

Conference Report: GEC 2025 - 7th Summit on Gender Equality in Computing

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Executive Summary

I had the privilege of attending the Gender Equality in Computing (GEC) 2025 Summit at the University of Piraeus, Greece. This summit represents a significant initiative in promoting gender equality and diversity in computer science, bringing together students, researchers, and professionals to celebrate and disseminate the achievements of computer professionals in a fair and gender-equal way.

Conference Overview and Objectives

GEC 2025 focused on several key objectives that align with current needs in the computing community:

- Present and share their achievements and experience in the computing field.
- Discuss and understand the reasons why there is gender disparity in individuals opting for Computer Science and Engineering.
- Consider and exchange views on gender stereotyping in Computer Science.
- Come up with incentives and measures to reduce gender inequalities in the field.

The summit successfully created a platform for meaningful dialogue about diversity and inclusion, positioning itself alongside EDBT/ICDT, MDM, SIGMOD, VLDB, SoCC, and ICDE in promoting comprehensive diversity initiatives.

Quality and Relevance of Presentations

The conference featured high-quality presentations across various computing domains. The research presented was particularly noteworthy for its interdisciplinary approach, combining technical excellence with social awareness. The organizers maintained rigorous academic standards while ensuring that the content was accessible to a broad audience, from students to established professionals. The poster sessions provided excellent opportunities for in-depth discussions and networking, enabling a more thorough exploration of the presented research.

While the primary focus of GEC 2025 was on gender equality in computing, many of the themes and methodologies presented are highly relevant beyond the computing field alone. Today, transportation systems increasingly rely on AI, data analytics, and human-machine interaction, making inclusivity in their design a critical factor. This connection highlights why my research found a strong place within the conference program.

International Participation and Networking

While the majority of attendees were from Greece, reflecting the summit's strong connection to the Greek ACM-W Chapter, there was meaningful international participation. As an international attendee, I found the environment to be welcoming and inclusive, with organizers making deliberate efforts to ensure that non-Greek participants could fully engage with the content and community.

The networking opportunities were good, facilitating connections between researchers, industry professionals, and students. The intimate size of the conference allowed for more substantive interactions compared to larger international conferences.

Organizational Excellence

The University of Piraeus provided an excellent venue with modern facilities that supported both in-person presentations and interactive sessions.

Registration was streamlined and free, removing financial barriers to participation—a crucial factor in promoting accessibility and diversity. The commitment to publishing selected works in Springer's Learning and Analytics in Intelligent Systems Series adds significant academic value for participants.

Recommendations

Here are some recommendations for future attendees:

- This summit is valuable for anyone interested in computing research, regardless of their specific focus on gender equality issues. The technical quality is high, and the inclusive environment enhances the overall experience of sharing ideas.
- Allocate significant time for networking activities. The conference size allows for meaningful connections that are often difficult to establish at larger conferences.
- Come prepared to engage with research that bridges technical and social aspects of computing. This interdisciplinary approach provides valuable insights applicable to various research domains.

Conclusion

The combination of technical excellence, social awareness, and organizational quality makes this an essential summit for the computing community.

I strongly recommend this conference to researchers, students, and professionals interested in contributing to a more inclusive computing field. The insights gained extend well beyond gender equality issues, offering valuable perspectives on creating more diverse and innovative research environments.

The commitment to publishing selected works in a prestigious Springer series adds lasting academic value, ensuring that the critical discussions and research presented at GEC 2025 will continue to have a lasting impact on the broader computing community.