The 1st edition of the **International Conference on Web Based Communities** was hosted in Lisbon, Portugal, **24-26 March, 2004**

This conference was organized by the International Association for Development of the Information Society (IADIS).

The great goal of the first edition of the Web Based Communities Conference was to publish and integrate scientific results and act catalytically to the fast developing culture of web communities. The conference invited original papers, review papers, technical reports and case studies on WWW in particular the emerging role of so-called WWW-based Communities for submission. The submissions were accepted under the following main areas: The history, architecture and future of virtual communities; Group processes and self-organization; Cyborgs, teleworking, telemedicine, art games and learning communities, Expanding Markets through Virtual Communities and Virtual communities for people with special needs.

This first edition received 144 submissions from more than 20 countries. All submissions were blindly evaluated by at least two independent reviewers, to ensure the final high standard of the accepted submissions. The final result was the approval of 51 full papers, which meant an acceptance rate below 36%.

Extended versions of the best papers were selected to be published in:

- the International Journal of "Web Based Communities" (IJWBC); ISSN: 1477 - 8394 (4 issues per year)

In addition to the presentation of fulls, short papers, posters and a doctoral consortium which divided the conference program in 23 parallel sessions, the conference also included two keynotes presentations given by Dr. Johannes C Cronjé, University of Pretoria, South Africa and Dr. Erkki Sutinen, Educational Technology Research Group University of Joensuu, Finland. and two Conference Tutorials presented by Bill Williams, Barreiro Technical School, Setubal Polytechnic, Portugal and Alessandro Maccari, Nokia Technology Platforms, Finland.
Keynote Presentation:

TAKing THE “E” OUT OF E-LEARNING: TOWARDS AN INTEGRATIVE APPROACH TO ICT IN EDUCATION AND TRAINING

by Dr. Johannes C Cronjé, University of Pretoria, South Africa

Keynote Presentation:

DIgItAL COMMUNITIES -- FOR FUN OR SURVIVAL?

by Dr. Erkki Sutinen, Educational Technology Research Group University of Joensuu, Finland

The Web Based Communities 2004 conference proceedings was published both in Book (ISBN: 972-98947-4-4) and CD-ROM by IADIS Press.

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