Preface

The Answer Set Programming workshop provides an international bi-annual forum for discussion about the research advances in one of the most promising areas of Logic Programming. The format of our event, based on poster presentations, aims to provide a semi-formal setting for lively discussion and exploration of new synergies between new and established researchers in this area. Equal attention is given to theory, implementations and applications.

Answer Set Programming 2003 (ASP03) is the second edition of this workshop series, which successfully started in 2001 at the Stanford University Campus, in the form of a AAAI Spring Symposium. This year, the workshop will be part of the annual meeting of the European Workgroup on Answer Set Programming (WASP). This initiative is funded since September 2002 by the Information Society Technologies programme of the European Commission, Future and Emerging technologies under the IST-2001-37004 WASP project.

The articles contained in this volume were presented at ASP03, held from 26 to 28 September 2003 at the Faculty of Sciences of the University of Messina, Italy. The proceedings will be available on internet as Volume 78 of CEUR Workshop proceedings series.

The first day of the workshop has been dedicated to the WASP annual meeting, where participating research *nodes* presented their ASP-related research for the year. The remaining two days have been devoted to the ASP03 technical program, consisting of 28 refereed research papers presented as posters, one invited talk by Michael Gelfond and a system demonstration session.

We wish to thank all the authors, the invited speaker, the demonstrators, and everyone who has contributed to *making ASP03 happen*. We hope to see you all again at the next edition of ASP.

Marina De Vos
Alessandro Provetti
Bath, Messina, September 2003