



## Towards a Connected and Automated Society

*16<sup>th</sup> – 19<sup>th</sup> June 2019, Helsinki, Finland*

Digitalization is rapidly changing our society. The proliferation of easy-to-use devices and cloud-based applications is dramatically moulding our daily life, often in unpredictable and surprising ways. The underlying foundation of this evolution is the global service and connectivity infrastructure.

Many important techno-political and socio-economic questions regarding the evolution of this infrastructure centre on fibre and wireless. 5G, as the next generation mobile access technology, may play a key role in unifying the architecture and ecosystems, casting aside in the process a series of dichotomies such as fixed vs. mobile, indoors vs. outdoors, humans vs. machines, broadcasting vs. Internet, boundaries of the cloud vs. network. Notably, 5G is not only the next mobile technology generation but it is also a significant game changer in the wider communication ecosystem. 5G small cells on higher frequency bands, in particular, are creating pressure for structural changes affecting both co-operation and competition across the industry.

Reflecting the trend of growing proportions of the population living in cities, smart city efforts are gaining ground globally. In addition to human users, a city network needs to support large numbers of automated sensors and actuators. This raises many questions regarding the privacy of citizens, the improved coordination of telecommunication and power cabling, the limits of safe automation and how the massive number of base station antennas required can be accommodated.

We welcome submissions on the evolution of the global service and connectivity infrastructure, 5G and smart cities. In particular, submissions that address these issues through in a multidisciplinary manner are encouraged. In addition, we welcome submissions on a range of topics as outlined below:

- Infrastructure investment strategies in both fixed and mobile markets
- Consolidation in mobile markets – drivers for and impact of
- Digital divides – their changing nature and how they can be overcome
- Monopolisation within high-technology markets – e.g., how can markets be defined and monopolisation measured, critical assessment of the strategies the Amazon, Facebook, Google etc.
- The socio-economic impact of new technologies – e.g., 5G, IoT, AI, blockchain
- Convergence and bundling – business models, strategies and regulation
- How new technologies like blockchain are encouraging the development of new innovative business models.
- The impact of OTT on the telecommunications sector
- Greening the ICT sector

- Operator strategies – bundling, content and convergence
- The adoption of ICT in other sectors – manufacturing, transportation etc.
- The role and nature of platforms and ecosystems
- Platforms and ecosystems – their scope, regulation and integrative impact
- The emergence of new innovative regulatory tools and techniques to encourage infrastructure investment, universal access, adoption etc.
- Encouraging ICT innovation in Europe

Submissions addressing any other subject relating to telecommunication systems and markets are also welcome. Theoretical and empirical papers are welcome, as are methodologically qualitative and quantitative papers.

### **Important dates:**

- 4<sup>th</sup> February 2019: Deadline for abstracts and panel session suggestions.
- 25<sup>th</sup> February 2019: Notification of acceptance
- 29<sup>th</sup> March 2019: Early registration deadline
- 3<sup>rd</sup> June 2019: Deadline for final papers
- 16<sup>th</sup> – 19<sup>th</sup> June 2019: ITS 2019 Regional Conference in Helsinki, Finland

Submission of abstracts:

Abstracts should be about 2 pages (800 to 1000 words) in length and contain the following information:

- Title of the contribution
- A clear statement of the research question
- Remarks on the methodology adopted in the paper
- Outline of (expected) results
- Bibliographical notes (up to 6 key references used in the paper)

Abstracts should be submitted via EasyChair. If you do not already have an account, you will need to create one. Existing accounts can be used to submit your abstract.

Please submit your abstract via <https://easychair.org/conferences/?conf=its20190>

All abstracts will be subject to blind peer review.

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