Preface

Cooperative Information Systems have emerged as a central concept in a variety of applications, projects, and systems in the new era of *e*-business. The conference at which the papers in this volume were presented was the ninth international conference on the topic of Cooperative Information Systems (CoopIS 2001), and was held in Trento, Italy on September 5-7, 2001.

Like the previous conferences, CoopIS 2001 has been remarkably successful in bringing together representatives of many different fields, spanning the entire range of effective web-based Cooperative Information Systems, and with interests ranging from industrial experience to original research concepts and results.

The 29 papers collected here out of the 79 ones that were submitted, demonstrate well the range of results achieved in several areas such as agent technologies, models and architectures, web systems, information integration, middleware technologies, federated and multi-database systems. The papers themselves, however, do not convey the lively excitement of the conference itself, and the continuing spirit of cooperation and communication across disciplines that has been the hallmark of these conferences.

We would especially like to thank our keynote speakers: Philip A. Bernstein (Microsoft Research, USA), Edward E. Cobb (BEA Systems, USA), and Maurizio Lenzerini (Università di Roma "La Sapienza", Italy) for providing a portrait of the best contemporary work in the field.

We would also like to thank the many people who made CoopIS 2001 possible. First of all, the program committee members and all the additional reviewers for all they did to ensure the high quality of accepted contributions. Second, Susanna Cavagna and Elisabetta Nones for doing all the necessary and hard work needed for the local organization and budget. Finally, Enrico Zaninotto, Dean of the Faculty of Economics, for letting us use the "Aula Magna".

July 2001

Carlo Batini
Fausto Giunchiglia
Paolo Giorgini
Massimo Mecella

CoopIS 2001 Conference Organization

CoopIS 2001 was jointly organized by the Università di Trento and Dipartimento di Informatica e Sistemistica, Università di Roma "La Sapienza", in cooperation with the International Foundation on Cooperative Information Systems (IFCIS). It was sponsored by the International Foundation on Cooperative Information Systems (IFCIS) and the Università di Trento.

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