Acknowledgment

Editing a book is a quite hard but compensating and enriching task, as it involves a set of different activities like contacts with authors and reviewers, discussion and exchange of ideas and experiences, process management, organization and integration of contents, and many other tasks, with the permanent objective of creating a book that meets the public expectations. And this task cannot be accomplished without a great help and support from many sources. As editors, we would like to acknowledge the help, support, and belief of all who made possible this creation.

First of all, the editing of this book would not have been possible without the ongoing professional support of the team of professionals of IGI Global. We are grateful to Dr. Mehdi Khosrow-Pour and to Ms. Jan Travers, Director of Intellectual Property and Contracts, for the opportunity and belief in this project. A very very special mention of gratitude is due to Ms. Christine Bufton, Promotions and Communications Coordinator, and to Mr. Dave DeRicco and Ms. Myla Harty, Editorial Assistants, for their professional support and friendly words of advising, encouragement, and prompt guidance. We also address our recognition and appreciation to all the staff at IGI Global, whose contributions throughout the process of production and making this book available all over the world was invaluable.

We are grateful to all the authors, for their insights and excellent contributions to this book. Also we are grateful to the authors who simultaneously served as referees for chapters written by other authors, as well as to the external referees, for their insights, valuable contributions, prompt collaboration, and constructive comments. Thank you all, authors and reviewers, you made this book! The communication and exchange of views within this truly global group of recognized individualities from the scientific domain and from industry was an enriching and exciting experience!

We are also grateful to all who made efforts to contribute to this project, some of them with high quality chapter proposals, but unfortunately, due to several constraints could not have seen their work published.

Thank you.

Maria Manuela Cruz-Cunha  
Polytechnic Institute of Cavado and Ave, Portugal

João Eduardo Varajão  
University of Trás-os-Montes e Alto Douro, Portugal