# Preface

The Association for Applied Statistics (ASA) and the Department of Statistics, Computer Science, Applications DiSIA "*Giuseppe Parenti*" of the University of Florence, jointly with the partners AICQ (Italian Association for Quality Culture), AICQ-CN (Italian Association for Quality Culture North and Centre of Italy), AISS (Italian Academy for Six Sigma), ASSIRM (Italian Association for Marketing, Social and Opinion Research), Comune di Firenze (the Florence Municipality), SIS (the Italian Statistical Society), Regione Toscana (the Tuscany Region) and Valmon – Evaluation & Monitoring srl, have organised a scientific conference titled "*Statistics and Information Systems for Policy Evaluation*", aimed at promoting new statistical methods and applications for the evaluation of policies.

Due to the health emergency caused by the COVID-19 pandemic, the Scientific and Local Organizing Committees decided to reschedule the conference appointment in two different scientific events: an on-line Opening Conference held in February and March 2021 and a postponed on-site Conference in September 2021.

This Book includes 25 peer-reviewed short papers submitted to the Scientific Opening Conference. This event was organized in 4 on-line sessions every Friday, from February 19th, 2021 to March 12th, 2021; each session, which collected works on homogeneous issues ("Evaluation Of Educational Systems", "Innovation, Productivity and Welfare", "Health and Well-Being", "Tourism and Gastronomy"), lasted about one and half hour and was led by a Chair and one or more discussants. The papers published in this book are organized in those sessions and follow the conference program order.

On behalf of the Scientific Program Committee, we would like to thank the authors for submitting and presenting their interesting and inspiring works in the context of the evaluation of policies, the partners, the chairs, the discussants and the Local Organizing Committee. Finally, we are thankful to the members of the Scientific Committee for helping with the peer-reviewing process.

Florence (Italy), March 2021

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