
Editorial

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Biographical notes: Eleonora Bottani is an Associate professor of Industrial Mechanical System Engineering at the Department of Engineering and Architecture of the University of Parma. She graduated (with distinction) in Industrial Engineering and Management in 2002 and earned her PhD in Industrial Engineering in 2006, both at the University of Parma. Her research activities concern logistics and supply chain management issues. She is author (or co-author) of more than 160 scientific papers, referee for more than 60 international journals, editorial board member of five scientific journals, she is the associate editor for one of those journals, and editor-in-chief of a scientific journal.

Giada La Scalia graduated in Mechanical Engineering at the University of Palermo, where she also received two PhDs, one in Production Engineering and the other one in Forest Science. She is currently professor of production management and industrial plant. Her research activity is mainly focused on the optimisation of food supply chain management and in the development of new processes and technologies for industrial production systems using expert systems. In that way she had responsibilities in the national founded project 'shelf life'. She is the author of several papers published in various journals and international conferences.

It is our great pleasure to introduce you the special issue on 'Contemporary management issues and decision-making models in systems engineering' of the *International Journal of Management and Decision Making*.

Decision-making in organisations is a recurrent theme and is essential for business continuity. Problem solving, decision-making processes and decision-making systems are the three key perspectives of a company's business (Herrmann, 2015). Managers from various fields including public, private, industrial, trading or service sectors are required to make decisions (Guarnieri, 2015). These decisions range from ones with longer-term impacts (strategic decisions) to everyday (operational) decisions. In systems engineering,

decisions are being made constantly on a daily basis, because the resources involved are always limited. A key challenge for systems engineers is to utilise limited resources in the most effective and efficient way; consequently, managers need well-thought-out decision-making processes to engage in effective decision-making (Guarnieri, 2015).

Our aim with this special issue was to provide a comprehensive overview of various decision-making problems typical of systems engineering, as well as to show new methods for decision engineering and their application to practical cases. We received several submissions on these topics and after peer-review process, six papers were accepted for publication. The papers published address decision-making applications in various areas including risk management in food industries through hazard analysis and critical control point (HACCP), supply chain network design, production scheduling and smart cities, among others.

Thanks to the variety of topics addressed, we are confident that this special issue will provide the scientific community with valuable information and knowledge on decision-making in the engineering field. Obviously, the value-added of a special issue is only as good as the contributions of the manuscripts it receives and the quality of the feedback provided by its reviewers. We are therefore very grateful to all the authors, who supported this special issue through their contributions, and we are indebted to the reviewers, who helped us in managing the papers received in a timely manner and provided useful and professional reports about the papers. Finally, we would like to express our gratitude to the Editor-in-Chief of *International Journal of Management and Decision Making*, which gave us the possibility of organising this special issue and helped us in its successful completion.

References

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- Herrmann, J.W. (2015) *Engineering Decision Making and Risk Management*, John Wiley & Sons, USA, ISBN: 978-1-118-91933-0.