

## Preface

This volume contains the proceedings of four workshops organized in connection with CAiSE'03, the 15<sup>th</sup> instance in the series of Conferences on Advanced Information Systems Engineering.

The workshops tradition has always been very active in CAiSE, the aim of workshops being to debate traditional topics in specialized sectors related to advanced information systems engineering, as well as promoting discussions on emerging new issues.

Some CAiSE workshops have already a long tradition and hence established their own proceedings series. Among those, we mention:

- EMMSAD'03 - 8<sup>th</sup> International Workshop on Evaluation of Modeling Methods in Systems Analysis and Design
- REFSQ'03 - 9<sup>th</sup> International Workshop on Requirements Engineering Foundation for Software Quality
- WES - Web-Services, e-Business, and the Semantic Web
- The CAiSE Doctoral Consortium.

Other workshops, like

- UMICS'03 - Ubiquitous Mobile Information and Collaboration Systems
- SW-WL'03 - Semantic Web for Web-based Learning
- DSE'03 - Decision Systems Engineering Workshop
- REBPS'03 – Workshop on Requirements Engineering for Business Process Support

are new components that were considered valuable additions to the CAiSE spectrum. They mark either areas of special focus in the traditional scope of CAiSE or they reach out, establishing links to other communities active in our discipline. It is those new workshops that have their proceedings collectively recorded in this volume.

Is there a common theme among them? At first glance, it is the CAiSE umbrella that links these workshops. But it is more than that! It is the inherent tension between distribution and sharing, two fundamental aspects in information processing that connects the various contributions. UMICS, Ubiquitous Mobile Information and Collaboration Systems is the largest among the four workshops. It has this tension already somehow in its title. SW-WL, Semantic Web for Web-based Learning addresses the issue from the perspective of a specific application domain. But the papers in this workshop leave the purely technical domain and enter also the broader context of content production and pedagogical considerations. One should not be surprised that the rather technical papers discussed in the DSE workshop (Decision Systems Engineering) follow straight some of the themes developed in SW-WL, e.g. when addressing the issue of Decision Support by Learning-On-Demand. How and to which extent some of the data warehousing issues are received in the business world

is the topic carefully addressed in REBPS, the Workshop on Requirements Engineering for Business Process Support.

It might be mentioned that CAiSE workshops, irrespective of whether their proceedings are recorded in this volume or in independent proceedings, were shaped by their proposers and organizers, colleagues that took responsibility as program chairs of the respective workshop and section editors of these proceedings. They were responsible for issuing their separate call for papers and to oversee the review and selection process of their section. We are grateful for their effort, reflected in the quality of contributions they put together.

Likewise, we acknowledge the time and effort contributed by all members of the various Program Committees and by the additional referees who have been evaluating papers. We also thank the CAiSE local organizers and publishing support for all their support work, including the present proceedings.

Klagenfurt and Milan  
May 2003

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