Preface

The Internet has been changing the society and the economy, and the way institutions and businesses operate has evolved rapidly. All citizens are now expected to interact directly with technology based systems without direct human intermediation, using different interface appliances. Moreover, many information systems interact with each other with limited human supervision. Therefore, it is of the utmost importance that semantic aspects are taken into consideration on a sound basis.

Improved communication and understanding between people, the final objective of advanced information systems, requires improved communication and understanding between systems and its developers. Advanced information systems engineering therefore needs to keep improving its methods and technologies. This is the background and motivation to choose "IMPROVING COMMUNICATION AND UNDERSTANDING BETWEEN SYSTEMS AND BETWEEN CITIZENS" as the main theme of this years CAiSE conference, the 17th in the series of International Conferences on Advanced Information Systems Engineering. This edition continues the success of the previous conferences, a success largely due to that fact that, since its first edition, this series has been able to evolve in parallel to the evolution of the Information System methods and technology. CAiSE has been able to follow, and often to anticipate, the deep changes that have occurred, since the late 70s when the first CAiSE Conference was organised by Arne Sølvberg and Janis Bubenko.

The CAiSE Forum is now becoming an important component of CAiSE conferences. In addition to the highly competitive program of regular original scientific contributions we want to offer an additional communication channel for short focused contributions, with a short "time to market", i.e. a brief time span between writing and printing, nevertheless rigorously peer reviewed for quality assurance. The presentation of these innovative ideas and fresh results of scientific explorations in form of posters and demos in a pleasant communicative environment will contribute to their fast dissemination, as we hope, and will bring together people with shared interests and stimulate discussions.

These proceedings consist of 34 papers, of which 22 were selected from the 262 submitted regular papers (in addition to the 36 papers accepted for the main tracks), and 12 were selected from the 29 submitted Forum contributions.

We wish to devote a special thanking to the young colleagues who dedicated a great amount of energies to support the local organisation, the PC activities, and the organisation of the publishing of this volume.

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