Editorial

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Biographical notes: Maro Vlachopoulou is a Professor of Digital Marketing and e-Business from the Department of Applied Informatics, Director of Information Systems and E-business Laboratory ISeBlab from the University of Macedonia (iseb.gr), Greece. She has published over 100 papers in scientific journals (*International Journal of Production Economics*, *Journal of Enterprise Information Management*, *International Journal of Business Information Systems*, *The European Journal of Operation Research*) and organised numerous conferences. Throughout the years, her work has exceeded in many academic associations and she has directed many European research programs. She has served as a consultant to private companies.

Theodore Tarnanidis is a Researcher in the Business Administration Department at the University of Macedonia. He finished his postdoctoral research at the University of Macedonia, in November 2015, in the area of sustainable entrepreneurship. He obtained his PhD from the University of London Met. UK, in 2011, with a thesis on multi-attribute decision-analysis: analysing the effects of reference points. He was awarded postgraduate fellowship from the National State Scholarship Foundation (IKY). He received his MBA in Marketing from Liverpool University and is a graduate from the University of Macedonia (Business Administration) and Alexander Technological Educational Institute (Marketing). For several years he worked in the public sector where he specialised in financial economics.

Shaofeng Liu is a Professor of Operations Management and Decision Making at Plymouth Business School, University of Plymouth, UK. She is the Leader for Product/Service Value Chain Research cluster. She obtained her PhD in knowledge management for global supply chain decisions from Loughborough University, UK. She is currently the Principal Investigator for three Horizon 2020 Marie Curie projects (one RISE and two ITN projects). She has been involved in a great number of EU and UK funded research projects. Her research interests and expertise are in product and service value chains, including innovative business models, resource efficiency, process improvement, quality management. She has published over 160 research papers. She is a senior member on the Management Board for Euro Working

Group on Decision Support Systems. She is a Senior Editor for the international journal, *Cogent Business and Management* and an Associate Editor for a number of international journals.

The special issue consists of seven papers representing all issues covered by PROMETHEE Days 2018 and EWG-DSS ICDSST 2018 conferences, while demonstrating the wide-ranging of different interests of our target audience.

Paper 1 ('Mapping soil erosion potential zones with a geo-spatial application of multi-criteria evaluation technique model in highlands of Ethiopia') studies the effect of a set of factors such as slope, topographic wetness index, aspect, stream power index, elevation and curvature with the combination of geographic information systems and multiple criteria evaluation technique in order to map soil potential erosion zones in Ethiopia.

Paper 2 ('Decision making under the scope of forest policy: sustainable agroforestry systems in less favoured areas') applies multiple criteria decision analysis in order to propose suitable agroforestry systems as a sustainable choice for the forestation of abandoned agricultural land in a mountainous, less favoured area. According to the findings the development of agroforestry can contribute to the sustainable development of mountainous, less favoured areas of Greece with the selection of suitable agroforestry systems.

Paper 3 ('Towards a computer-based decision support system for aquaculture stakeholders in Greece in the context of climate change) develops a computer-based decision support system (DSS) that simulates and visualises the impacts of different climate change scenarios on Greek aquaculture, including economic impacts. The description contains details on the structure, constituent models, and current status of implementation of the DSS. The applicability of the generated tool in decision-making is discussed and planning for further development is outlined.

Paper 4 ('Building theory of agri-food supply chain resilience using total interpretive structural modelling and MICMAC analysis') builds a theoretical framework of resilience factors in agri-food supply chains with the help of total interpretive structural modelling and matrix of cross impact multiplications applied to classification analysis. The results of the total interpretive structural modelling demonstrate that leadership plays a vital role in enhancing the resilience of the agri-food supply chain. The paper contributes to the extant theory building in the field of agri-food supply chain resilience, to fill the gap that a few researches have been conducted on agri-food supply chain resilience theory building.

Paper 5 ('An open source approach of building web apps to support decision making with exploratory techniques. Case study: the multiple correspondence analysis on real data from agritourism') presents a technical path in order to formulate the creation of small customised web applications that handle big data. It studies the various ways in which relevant application can be developed and the findings resulted in a specific technical proposal. A novel demo web app was developed with open source code in which a user can login, upload data and analyse them in real time with the multivariate exploratory method of multiple correspondence analysis (MCA). The paper contributes to the scientific facilitation of researchers and professionals with a minimum technical background in order to perform online complex data analytics tasks.

Paper 6 ('Identifying knowledge brokers, artefacts and channels for waste reduction in agri-food supply chains') explores an approach to integrating knowledge mobilisation within agri-food supply chains to enhance collaboration of all value chain actors and achieving a holistic reduction of waste. Research methods include semi-structured interview and documentation for data collection and thematic analysis for data analysis. This study has great potential in helping make the right supply chain decisions for eliminating lean wastes in agri-food industry.

Paper 7 ('Ranking the EU countries according to the environmental performance index using PROMETHEE') studies how the PROMETHEE method interacts with the data of the Environmental Performance Index (EPI). Two indicators of the EPI; the environmental health and the ecosystem vitality were used as a basis. EPI is a method that studies numerically the environmental performance of a country. The selected data are processed with the well-known multi-criteria analysis method PROMETHEE. The study observes the EU countries that are improving and those need to make additional efforts.

The special issue owes much to many people. We wish to thank the authors for submitting papers to the special issue of *IJSAMI*. We are grateful that they responded to our invitation. Thanks are also given to the editorial board for supporting it so wholeheartedly, and particularly those who contributed with research work and reviewing of submitted papers. We hope that the *International Journal of Sustainable Agricultural Management and Informatics* will continue to serve the developments of MCDA methods in the distinct domain of agriculture, forestry and environment, and will be a major catalyst within representing ideas and research work in the specific field. Finally, we would like to thank Professor Basil Manos, Editor-in-Chief of the *International Journal of Sustainable Agricultural Management and Informatics*, for hosting and supporting our work. We hope that this special issue will promote the PROMETHEE Days 2018 and EWG-DSS ICDSST 2018 scientific areas and contribute to the latest developments and MCDA in forestry, agriculture and the environment.