

Classic vs. Online in a Conference Organization. Case Study: ICCCC

(Draft)

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Abstract. The International Conference on Computers Communications and Control (ICCCC) has been founded in 2006 by I. Dzitac F.G. Filip and M.-J. Manolescu, and was organized every even year by Agora University of Oradea, under the aegis of the Information Science and Technology Section of Romanian Academy. The goal of this conference is to bring together international researchers, scientists in academia and industry to present and discuss in a friendly environment their latest research findings on a broad array of topics in computer networking and control. The first seven editions were organized classically, face to face. Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the eighth edition, ICCCC2020, which was designed to be classic, we had to organize online. In this article we will present our conclusions regarding a parallel between the two types of conferences, classic vs. online, each with advantages and disadvantages.

Keywords. Conference organization, ICCCC, classic, online, Zoom Pro, COVID-19, accessibility, costs, commodity, socialization.

1 Introduction

A good organization of a conference is not a simple thing, but it involves a quality managerial and organizational activity, which involves planning, economic evaluation and a good knowledge of social psychology.

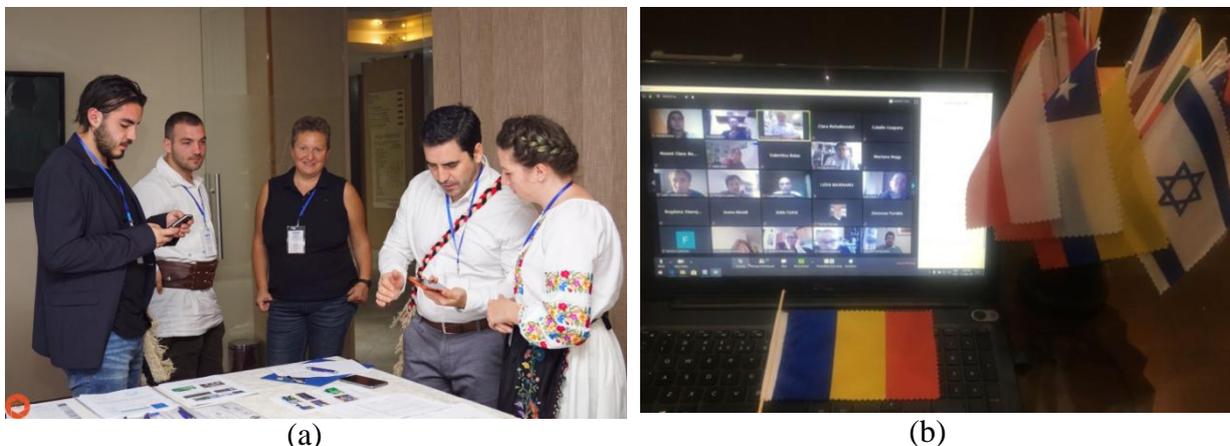


Fig. 1. Registration: (a) ICCCC2018 (classic) vs. (b) ICCCC2020 (online)

In organizing a classic international conference we must pay an interactive attention to the following:

- 1) Choosing an attractive, accessible, and safe location,
- 2) Planning a suitable period for the conference,
- 3) Evaluation of the costs and identification of funding sources,
- 4) Scientific attractiveness of the conference.



(a)



(b)

Fig. 2. Official opening: (a) ICCCC2018 (classic) vs. (b) ICCCC2020 (online)

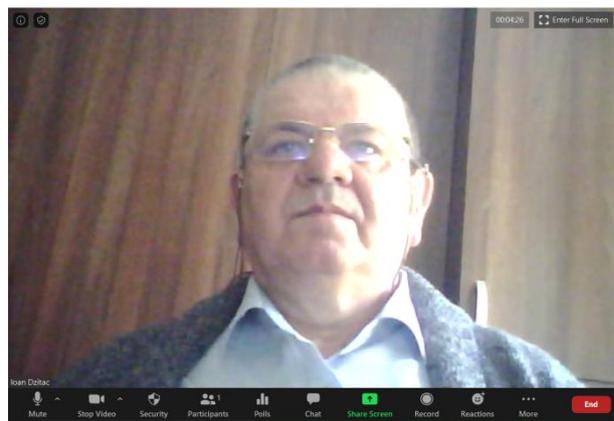
2. Choosing an attractive, accessible, and safe location

For attractiveness, many conferences choose their location in exotic areas. Many of these areas, however, present risks to personal health or safety. Others are not accessible by plane, not having an airport nearby.

All previous editions of ICCCC took place at Baile Felix, an attractive tourist resort, located 10 km from Oradea, a city where you can reach by plane, train or car transport. From Baile Felix we organized trips in the mountains, visiting the Bear Cave, the Glacier Cave, Turda Salt Mine, etc.



(a)



(b)

Fig. 3. Location: (a) ICCCC2018 (Baile Felix) vs. (b) ICCCC2020 (Zoom Pro at Home)

3. Planning a suitable period for the conference

In period planning we need consider to be out of religious holidays, taking into account all religions, to be out of exam sessions, not to be in a period when other similarly attractive conferences take place, not to be in the middle of the summer season, to be in a season with a pleasant climate etc.).



Fig. 4. Period: (a) ICCCC2018 (May 08-12) vs. (b) ICCCC2020 (May 11-15)

4. Evaluation of the costs and identification of funding sources

Services	ICCCC2018	ICCCC2020
Including registration fee, accommodation at 4 stars hotel for 4 nights and daily meals	850 EUR 700 EUR –for students	-
Including registration fee and daily meals	600 EUR 500 EUR – for students	-
Registration fee	-	400 EUR 300 EUR for students
Transport cost	Depend of distance to conference location (100 – 1,500 EUR)	-
Total cost	600 - 2,350 EUR	300 - 400 EUR
	(a)	(b)

Fig. 4. Cost: (a) ICCCC2018 (classic) vs. (b) ICCCC2020 (online)

5. Scientific attractiveness of the conference

5.1. Scientific reputation of the invited speakers

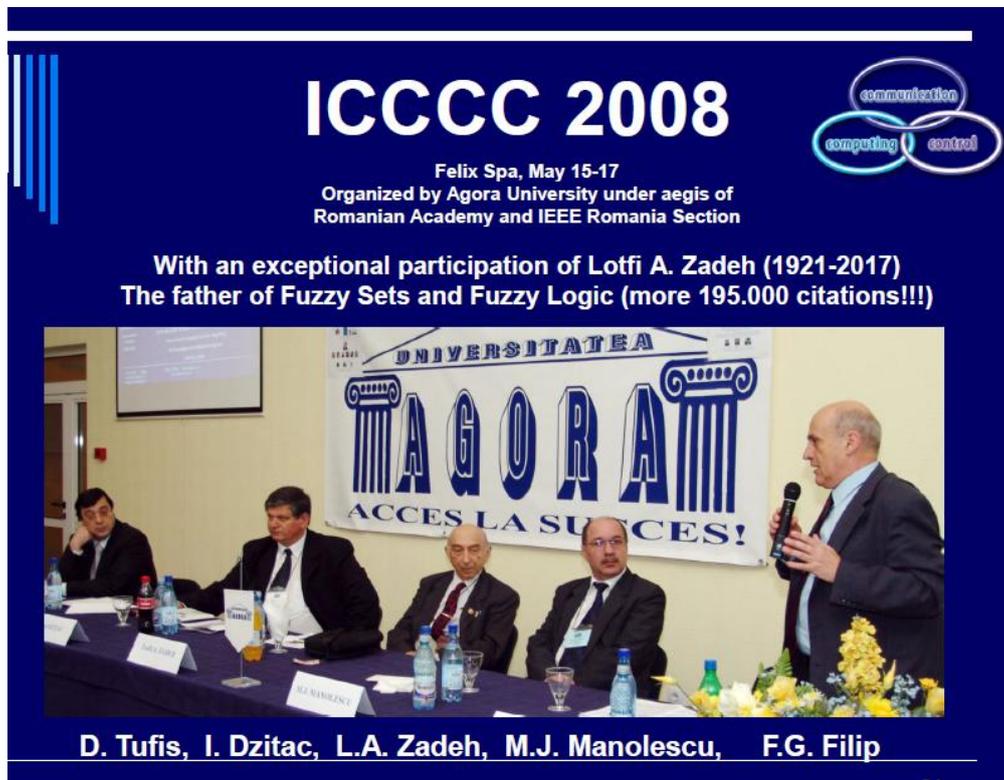


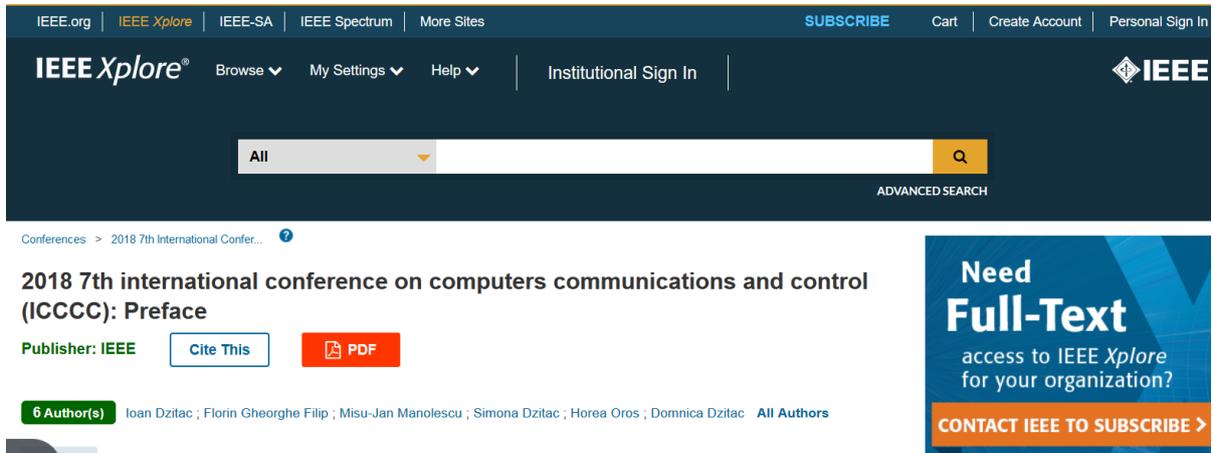
Fig.5. Lotfi A. Zadeh- The best invited speaker- ICCCC (classic)

The slide is titled "9. Janusz KACPRZYK Advances in Intelligent Systems and Computing (Series Editor; J. Kacprzyk) Springer". The title of the lecture is "Decision aid, decision advice, decision support: when, why, for whom". It features a portrait of Professor Janusz Kacprzyk and an "ANNIVERSARY DIPLOMA 'AGORA 20'" awarded to him by the Ministry of Education and Research of Romania. The diploma text includes: "MINISTERUL EDUCAȚIEI ȘI CERCETĂRII Științifice AGORA UNIVERSITATEA de Cluj Napoca - înființată în 1992 - UNIVERSITATEA AGORA 20 ANIVERSARIU DIPLOMA 'AGORA 20' 2000-2020 este acordată lui Acad. Janusz KACPRZYK Pentru contribuția deosebită în recepționarea și organizarea în România a Simpozionului Internațional ICCCC2020 și în calitate de Șeful de Catedră al Școlii de Științe Inginerești și Informatică din cadrul Universității de Științe Inginerești și Informatică din Cluj Napoca". The slide also lists his credentials: "Professor, Ph.D., D.Sc. Janusz Kacprzyk", "Systems Research Institute, Polish Academy of Sciences", and "Head of Intelligent Systems Laboratory". On the right side of the slide, there are four small video thumbnails showing other participants in a virtual meeting.

Fig. 6. Nine reputed invited speakers at ICCCC2020 (online)

5.2. Papers publication

Proceedings



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Fig. 5. IEEE Proceedings of ICCCC2018



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Fig. 6. Springer Proceedings of ICCCC2020



Fig. 7. Publication of extended variants of selected papers from ICCCG2018 and ICCCG2020

6. Conclusions

	ONLINE	CLASSIC	Remarks
Accessibility	High	Low-Medium	In online can participate all co-authors and other people, people with physically disability. In classic depend of geographical distance.
Cost	Low	Medium-High	For online not necessary transport, accommodation, meals ...
Commodity	Medium	Low	In online we attend from home but the time zone can be a problem. In classic the travel can be a problem
Sessions	Serial for ICCCG2020	Plenary & Parallel	In online we can attend all presentation but duration is bigger than in classic. In online are possible parallel sessions with multiple hosts.
Socialization	Low	High	Face-to-face meeting is better vs. online

Our conclusion is that the mixed organization, classic & online, will be a good solution in the future.

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