

SPECIAL SESSION: USE AND CONTROL OF THE COMPANY'S INFORMATION HERITAGE

The 11th International Conference on Digital Economy (ICDEc) will be held in Tallinn, Estonia from May 14th to 16th, 2026. <https://icdec.aten.tn/>

The **ICDEc** conference is an opportunity to bring together researchers and experts in emerging technologies from both public and private sectors to discuss issues related to the development, implementation, use and management of emerging technologies and the move to digital economy. The conference is an occasion to link researchers from computer science, business computing and information system areas to business fields such as marketing, finance, human resources, management etc. It is an opportunity to explore ideas, exchange thoughts and implement research projects between this diversity of fields with a focus on application contexts like e-commerce, e-business, e-health, e-learning, etc.

Company's information heritage today constitutes one of the major strategic assets of companies in the digital economy. This session fits perfectly within the central themes of ICDEc by exploring how organizations can create economic value from their data while navigating a constantly evolving regulatory and technological environment.

Context and challenges

In the era of digital transformation, companies are facing an explosion of internal and external data that directly influence their performance, competitiveness, and sustainability (Ren et al. 2023). Information heritage now constitutes a major strategic asset, but its optimal valorization remains a complex challenge requiring an integrated approach, combining technological innovation, new business models, organizational adaptation, managerial reinforcement, training in digital skills, and the development of tailor-made software solutions, all supported by rigorous data governance (Kohtamäki et al., 2019; Zhang et al., 2022; McCullough, 2024).

This session explores the multiple dimensions of a company's information heritage: from its valorization through artificial intelligence to its protection in a context of digital sovereignty, including its transformation into drivers of innovation and business opportunities. A key axis of this dynamic is digital servitization, that is, the evolution of traditional business models towards integrated offerings of products, intelligent services, and digital solutions (Zhang et al., 2021; Deloitte, 2023; Li et al., 2024).

The main objective of this special session "Use and mastery of the company's information heritage" is to address the critical challenges of digital transformation by examining how organizations can valorize, exploit, and effectively protect their internal and external data. Particular attention will be paid to strategies allowing data to be converted into sustainable competitive advantages, thanks to the integration of digital servitization models, while ensuring security, compliance, and responsible data governance.

Session topics

This special ICDEc 2026 session invites contributions on the following topics, without being limited to them:

Leveraging the company's information heritage: pathways toward an AI-driven strategy

- Audit methodologies and approaches to assess the potential of existing data
- Development and deployment of digital tools serving organizational performance
- Frameworks for integrating AI into business processes
- Measuring the value created through the use of proprietary data
- Data governance practices supporting AI adoption
- Sector-specific use cases demonstrating the transformation of data into competitive advantage

Utilizing the company's information heritage: from information to actionable insights

- Ideation and innovation processes fueled by data analytics
- Methods for knowledge discovery and extraction of strategic insights
- Transformation of business models through digital servitization
- Capitalizing on know-how and creating new opportunities
- Platforms supporting companies in their digital transformation journeys
- Innovation ecosystems based on controlled information sharing
- Impact on the value chain and generation of new revenue streams

Safeguarding the company's information heritage: between sovereignty and sensitive data

- Strategies for protecting critical data and ensuring regulatory compliance
- Frameworks for classifying and managing sensitive data
- Privacy-by-design approaches and adherence to GDPR
- Cyber risk management and information resilience

- Advanced protection technologies: encryption, anonymization, and beyond
- Balancing innovation with robust data protection
- Governance and auditing of information systems

Expected Contributions

We encourage the submission of:

- Original research papers presenting innovative methodologies, frameworks, or technologies
- Industry case studies documenting practical experiences and outcomes
- Comparative analyses of approaches, tools, or strategies
- Conceptual works proposing new theoretical models or analytical frameworks
- Experience-based reports on digital transformation projects
- Demonstrations of technological tools and platforms

Direct link for submission : <https://icdec.aten.tn/paper-submission.html>

Papers should be submitted in PDF format through the easychair system. Please note that **English is the only accepted language** for writing and presenting papers. Accepted and presented papers will be included in the conference proceedings and submitted for inclusion in the **Springer LNBIP series**.

All submissions will be evaluated by a review committee according to ICDEc conference standards. Accepted papers will be included in the conference proceedings and will have a dedicated session for presentation and discussion.

Important dates:

Deadline of paper submission: JANUARY 15TH, 2026

Notification of acceptance and reviewing report: MARCH 10TH, 2026

Deadline of final version submission: MARCH 25TH, 2026

ORGANIZERS



Maria Sokhn

Maria Sokhn is a Professor and Dean of the Institute for the Digitalization of Organizations (IDO) at HES-SO Neuchâtel (HEG Arc). She holds a PhD in Computer Engineering from Télécom ParisTech, completed in collaboration with CERN. She has led the Management of Information Systems track within the Master of Business Administration program for five years.

Her research focuses on guiding organizations through digital transformation and leveraging emerging technologies to turn data into a competitive advantage. She develops digital maturity models for SMEs to support the design of tailored digital transformation strategies.

In addition to her technical expertise, Maria brings organizational leadership experience, having led the eGov Innovation Center. Her work spans the entire lifecycle of informational assets, from developing digital tools to enhance internal data to creating platforms that assist companies in their digital transformation. Her projects combine technological innovation with organizational support, emphasizing sustainability and demonstrating how informational assets can create tangible value.

ORCID : <https://orcid.org/0009-0009-8899-6909>

Web Page: [Maria Sokhn – Professeur HES – HES-SO](#)



Lamia Ben

Hamida

Lamia Ben Hamida is a Professor at the Institute of City and Territory Management at HES-SO Neuchâtel (HEG Arc). She earned a PhD in Economic Sciences from the University of Fribourg and has conducted research since 2003 on knowledge sharing and transfer within and between organizations, with a particular focus on spillover effects.

Since 2016, her work has concentrated on the human capital necessary to foster these knowledge-sharing dynamics and support innovation. Soft skills play a central role in her research, both in the ideation phase and throughout the innovation process, becoming increasingly critical in the context of digital transformation.

Her research also addresses strategic and organizational changes required for digital transformation, including the evolution of business models and the development of entrepreneurial vision and mindset within organizations. Lamia leads national and international projects in these fields and publishes regularly in conferences and peer-reviewed journals.

ORCID : [Lamia Ben Hamida \(0000-0002-4178-9859\)](https://orcid.org/0000-0002-4178-9859) - ORCID

Web Page : [Lamia Ben Hamida - Professeur-e HES - HES-SO](#)

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