

Editorial Preface

It is with great pleasure that we present the Proceedings of the *International Conference on Innovation, Digital Education, Artificial Intelligence and STEAM (IDEAS'26)*, held at ISCAP – Porto Accounting and Business School, Polytechnic of Porto, Portugal, on 14–15 May 2026. The conference brought together academics, researchers, educators, professionals, and practitioners from a wide range of disciplinary backgrounds to explore contemporary challenges and opportunities at the intersection of innovation, digital education, artificial intelligence, and STEAM-related fields. The event provided an international forum for the exchange of ideas, experiences, research findings, and innovative practices, fostering dialogue across sectors and disciplines.

This volume represents the culmination of that scientific exchange. The papers included in this publication were submitted, expanded, and refined after the conference, allowing authors to further develop their contributions in light of the discussions, feedback, and insights arising from their oral and poster presentations. Subsequently, all manuscripts underwent a rigorous double-blind peer-review process, conducted by members of the Scientific Committee and invited reviewers, ensuring the scholarly quality, originality, relevance, and methodological soundness of the works selected for publication.

IDEAS'26 was conceived as an interdisciplinary forum dedicated to fostering dialogue between researchers, educators, practitioners, policymakers, and industry representatives. The conference sought to promote the exchange of innovative approaches, emerging research findings, and practical experiences across diverse fields connected by a common commitment to educational excellence, technological innovation, societal development, and sustainable progress.

The range of contributions featured throughout the conference reflected both the diversity and the interconnectedness of contemporary challenges and opportunities. Across keynote sessions, oral communications, poster presentations, and informal discussions, participants examined the transformative impact of artificial intelligence on education, professional practice, project management, communication, and decision-making processes. Particular attention was given to digital literacy, learning analytics, digital assessment, curriculum innovation, active learning methodologies, inclusion and accessibility, university-industry collaboration, teacher education, and higher education transformation. The conference also welcomed contributions addressing broader social, organisational, environmental, and management-related issues, demonstrating the value of interdisciplinary perspectives in addressing complex contemporary challenges.

The papers included in this volume have been organised into thematic sections that reflect the principal strands of discussion emerging from the conference:

- **Artificial Intelligence, Learning Analytics, and Digital Assessment**
- **Course, Curriculum, and Instructional Innovation**
- **Innovative Pedagogies and Learning Strategies**
- **Learner Experience and Higher Education Innovation**
- **Other Issues**

Together, these contributions illustrate the richness of perspectives shared during IDEAS'26. They encompass conceptual analyses, systematic literature reviews, empirical investigations, case studies,

technological developments, educational interventions, and organisational reflections. While diverse in methodology and disciplinary orientation, the papers share a common interest in advancing knowledge through innovation, critical inquiry, and evidence-informed practice.

More than a simple record of conference presentations, this volume seeks to capture the intellectual vitality, collaborative spirit, and international engagement that characterised IDEAS'26. The proceedings showcase current developments in research and practice while also identifying emerging directions for future investigation, innovation, and cooperation across disciplines and geographical boundaries.

As IDEAS'26 General Chairs and Editors of this volume, we extend our sincere appreciation to all authors for their valuable contributions, to the members of the Scientific Committee and reviewers for their commitment to maintaining high academic standards through the peer-review process, and to all conference participants whose presentations, discussions, and engagement contributed to the success of IDEAS'26.

We hope that the studies presented in these proceedings may inspire further research, can stimulate interdisciplinary collaboration, and serve as a valuable resource for academics, professionals, educators, policymakers, and students worldwide.

The General Chairs and Editors

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"A shared endeavour, a collective achievement, and a heartfelt thank you to all who made it possible."

Ana Paula Lopes and Filomena Soares