The 3rd edition of the **International Conference on Web Based Communities** was held in San Sebastian, Spain, **26-28 February, 2006**.

This conference was organized by the International Association for Development of the Information Society (IADIS) and co-organized by the University of Mondragon.

**Co-organized by:**

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The purpose of The Web Based Communities 2006 Conference was to bring together new vital understanding of WWW communities and what new initiatives mean. Each new perspective was potentially a catalyst for finding new architectures. The targeted audience was scientists and members and moderators of WWW communities who felt responsible for optimizing its quality and effect. 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.

The Web Based Communities 2006 Conference had 123 submissions from more than 21 countries. Each submission had been anonymously reviewed by at least two independent reviewers, to guarantee the final high standard of the accepted submissions. The final result was the approval of 29 full papers, which meant that the acceptance rate was below 34 %. The conference comprised invited talks and oral presentations.

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 and posters that divided the conference program in 16 parallel sessions, the conference also presented two keynotes presentations from internationally distinguished researchers (Professor Peter Kollock, University of California Los Angeles, USA and Cliff Figallo, SociAlchemy, USA).
Keynote Presentation:

HOW NOT TO BUILD ONLINE MARKETS LESSONS IN THE DESIGN OF TRADING COMMUNITIES

by Professor Peter Kollock, University of California Los Angeles, USA

Keynote Presentation:

COMMUNITIES OF IDEOLOGY HOW VIRTUAL STRENGTH IN NUMBERS IS CHANGING THE WORLD

by Cliff Figallo, SociaAlchemy, USA

The Web Based Communities 2006 conference proceedings was published both in Book (ISBN: 972-8924-10-0) and CD-ROM.

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