

IMCL2023

*"Smart Mobile Communication & Artificial Intelligence"*

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Porto Palace Hotel\*, Thessaloniki, 9–10 November 2023

*\* IMCL2023 is planned as an onsite event. Remote presentations will be supported.*

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# Special Session Call for Papers

## Empowering Young Women in ICT by Fostering an Inclusive Technological Thinking (GIFT – IT)

### Overview

Technological thinking is a valuable skill that can be applied in various fields, including engineering, design, sciences and education, to drive innovation and enhance problem-solving abilities, involving the ability to approach and solve complex problems through innovative and systematic methods, a crucial success vector in today's digitally driven world. Despite its importance, young females are consistently underrepresented in technology-related fields such as information and communications technology (ICT), engineering, computer science, and other STEM-based areas. There are several factors contributing to such an underrepresentation, including societal and cultural stereotypes, a lack of role models, and inadequate exposure to technological thinking during early education. These factors often lead to young females developing limited self-confidence and interest in pursuing technology-focused careers, ultimately exacerbating the gender disparities in these fields.

This special session strives to make a tangible impact by fostering an inclusive approach to technological thinking. GIFT-IT has the purpose to promote inclusive technological thinking for empowering young girls and women in the areas of interactive mobile communication, technologies, and learning, by emphasizing the importance of developing technological thinking skills among young women to enhance their problem-solving abilities and foster innovation across various fields.

The session invites submissions covering various aspects of technological thinking, including inter-disciplinary research, case studies, models and methodologies, reviews, and work-in-progress reflections. Contributions from both academia and industry are encouraged to facilitate an enriching exchange of ideas, experiences, and best practices, ultimately leading to the empowerment of young women in ICT.

### Topics

- Technological Thinking skills, models, tools and activities for Inclusive Classrooms to increase female engagement
- The role of inclusive collaborative dyads and teams to support female participation in ICT fields
- Inclusive mobile technologies in education
- ICT-mediated design for inclusive classrooms
- Inclusive representation in game design and development

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- Curriculum development, programs and resources to promote female engagement in ICT domains
- Diverse representation in educational and interactive technologies, particularly for girls and young women
- Role of mentorship, leadership, skill-building and networking for ICT careers, with a focus on young women
- Gender perspectives in ICT policymaking and decision-making
- Challenges and strategies for creating inclusive work environments and hiring practices in ICT fields
- Cybersecurity and online safety to ensuring secure online experiences for diverse populations, specifically female users
- Transferrable skills for entering or transitioning into ICT fields, with a particular focus on young women
- Technological thinking for Inclusive Entrepreneurship in ICT

## Program Committee

### Chair(s)

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### **Contribution Types**

Special sessions, held in parallel with the general conference, are an integral part of the conference. Special sessions papers are required to meet the same standards as papers in the general conference and are published in the same conference proceedings. The length of special session papers is 8-10 pages.

### **Presentation Types**

IMCL2023 is planned as an onsite event. However, distant/pre-recorded presentations for special session papers are supported.

### **Proceedings**

All special session paper submissions are subject to a double-blind reviewing process. Only accepted and presented special session papers will appear in the proceedings if they have been uploaded before the deadlines. The conference proceedings will be published as IMCL2023 Proceedings in the Springer series "**Lecture Notes in Networks and Systems**". More info is available at: <https://www.imcl-conference.org/current/proceedings.php>

### **Important Dates**

17 Jul 2023 Submission of complete papers for special sessions  
31 Jul 2023 Notification of acceptance  
13 Sep 2023 Camera-ready due & author registration deadline  
09 Nov 2023 IMCL2023 Conference Opening

More info is available at: <https://www.imcl-conference.org/current/deadlines.php>

### **Submission**

Please visit: <https://www.conftool.org/imcl-conference-2023/> and submit your paper by selecting the respective special session.