Foreword

We are proud to present the proceedings of the International Conference of Conceptual Modeling (ER 2011) lasted in Belgium. We devoted all our energy to make it a scientific, social, and artistic success.

Belgium has a long tradition, rooted in the early 1970s, in database research and particularly in database modeling. This 30th ER conference was organized by the CoDE Research department of the Université libre de Bruxelles and the PReCISE Research Center of the Université de Namur, both very active in the database community.

Belgium is also the country of beer, character cheese, French fries, comic strips, Art Nouveau, and surrealism, but above all of institutional intricacy. This was thus the ideal venue for an anniversary conference of a series devoted to reducing and mastering information system complexity.

Nothing would have been possible without the unfailing and experienced contribution of the ER Steering Committee as well as the Program, Publicity, Workshop, Tutorial, Panel, Industrial Track (a new one), Demos and Posters, and Doctoral Consortium Chairs and Committees. Organizing such a wide-scope international conference and making it a success require countless competences, ranging from financial manager to webmaster. They all did an excellent job. Special thanks also to all our sponsors and sister scientific societies for their support: FNRS, Microsoft Research, NSF, Euranova, IBM, FWO, Intergraph, Springer, la Ville de Bruxelles, OM Partners, CETIC, Océ, ReveR, ACM SIGMIS, ACM SIGMOD, as well as the Université libre de Bruxelles and the Université de Namur.

Finally, there is no scientific conference without high-quality contributors, attendees, and readers: thanks to all of you.

On behalf of all the persons and partners that contributed to making this conference a success, we hope you find the proceedings interesting and valuable for your research.

July 2011

Esteban Zimányi

Jean-Luc Hainaut
Preface

The ER conference is the leading international forum for presenting research results and discussing future trends in conceptual modeling. ER 2011 was the 30th such meeting and took place in Brussels, the vibrant “capital” of Europe.

While keeping a strong focus on conceptual modeling, the ER conference has always been open to new trends, such as goal modeling and process modeling. In 2011, the extension of conceptual modeling to requirements engineering, human and social factors in modeling, ontologies, model development and evolution, and data model theory were major trends among the papers accepted for the main conference.

The Program Committee (PC) received 157 submissions to the main program. Each paper was reviewed by at least three members of the Program Committee. Additionally, six senior reviewers moderated the discussion on disputed papers and wrote meta-reviews when necessary. The PC ultimately decided to accept 39 papers of excellent academic quality for the main program, of which 25 regular-length papers and 14 short papers. The overall acceptance rate was thus 24.8%. The acceptance rate of regular-length papers is 15.9%. The reason for the distinction between regular-length and short papers was the observation that a number of submissions had a very good technical quality, but were perhaps a bit less fully developed. So, the PC wanted these papers in the main program but to have them in some sense distinguished from the regular-length papers.

The scientific program included three keynote talks by Alon Halevy, Stefano Spaccapietra, and Carson Woo, spanning a breadth of topics in conceptual modeling. The proceedings also include a summary of the panel discussion and of the tutorial program. We graciously thank the authors for submitting their work, the PC members for writing reviews and participating in lively discussions, and the six senior reviewers for processing all the reviews and providing recommendations.

July 2011

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