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**Proceedings**  
of the  
**19<sup>th</sup> annual conference**  
of the  
**European Association  
for Machine Translation  
(EAMT)**

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## Foreword from the president of the European Association for Machine Translation

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As newly-elected president of the European Association for Machine Translation (EAMT) it is a great pleasure for me to write the foreword to this special issue of the *Baltic Journal of Modern Computing*, which also serves as the proceedings of the first EAMT conference held under my presidency: the 19<sup>th</sup> annual conference of the EAMT in Riga, Latvia. It is also a great honour, but also a great responsibility, to be given the chance to continue the huge work done by Andy Way's during a fruitful six-year-long presidency. Taking advantage of the momentum impressed on the EAMT by Andy, I hope I can live up to the expectations of our membership and of the wider machine translation community. If I succeed, it will be thanks to the help of a hard-working Executive Committee, whose members are elected or ratified when our Association holds a General Assembly as part of each annual conference.

The EAMT started organizing annual workshops in 1996; then, these workshops have become annual conferences, and have been hosted all around Europe. In the last years, the venue has steadily moved from west to east: from Barcelona (2009) to Saint-Raphaël (2010) to Leuven (2011) to Trento (2012) and finally —after skipping one year to host the successful world-wide MT Summit 2013 in Nice— to Dubrovnik (2014), only to turn around a little bit after visiting Antalya in 2015 to come to Riga in 2016. Yes, you have guessed: EAMT 2017, our 20<sup>th</sup> annual conference, will surely be west from Riga. It will be announced at EAMT 2016 shortly after I am writing these lines. Those who miss our conference, will find out by visiting our Association's website, [EAMT.org](http://EAMT.org).

By the way, if you have not done so yet, please consider joining the EAMT. Our membership rates are low, particularly for students, and have not increased since the EAMT's inception. You will benefit from discounts when attending not only our conferences, but also the conferences held by our partner associations the Asia-Pacific Association for Machine Translation (AAMT) and the Association for Machine Translation in the Americas (AMTA). You will also have an exclusive chance to benefit from funding for your activities related to machine translation. And perhaps you can get even more involved and participate in serving the European machine translation community by becoming a member of the Executive Committee of the EAMT.

But let me go back to EAMT 2016. As in previous conferences, it is great to see the strong programme put together by our programme chairs: Antonio Toral, as research track chair, and Tony O'Dowd and Alexandru Ceausu, as user track co-chairs. There will

also be a projects and products session which showcases the advance of machine translation in Europe. And, last but not least, I also feel very fortunate to have Alex Fraser as our invited speaker to top it all off.

EAMT 2016 would have never been possible without the generous offer to host and the hard work done subsequently by the local organizing committee at the well-known machine translation and language technology company Tilde, headed by Andrejs Vasiļjevs, and without the hospitality of the University of Latvia represented by Juris Borzovs. I warmly thank them all!

Another round of heartfelt thank-yous go to the co-editors-in-chief of the Baltic Journal of Modern Computing, and a special one to managing co-editor Evalds Ikaunieks. This is the first time that our whole proceedings are given the unique chance of becoming a special issue in an indexed, open-access journal; I hope this multiplies the impact of the advances presented in our conference.

Finally, I would like to thank EAMT 2016 attendees for coming to Riga. I hope the conference leads to new friendships and fruitful collaboration.

Mikel L. Forcada  
EAMT President  
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