

Message from the NoF 2021 Chairs

Since its creation in 2010, NoF has been a premier annual conference that covers advances in the area of Future Internet design, with emphasis on enabling technologies, architectures and services.

In recent years, networks have been witnessing a significant transformation that is resulting in new ways to address the deployment of applications and services in a digital society, today emphasized by the early deployment of 5G networks and services. Major trends like softwarization leveraged by Software-Defined Networking (SDN), Network Function Virtualization (NFV) and Cloud & Edge Computing, as well as the introduction of new radio techniques are shaping the evolution in the Telecom and ICT industries. Additionally, initial research on 6G networks and technologies has already been initiated. Besides technological advances, networking further benefit from the growing introduction of Artificial Intelligence and Machine Learning techniques that are expected to alleviate complexity while providing smart and reliable network operations.

The 12th International Conference on Network of the Future (**NoF 2021**) has been organized in this very exciting and attractive context. The Call for Papers attracted 41 technical session submissions that have been duly peer-reviewed. In the end, 12 full papers and 9 short papers have been accepted for presentation, resulting in an acceptance ratio of 29.2%. Additionally, 3 demos have been selected through a specific Call for Demos. The technical program thus included 6 technical sessions and 1 demo session in which were presented 20 papers and the 3 demos accepted.

The program was complemented with 3 excellent keynotes addressing important aspects of future networks such as security, AI and optical networks and 1 panel focused on edge computing beyond 5G, all of them involving leading experts.

One tutorial was included in the program dedicated to network automation.

Finally, a workshop (ResNeD) dedicated to network resilience was also included in the program during which 3 additional keynotes were presented.

NoF 2021 was technically sponsored by the IEEE Communications Society and organized by DNAC. The initial support by the University of Coimbra and INESC Coimbra is greatly appreciated. We are indebted to the members of the Organizing Committee who helped us preparing an excellent program involving international leading experts. We duly thank all authors who submitted their research work to the conference as well as the international experts who provided high-quality reviews, allowing us to select the best technical contributions.

Initially planned to be held in the beautiful city of Coimbra and hosted by the oldest university in Portugal, NoF2021 was finally set as a fully virtual event for the second consecutive year, still due to the current Covid-19 pandemic situation around the world.

Nevertheless, we wish that all attendees of NoF 2021 have benefited from very fruitful discussions and excellent presentations of innovative research ideas, making the conference a successful scientific event.

2021 12th International Conference on Network of the Future (NoF)

06-08 October 2021 - Coimbra, Portugal

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