

# FUTURITY 2017 – Workshop on Modeling Societal Future

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## 1 Introduction

People seek and share ideas, information, experiences, expertise, opinions, and emotion with both acquaintance and strangers on the Internet, based on the effect of the Wisdom of Crowds. Over the last few years, the use of Social Media has increased tremendously all over the world. The huge popularity of social networks provides an ideal environment for scientists to test and simulate new models, algorithms and methods to process knowledge. Structured social knowledge can be used by different actors (companies, public institutions, researchers and scholars interested in formal and empirical analysis of social trends) to understand the behaviors in users or groups.

As recent advances in information and communication technologies continue to reshape the relationship between governments and citizens, opportunities emerge at both ends. Citizens route their voices through new electronic channels, hoping to have their opinions heard at any time from any place. At the same time, companies are willing to identify user’s opinion and perceived contexts about their products.

Taking advantage of this huge knowledge “repository”, and the new search and extraction methods, the scientific program of FUTURITY-2017 invited papers focusing on the following (and related) topics:

- Extracting knowledge from social web;
- Collaborative and interactive search;
- Conversational search interaction;
- Community behavioral analysis;
- Intelligent personal assistants;
- Semantics in digital libraries;
- Extracting and mining forum data;
- Social media and linked data methodologies in real-life scenarios;
- Collaborative tools and services for citizens, organizations, communities;
- Creating and using structured social media-based resources through social web mining;
- Exploring crowdsourcing and user communities;
- Strategic early warning systems and detection of weak signals;

- Using the social web to foster innovation;
- Exploring the digital cultural heritage;
- Interaction with the web as a mental, social and physical extension of people.

In this context, the specific aim of FUTURITY-2017 was to establish a consolidated community of internationally appreciated language technology practitioners from different backgrounds, with interests in real-life applications, bridging the gap between research and innovation in order to make sense of crowdsourced knowledge and foreseen future societal challenges.

## 2 Activities

The workshop intended to be a half-day workshop, tailored around the following schedule:

- Opening session and ice-breaking team building activities, meant to familiarize participants with each other;
- Presentations of papers focusing on challenging research questions;
- Poster presentations during coffee break/lunch;
- A two hours active brainstorming activity (see below)
- A final round table, summarizing ideas and enhancing collaborations.

FUTURITY-2017 had a brainstorming session on three societal innovation scenarios (the topics list was open, participants were asked to propose discussion topics when registering): (1) multilingual collaborative and interactive search; (2) innovative conversational agents for the social web; (3) “intellectual” cooperation between humans and computers.

The organizers acted as facilitators, making sure all participants were engaged in discussion, by actively working in small groups, using creative instruments (from classical mind maps, to Round-Robin brainstorming or Six Thinking Hats techniques). The output of the brainstorming sessions will be at least one viable research project draft.

## 3 Website

More information can be found at <https://profs.info.uaic.ro/~futuraity/>