Foreword

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Published online: 19 October 2011
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This special issue contains a carefully selected set of papers based on the presentations made at the 8th International Conference on Geostatistics for Environmental Applications (GeoENV 2010) held in Gent, Belgium, on the 13th–15th September 2010.

GeoENV conferences have been held biennially at venues across Europe. From the first conference in Lisbon in 1996, the event has been staged in Valencia (1998), Avignon (2000), Barcelona (2002), Neuchâtel (2004), Rhodes (2006), Southampton (2008) and has become established as a leading forum for Scientists across a broad range of disciplines to share their experiences on the application of geostatistics to environmental problems in its most general meaning. As an illustration of the broad diversity of applied disciplines that are routinely using geostatistics as part of their tools, let us just mention natural resources management, environmental pollution and risk assessment, health and epidemiology, forestry and agriculture, ecology, remote & proximal sensing... Day after day, this list is growing and emphasizes the usefulness and success of the tools and methods our community has been developing and promoting over the last decades. Beside these applied aspects, geostatistics is also an active field of conceptual research embedded in the more general framework of spatial and space–time statistics. We

believe that the selected subset of papers presented in this special issue is giving a fair view of the diversity and richness of these scientific outcomes.

All of the papers presented in this special issue passed successfully a very selective peer-review process in order to guarantee a fairly high standard and a good balance between the various main topics of the conference. This issue is thus a collection of 9 papers selected out of the initial 21 candidate ones. Due to space limitation or even sometimes minor quality issues, some of these candidate papers had to be discarded.

The editors acknowledge the international scientific committee which evaluated the extended abstracts and helped us to make a final choice. We greatly appreciate their prompt action which allowed the timely publication of this special issue. Our thanks are also going to Dr. George Christakos, SERRA's Editor-in-Chief, who was willing to help us disseminating the main conference outcomes and who accordingly helped us to achieve the realization of this special issue.

Finally, the scientific committee and the organizers thank all the authors for submitting their papers, and all the participants whose cooperation made this conference both enjoyable and effective.

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