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Maria Teresa Melis & Simonetta Paloscia

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Maria Teresa Melis[a] and Simonetta Paloscia[b]

[a]IFAC-CNR, Florence, Italy; [b]University of Cagliari, Italy

The IX Conference of the Italian Society of Remote Sensing (AIT2018) which has been held in Florence between the 4th and 6th of July 2018 had a great success with a large participation of many scientists from different countries worldwide. The title of the meeting was "From space to land management, remote sensing technologies supporting sustainable development and natural resource management". (https://aitonline.org/)

AIT2018 offered a relevant audience to present the results of recent researches maximizing their scientific impact. The conference was hosted by the University of Florence and was organized in 3 plenary sessions, 18 oral parallel sessions, 6 sessions in broadcast, and one free course/workshop. The registered participants were 170 coming from 22 countries and presented 160 papers (38 posters). Large space has been devoted to young scientists, and three of them were awarded as best contributions.

The ten papers collected in this special issue of European Journal of Remote Sensing are focused on applications of Remote sensing techniques and interpretation to the analysis and monitoring of natural surfaces. The authors are from important scientific institutions in Austria, Belgium, Croatia, France, Germany, Greece, Italy, Netherlands, Poland, Algeria, and Nigeria. These authors discuss critically topics regarding issues of applications of crop classification, urban vegetation, geology and geomorphology, natural disasters (landslides and land degradation), and retrieval techniques based on pattern recognition and machine learning approaches. A particular attention has been done on integration of image data in environmental models mainly devoted to human interactions with natural resources. The proposed methodologies are based on the use of satellite images from both optical (also hyperspectral) and microwave sensors.

In summary, the meeting was a success and the published selected papers represent wonderfully the up-to-date scientific research worldwide.

Have a great time reading this Special Issue!

CONTACT Simonetta Paloscia s.paloscia@ifac.cnr.it National Research Council, Institute of Applied Physics, Florence, Italy