

Preface

These are the proceedings of SoGood 2016, the first Workshop on Data Science of Social Good. The workshop took place in Riva del Garda, Italy, on September 19th, 2016, affiliated with ECML PKDD 2016.

The aim of the workshop was to attract work related to the uses of Data Science for social good, and foster discussion about research and applications in this area. Indeed, the possibilities of Data Science for contributing to social, common, or public good are often not sufficiently perceived by the public at large. Data science applications are already helping in serving people at the bottom of the economic pyramid, aiding people with special needs, helping international cooperation, or dealing with environmental problems, disasters, and climate change.

Unfortunately, they are often given little prominence in regular conferences. They are often grouped under session labels that hide their commonality (such as “Social networks” or “Predictive models” or even under the catch-all term “Applications”). Furthermore, such forums tend to have a strong bias for papers that are novel in the strictly technical sense (new algorithms, new kinds of data analysis, new technologies) rather than on the social impact. Few scientific meetings have specifically addressed this area, more so in the European context, and certainly none in the ECML PKDD conference series.

The call for papers asked for papers presenting applications (which may, or may not require new methods) of Data Science to Social Good, or else that take into account social aspects of Data Science methods and techniques. The novelty of the application and its social impact were chosen as major selection criteria. A non-exclusive list of suggested application domains was:

- Public safety and disaster relief
- Access to food, water, and utilities
- Efficiency and sustainability
- Government transparency
- Data journalism
- Economic development
- Education
- Social services
- Healthcare

In response to the call for papers, 9 submissions were received. Each submission was reviewed by three PC members, and finally 8 of them were accepted for oral presentation.

The program comprised:

- Two sessions with the oral presentation of the accepted papers.
- A panel, session focusing on what is Data Science for social good, how can the scientific community contribute and organize itself, and how can it create self-sustaining business models.

- A poster session where the audience and authors could enter a more detailed discussion about the papers presented.

We were fortunate to have as panelists: André Carvalho (U. of São Paulo), Mykola Pechenizkiy (Eindhoven U. of Technology), Dino Pedreschi (U. of Pisa) and Antti Ukkonen (Finnish Institute of Occupational Health).

More information can be found on the workshop website: <https://sites.google.com/site/ecmlpkdd2016sogood/>

We would like to thank the PC members, the authors, the panelists and the participants for making this workshop happen.

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Barcelona, Helsinki, Porto

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