# Preface

This volume contains the papers presented at STPIS'17: 3rd International Workshop on Socio-Technical Perspective held on June 13, 2017 in Essen, Germany.

### Importance of socio-technical perspective in research and practice

A socio-technical perspective sees an organization as an emergent whole of multiple systems view – in this perspective a multiplicity of emergent combinations of what may appear as two systems is a key feature – a social system and a technical system as one indivisible whole. The real pattern of behaviour in the organization is determined by the interaction of two. While analysing management problems of getting things done by people, adequate consideration should be given to technology as well as informal and formal interactions of people.

Despite that a socio-technical perspective has been around for over a half century, it is often forgotten in the IS discourse today. Consequently, many "new approaches" appear to reflect on IS systems problems, such as modern IT systems poorly adjusted to the external or/and internal environment (e.g. market, organizational culture) of organizations in which they are (to be) deployed. We strongly believe that it is high time the social-technical perspective took its proper place in IS research, practice and teaching.

### The third STPIS workshop

The main purpose of the workshop is to arrange discussions on using a socio-technical perspective in IS development, the long term goal being to make this workshop a meeting place for the community of IS researchers and practitioners interested in the socio-technical approach. These workshop proceedings are a continuation from last year's attempt to set a broad platform for discussion and debate on the benefits and problems of viewing information systems as socio-technical artefacts.

STPIS'17 presentations sessions include 12 papers on various aspects of applying socio-technical approaches to practice.

Three experience reports cover such topics, as using a socio-technical approach in organizational transformation (Mauri), teaching (Sadok & Bednar), and requirements engineering (Desnica et al.).

Two research-oriented papers cover hype directions in the Information Systems field, i.e. Industry 4.0 (de Lange et al.), and the usage of Open data (Pinto et al.).

Six position papers introduce various discussion topics, such as using rich pictures in decision making (Feldman & Kirkham), behavior of complex socio-technical projects (Costantini et al.), graffiti culture (Cox et al.), adoption of Industry 4.0 (Liere-Netheler), and using a socio-technical matrix in practice (Bider and Bider & Perjons).

One poster paper raises the question of how best to support end-users (Imrie).

The STPIS workshop has a tradition to devote half time to papers presentation and half time to collaborative work. Two collaborative sessions at STPIS'16 are summarized in Appendix 1. Collaborative sessions at STPIS'17 will be devoted to work in groups on a business case, each group producing a solution based on a socio-technical systems approach of their choice. A short presentation of the business case that will be used is presented in Appendix 2.

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STPIS'17 organizers
Stewart Kowalski
Peter Bednar
Ilia Bider

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| PC member | Organization |
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Bakhshov, Nadim
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