



## USQC 2023: UNIME SCIENTIFIC QUADRILATERAL CONFERENCE 2023 Digital, Environmental, and Social Transformation: Challenges and Perspectives

University of Messina, 28-29 September 2023

<https://usqc2023.unime.it/>



### CALL FOR CONTRIBUTIONS

<b>Deadlines (updated)</b>	
Abstract submission (250/500 words)	<del>June 25, 2023</del> <b>July 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2023</b>
Notification of acceptance with amendments	<del>June 30, 2023</del> <b>July 7, 2023</b>
Extended abstract submission (2,000/3,500 words)	<del>July 15, 2023</del> <b>July 22, 2023</b>
Notification of peer review results	<del>July 30, 2023</del> <b>August 6, 2023</b>
Submission of revised extended abstract	<b>September 15, 2023</b>

## **Quadrilateral Scientific Conference as a strategic alliance.**

University of Messina welcomes Cracow University of Economics, Kyiv National University of Trade and Economics and University of Kragujevac within Quadrilateral Agreements.

## **Conference themes and objectives.**

The Conference "Digital, Environmental, and Social Transformation: Challenges and Perspectives" aims to address three intertwined domains of contemporary transformation: digital, environmental, and social. In the realm of digital transformation, the Conference explores the potential and implications of emerging technologies, cyber security, digital ethics, and the future of work. The theme of environmental transformation focuses on sustainability strategies, climate change, green technologies, and the pressing need for a circular economy. Meanwhile, the social transformation theme delves into social innovation, the societal impacts of digital and ecological transformations, and the urgent call for inclusivity and diversity. The objective of this Conference is to generate a comprehensive dialogue around these interconnected themes. By bringing together diverse stakeholders from academia, industry, and policymaking, the Conference aims to foster a multidimensional understanding of these transformations, identify key challenges, and explore innovative solutions for a sustainable and inclusive future. The Scientific Committee of the USQC Conference 2023 welcomes conceptual and empirical contributions offering innovative insights into but are not limited to, the following themes:

1. Digital Transformation: Emerging technologies, digital innovation, EU Data Space, data governance, AI and Machine Learning along its implementations and implications (NLP-ChatGPT. XAI, Federated Learning, etc), Cyber Security in Networking-Computing-Data and AI, digital ethics, the future of work, and digital inclusion.
2. Environmental Transformation: Climate change, sustainability strategies, green technologies, biodiversity, circular economy, renewable energy, and environmental policies.
3. Social Transformation: Social innovation, human rights in the digital era, equitable access to resources, societal impacts of digital and ecological transformation, and inclusivity and diversity.

Within the framework of each thematic area, all authors are invited to submit abstracts of 250-500 words of their proposals. All the abstracts will be reviewed under a double-blind peer-review process. The authors of positively peer-reviewed abstracts will be invited to submit the corresponding extended abstracts to the Conference.

*Only unpublished manuscripts that have not been previously submitted for publication or presented at other conferences and not under review by other journals and/or conferences will be accepted.*

## **Publication Opportunities**

The collection of accepted extended abstracts presented at the Conference will be published in a comprehensive Conference Proceedings Book, ensuring broad dissemination of your valuable work.

The authors of the selected high-quality extended abstracts might be invited to contribute to further publication opportunities, such as an editing book and/or a special issue in an indexed scientific journal, thereby enhancing research spread in the academic environment.

## **Organization of the Conference.**

The topics of the USQC 2023 will be discussed by plenary and parallel sessions that will take place on Thursday, September 28<sup>th</sup> and Friday, September 29<sup>th</sup>.

The plenary sessions, in particular, will be based on the contributions of renowned academics who will participate in the debate as key speakers, discussants or interviewees. During the parallel sessions, the accepted extended abstracts will be presented. The participation certificate and track chair confirmation letter will be distributed on the same days as the Conference.

The Scientific Committee will acknowledge outstanding contributions during the Conference social dinner. Awards will be presented to the authors of the three best contributions, the best reviewers, and the most effective track chairs in recognition of their significant contributions. Finally, the Scientific Committee will invite the authors of selected manuscript to contribute to future editorial opportunities.

## **Abstract submission**

To submit an abstract for the USQC 2023 conference, please upload manuscripts formatted according to the 'USQC 2023\_A' template published online at this web page: <https://usqc2023.unime.it/submission/>

The length of the abstract should be no less than 250 words and no more than 500 words.

## **Extended abstract submission**

Authors selected to submit an extended abstract will upload **two separate files** using the templates available on the Conference platform.

- A file entitled 'USQC 2023\_IA' detailing the authors, the title of the extended abstract, information on the authors (e.g., affiliations, qualifications, scientific disciplinary sectors, email addresses) and any paragraph attributions, acknowledgment sections and references to research projects that led to the drafting of the extended abstract;

- A file entitled 'USQC 2023\_EA' comprising the main text (based on the conference template, between 2,000 and 3,500 words) that includes a structured abstract (no longer than 500 words), keywords and a reference section. The manuscript should be divided as follows: objectives, methodology, findings, practical implications, limitations of the research and originality of the manuscript. The insertion of figures and tables as images (i.e., .bmp; .jpeg; .jpg; .png; .gif formats) is not allowed; any figures and tables should be provided in a Microsoft Word format. Any related files of additional tables and figures must be attached in their original format (e.g., xls). Footnotes should only be used to make comments, provide more in-depth analysis and note further considerations, and should not be used to provide any bibliographical information.

The files should be uploaded via the conference website:  
<https://usqc2023.unime.it/submission/>

### **Location**

Messina is a window on the Strait where the Ionian and Tyrrhenian Sea melt each other. It is one of the most charming towns in Sicily for its history and its strategic position. With the colours and the smells of Mediterranean greenery, Messina is a beautiful area to visit, and the Sicilian weather makes it a perfect place any time of the year.

Do not forget to visit the Cathedral and the Church of Santissima Annunziata dei Catalani, the botanical gardens and the wonderful Sanctuary of Dinnammare.

*Welcome to Messina: once you visit it you'll never want to leave!*

