

Preface

Reflections and advances in Ambient Intelligence

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1. This thematic issue

This issue of JAISE is focused on the theme of “Reflections and Advances” in the field of Ambient Intelligence, aiming to serve as an effort to assess the status of the field and to envision some of the potential areas ahead. Such an effort is worth attempting once in a while to reflect on the achievements, evaluate the advances made, and identify the challenges. In the past decade, Ambient Intelligence has not only demonstrated promising opportunities in addressing real-life applications, but it has also evolved to an interdisciplinary domain of research, bringing together researchers from science and engineering, psychology, architecture, humanities, and sociology.

This Thematic Issue is based on extended versions of papers accepted and presented during the 12th European Conference on Ambient Intelligence (AmI 2015) held in Athens, Greece. We hope the papers accepted for this Thematic Issue will offer a good basis for reflecting on the status of Ambient Intelligence and its recent advances, and provide inspiration for future researches in this exciting area.

We wish to thank our colleagues Boris De Ruyter (Philips Research & Radboud University Nijmegen, The Netherlands), Achilles Kameas and Irene Mavrommati (Hellenic Open University, Greece) for organizing the content of this issue. The Thematic Issue has attracted several submissions (proving the interest on this topic) from which the editors have selected the four best papers through a rigorous review process.

In addition to the four papers accepted for the Thematic Issue, this issue of JAISE also includes two pa-

pers from the regular track. The article “*Smart Environments as Places Serviced by k-Drone Systems*” is related to a new application of Ambient Intelligence: a system of k-drones used to provide services over designated areas (called Drones-as-a-Service (DaaS)). The article “*Logical Interactions for Heterogeneous IoT Entities via Virtual World Mirrors in Support of Ambient Assisted Living*” addresses the sub-topic of Ambient Intelligence called Ambient Assisted Living (AAL), where intelligence from the environment is mainly exploited for improving everyday living and health conditions.

2. Upcoming issues

The following is the list of upcoming issues of JAISE:

- Nov. 2016: Regular Issue.
- Jan. 2017: Thematic Issue on a selected topic from Intelligent Environments 2016.
- Mar. 2017: Regular Issue.
- May 2017: Thematic Issue on *Intelligent Systems, Applications and Environments for the Industry of the Future*.
- July 2017: Regular Issue.

More information on the call for papers to the future thematic issues is available on the webpage of JAISE at: <http://www.iospress.nl/journal/journal-of-ambient-intelligence-and-smart-environments>.