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Preface

This volume contains the papers presented at INSCI 2016, the Third International Conference on Internet Science, held on September 12–14, 2016 in Florence.

This conference brought together researchers from across the world to help further develop the emerging discipline of Internet Science. Internet Science is an interdisciplinary field that explores the sociotechnical nature of the Internet through the lenses of Computer Science, Sociology, Art, Mathematics, Physics, Complex Systems Analysis, Psychology, Economics, Law, Political Sciences, and more. Internet Science aims to bridge these different views and theories, in order to create a more holistic understanding of the Internet and its impact on society. In particular, Internet Science asks crucial questions like: How do people behave in the Internet? Are they changing their lifestyle and how? Can the Internet promote sustainability, cooperation, and collective intelligence? Can it support open democracy and policy making? How can the awareness of possibilities and dangers of the Internet be promoted? What about topics like intellectual property, privacy, reputation, and participation? What are the juridical aspects of the Internet? What about arts and humanities in general?

This conference was built on the success of on the First International Conference on Internet Science, which was held on April 9–11, 2013 and the Second International Conference on Internet Science “Societies, Governance, and Innovation” on May 27–29, 2015, which both took place in Brussels, Belgium organized by the FP7 European Network of Excellence in Internet Science - EINS project, with the support of the European Commission.

The organizers of the Third International Conference on Internet Science wish to thank their organizing partners (The University of Bologna, The Centre for Research and Technology Hellas, The University of Florence, and The University of Southampton) for their help and support. We would like to thank the “Collective Awareness Platforms for Sustainability and Social Innovation” (CAPS) initiative for their support of this conference. The CAPS initiative aims at designing and piloting online platforms creating awareness of sustainability problems and offering collaborative solutions based on networks (of people, of ideas, of sensors), enabling new forms of social innovation.

The theme of the Third International Conference on Internet Science was “Openness, Collaboration and Collective Action”. This theme aimed to further explore how the Internet can act as a sociotechnical layer to allow people to collaborate and coordinate in open and heterogeneous ways. This theme was further realized by a number of thematic topics:

- Collective Awareness and Crowdsourcing platforms
- Collaboration, Privacy, and Conformity in Virtual/Social Environments

- Internet Interoperability, Freedom, and Data Analysis
- Smart Cities and Sociotechnical Systems

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