

RCIS 2026: Joint Proceedings of Workshops and Research Projects Track

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Preface

The 20th International Conference on Research Challenges in Information Science (RCIS 2026) took place from the 26th to the 29th of May 2026. The conference was held as a live, in-person event in Toulouse, France. Toulouse Capitole University has a story that stretches back almost eight centuries, to the founding of the Faculty of Canon Law by King Saint Louis in 1229, making it one of Europe's oldest universities.

RCIS aims to bring together scientists, researchers, engineers, and practitioners from a wide range of Information Science fields and to provide opportunities for knowledge sharing and dissemination.

The special theme of RCIS 2026 was "Bridging the Gap: Enhancing Understandability in Information Science". , systems increasingly integrate cloud computing, AI, IoT, big data, and microservices. This technical complexity makes systems more difficult to grasp, especially for non-technical users and decision-makers. Understandability plays a crucial role in bridging the gap between complexity and usability. It refers to how easily a human can comprehend the structure, behavior, and purpose of a system, based on how it is designed, documented, and presented. Understandability supports effective communication, design, education, and software development. It is not necessarily about simplicity, but about making complexity more approachable and clear. In a world where systems are getting smarter and more pervasive, understandability is what makes them usable and ultimately valuable. Ensuring that systems are understandable is foundational to making them ethical, accessible, and effective in 2026 and beyond.

The workshops were held on May 26th, and the Research Projects Track took place on the 28th. Two workshops were accepted based on their quality and potential to attract participants. The workshops aimed to promote the exchange, cross-fertilization, and dissemination of new ideas among the members of the RCIS community, both researchers and practitioners. In addition, the workshops took into account the conference's special theme. The workshops of RCIS 2026 were the following:

- **The 19th Workshop on Social and Human Aspects of Business Process Management (BPMS2 2026)**, organized by Rainer Schmidt and Selmin Nurcan, explores how individuals interact with each other within business processes, how they are affected by those processes, and how their behavior and social interactions influence the design, execution, management, and improvement of business processes as well as the supporting information and software systems. The list of topics of interest includes, but is not limited to:

RCIS'26: International Conference on Research Challenges in Information Science, May 26–29, 2026, Toulouse, France

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- Human-Centric BPM Design
- AI in BPM
- Agentic AI and Multi-Agent Systems
- Social Interactions in BPM
- Platform-Facilitated Collaboration
- Social Production and Process Design
- Democratic Process Management
- Organizational Dynamics
- Leadership and Engagement
- Employee Motivation in BPM
- Skills Development in BPM
- Ethics and Inclusion in BPM

Paper submissions were allowed until April 1st, 2026 and author notification was on April 20th, 2026. Each submission was reviewed by at least 2 reviewers. Three papers were received, with two of them being accepted for the workshop.

- **Workshop on Information Systems: Social and Environmental Sustainability (WISE)**, organized by Monica Vitali and Claudia Roncancio. The workshop brings together participants to present results, share empirical and design experiences, and discuss ongoing challenges related to social and environmental sustainability in Information Systems. Interactive, demo-oriented sessions complemented discussions, enabling participants to illustrate methods, tools, and systems and to engage in focused, forum-style debates. The topics of interest include, but are not limited to, the following:

- Requirements elicitation, modeling, and validation for information systems supporting social and environmental sustainability.
- Quality and non-functional requirements for sustainable information systems.
- Human-centered interaction design and user experience for sustainability-focused information systems.
- Data governance, management, privacy, and trust in information systems addressing sustainability challenges.
- Ethical, legal, and societal implications of sustainability-driven information systems.
- Stakeholder participation and socio-technical alignment in the design of sustainable information systems.
- Evaluation methods and metrics for assessing environmental impacts of information systems.
- Domain-specific information systems (e.g., health, mobility, tourism) for sustainability.
- Experience-Inspired description of Environmental or Social Sustainability Case study in Information Systems.

Paper submissions were allowed until April 1st, 2026 and author notification was on April 20th, 2026. Each submission was reviewed by at least 2 reviewers. Four papers were received, with three of them being accepted for the workshop.

The Research Projects Track, co-chaired by Janis Stirna and Charlotte Verbruggen, is devoted to presenting future or ongoing research projects (e.g., H2020 or ERC projects, national grants) on topics related to information science. This track featured a great opportunity for presenters to get feedback before submitting a research project or to disseminate the intermediate results of their projects, and for participants to get an updated view of innovative ongoing research while getting in touch with potential research partners. Project submissions were allowed until March 29th, 2026 and author notification was on April 20th, 2026. Each submission was reviewed by at least 2 reviewers. Six papers were received, with four of them being accepted for the track.

Acknowledgments

We would like to thank all the Chairs of the Workshops and of the Research Projects Track, as well as their Program Committees, for their hard work in reviewing and selecting the papers, as well as in ensuring their high scientific quality. The Local Organizing Team, Publicity Chairs, and Proceedings Chairs also contributed to organizing the Workshops and the Research Projects Track.