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Preface

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Associazione Italiana di
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Preface

On behalf of the Program Committee, a very warm welcome to the Fifth Italian Conference on Computational Linguistics (CLiC-it 2018). This edition of the conference is held in Torino. The conference is locally organised by the University of Torino and hosted into its prestigious main lecture hall “*Cavallerizza Reale*”. The CLiC-it conference series is an initiative of the Italian Association for Computational Linguistics (AILC) which, after five years of activity, has clearly established itself as the premier national forum for research and development in the fields of Computational Linguistics and Natural Language Processing, where leading researchers and practitioners from academia and industry meet to share their research results, experiences, and challenges.

This year CLiC-it received 70 submissions against 64 submissions in 2015, 69 in 2016 and 72 in 2017. The Programme Committee worked very hard to ensure that every paper received at least two careful and fair reviews. This process finally led to the acceptance of 18 papers for oral presentation and 45 papers for poster presentation, with a global acceptance rate of 90% motivated by the inclusive spirit of the conference. The conference is also receiving considerable attention from the international community, with 16 (23%) submissions showing at least one author affiliated to a foreign institution. Regardless of the format of presentation, all accepted papers are allocated 5 pages plus 2 pages for references in the proceedings, available as open access publication. In line with previous editions, the conference is organised around thematic areas managed by one or two area chairs per area.

In addition to the technical programme, this year we are honoured to have as invited speakers internationally recognised researchers as Johan Bos (University of Groningen) and Iryna Gurevych (Technische Universität Darmstadt). We are very grateful to Johan and Iryna for agreeing to share with the Italian community their knowledge and expertise on key topics in Computational Linguistics.

Traditionally, around one half of the participants at CLiC-it are young postdocs, PhD students, and even undergraduate students. As in the previous edition of the conference, we organised a special track called “Research Communications”, encouraging authors of articles published in 2018 at outstanding international conferences in our field to submit short abstracts of their work. Research communications are not published in the proceedings, but are orally presented within a dedicated session at the conference, in order to enforce dissemination of excellence in research.

Moreover, during the conference we award the prize for the best Master Thesis (*Laurea Magistrale*) in Computational Linguistics, submitted at an Italian University between August 1st 2017 and July 31st 2018. This special prize is also endorsed by AILC. We have received 6 candidate theses, which have been evaluated by a special jury. The prize will be awarded at the conference, by a member of the jury.

As last year, we propose a tutorial at the beginning of the conference (Paolo Rosso – Profiling Information in Social Media). We highlight the importance that this kind of opportunities have for young researchers in particular, and we are proud of having made the tutorial attendance free for all registered students.

Even if CLiC-it is a medium size conference, organizing this annual meeting requires major effort from many people. This conference would not have been possible without the dedication, devotion and hard work of the members of the Local Organising Committee, who volunteered their time and energies to contribute to the success of the event. We are also extremely grateful to our Programme Committee members for producing a lot of detailed and insightful reviews, as well as to the Area Chairs who assisted the Programme Chairs in their duties. All these people are named in the following pages. We also want to acknowledge the support from endorsing organisations and institutions and from all of our sponsors, who generously provided funds and services that are crucial for the realisation of this event. Special thanks are also due to the University of Torino for its support in the organisation of the event and for hosting the conference at the main lecture hall "*Cavallerizza Reale*".

Please join us at CLiC-it 2018 to interact with experts from academia and industry on topics related to Computational Linguistics and Natural Language Processing and to experience and share new research findings, best practices, state-of-the-art systems and applications. We hope that this year's conference will be intellectually stimulating, and that you will take home many new ideas and methods that will help extend your own research.

Elena Cabrio, Alessandro Mazzei and Fabio Tamburini
CLiC-it 2018 General Chairs