets	565
<i>Emre Eğriboz and Mehmet S. Aktaş</i>	
Modeling and Verification of Contactless Mobile Banking System in E-Banking Using SPIN	581
<i>Tej Narayan Thakur and Noriaki Yoshiura</i>	
International Workshop on Geographical Analysis, Urban Modeling, Spatial Statistics (GEOG-AND-MOD 2021)	
Earthquake Prediction Based on Combined Seismic and GPS Monitoring Data	601
<i>V. G. Gitis, A. B. Derendyaev, and K. N. Petrov</i>	
Survey of a Peruvian Archaeological Site Using LiDAR and Photogrammetry: A Contribution to the Study of the Chachapoya.	613
<i>Giovanni Righetti, Stefano Serafini, Fabian Brondi Rueda, Warren B. Church, and Gabriele Garnerio</i>	

Estimation of Hourly Salinity Concentrations Using an Artificial Neural Network	629
<i>Vladimir J. Alarcon, Anna C. Linhoss, Christopher R. Kelble, Paul F. Mickle, Joseph Bishop, and Emily Milton</i>	
Tracing and Modeling of the COVID-19 Pandemic Infections in Poland Using Spatial Interactions Models	641
<i>Piotr A. Werner</i>	
On Sustainability of Urban Italian Mobility	658
<i>Gabriella Schoier, Giuseppe Borruso, and Beatrice Dedemo</i>	
A Remote Sensing and Geo-Statistical Approaches to Mapping Burn Areas in Apulia Region (Southern Italy)	670
<i>Valentina Santarsiero, Gabriele Nolè, Antonio Lanorte, Biagio Tucci, Francesco Vito Ronco, Vito Augusto Capurso, and Beniamino Murgante</i>	
Soil Erosion and Land Degradation in Rural Environment: A Preliminary GIS and Remote-Sensed Approach	682
<i>Giuseppe Cillis, Gabriele Nolè, Antonio Lanorte, Valentina Santarsiero, Biagio Tucci, Francesco Scorza, and Beniamino Murgante</i>	
A Remote Sensing Methodology to Assess the Abandoned Arable Land Using NDVI Index in Basilicata Region.	695
<i>Valentina Santarsiero, Gabriele Nolè, Antonio Lanorte, Biagio Tucci, Giuseppe Cillis, Francesco Scorza, and Beniamino Murgante</i>	
Assessment and Monitoring of Soil Erosion Risk and Land Degradation in Arable Land Combining Remote Sensing Methodologies and RUSLE Factors.	704
<i>Biagio Tucci, Gabriele Nolè, Antonio Lanorte, Valentina Santarsiero, Giuseppe Cillis, Francesco Scorza, and Beniamino Murgante</i>	
Correction to: Computational Science and Its Applications – ICCSA 2021 . . .	C1
<i>Osvaldo Gervasi, Beniamino Murgante, Sanjay Misra, Chiara Garau, Ivan Blečić, David Taniar, Bernady O. Apduhan, Ana Maria A. C. Rocha, Eufemia Tarantino, and Carmelo Maria Torre</i>	
Author Index	717