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# Human Factors in Computing and Informatics

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# Preface

The field of Human–Computer Interaction (HCI) has been extremely successful for the last 30 years, especially when it comes to changing computing to the benefit of end users. Advanced mobile, ubiquitous, and pervasive computing have dramatically changed the way we *interact with information*, which turns “human factors” into an essential part of computer science and informatics in all areas of our daily life. SouthCHI – the International Conference on Human Factors in Computing & Informatics (formerly USAB), is dedicated to this field and particularly wants to build a bridge between experts from Southern Europe with the world.

SouthCHI is the successor of the well-established USAB Conference series, which was born in 2005 at Vienna University of Technology, Austria, when it took place as the “First USABility Symposium” with Ben Shneiderman as the first keynote speaker. Whereas the USAB series always focused on a certain topic, e.g., on Information Quality in e-Health in 2011, the SouthCHI conference series promotes all aspects of HCI and usability engineering – which was a big wish from the participants of the USAB series and took shape during USAB 2010 at the Alpen-Adria-Universität Klagenfurt, where the idea arose of organizing such a conference particularly to connect experts from the southern countries of Europe with the whole world.

This first event was organized in Maribor, Slovenia, the European Capital of Culture 2012. The conference was organized by the University of Maribor and supported by the world’s largest computing organizations: IEEE and ACM.

HCI is important in all application domains, including medical and life sciences, automotive industry, social media, Web 2.0 etc., which are rapidly increasing in popularity and importance, particularly in South and South-Eastern European countries and thus are bringing about fundamental changes in the area of user-friendly computer-supported tools. With their multi- and interdisciplinary approach and research, solutions are becoming essential in modern human work and life.

HCI is an interdisciplinary profession/field and requires the ability to communicate with professionals from other disciplines and the willingness to accept and incorporate also their points of view. Consequently, SouthCHI 2013 was organized so as to promote a close collaboration between scientists, engineers, industrial and business representatives, and experts from the regions of Alpen-Adria, South and South-East Europe as well as Mediterranean countries with the “rest of the world.” This was a unique opportunity to meet experts from around the world for networking and discussing business opportunities, in order to gain new connections, knowledge, and possibilities of exchanging expertise. The main mission of this conference, therefore, is to build this bridge between people from Central and Southern Europe and other countries.

SouthCHI 2013 received a total of 169 submissions. We followed a careful and rigorous two-level, double-blind review scheme, assigning each paper to a minimum of three and maximum of six reviewers from our international scientific board. On the basis of the reviews, only 38 full papers were accepted (resulting in an acceptance rate of approx. 22 %). Additionally, 12 short papers, four posters, and three doctoral thesis papers were accepted; i.e. 57 regular papers plus 2 keynote lectures from 30 countries: Austria, Belgium, Canada, China, Croatia, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Denmark, Finland, Germany, Greece, India, Ireland, Italy, Japan, The Netherlands, Norway, Poland, Portugal, Romania, Saudi Arabia, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, Taiwan, Tunisia, Turkey, UK, and USA.

The organizers see SouthCHI as a bridge within the scientific community, between various technological disciplines as well as social sciences that meets end users' needs and brings them benefits and values. The people who gathered together to work for this conference showed great enthusiasm and dedication.

We cordially thank each and every person who contributed toward making SouthCHI 2013 a success, for their participation and commitment: the authors, reviewers, partners, organizations, supporters, the team of the Institute of Media Communication from University of Maribor, Slovenia, the team from the Research Unit Human-Computer Interaction for Medicine and Health Care (HCI4MED) of the Institute of Medical Informatics, Statistics and Documentation of the Medical University Graz, Austria, the team at the Alpen-Adria-Universität Klagenfurt, Austria and all the volunteers; without their help, this bridge would never have been built.

July 2013

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