

## Foreword

The 3rd ERCIM Workshop on User Interfaces for All builds upon the results of the two previous Workshops held at ICS-FORTH, Crete, Greece, 30-31 October 1995, and in Prague, Czech republic, 7-8 November 1996.

This annual Workshop aims to stimulate further discussion on the state of the art in the field of Human-Computer Interaction, and to consolidate recent work in the areas of adaptation (adaptability and adaptivity), platform independence and interoperability, multimodality, interaction metaphors, user empowerment, ergonomic and human factors guidelines, multilinguality, internationalisation and localisation of interactive applications, etc.

This ERCIM Workshop is organised against the background of recent R&D activities, which have analysed the requirements, identified the viability, and demonstrated the feasibility of constructing User Interfaces for All. The required new strategies necessarily go much beyond the useful and practical (but short-term) solutions offered by user interface 'adaptations', the method that has been predominant until now. In this context, it has been successfully argued that alternative, technologically more powerful and methodologically more systematic approaches are needed to tackle the problems of accessibility and quality of interaction for all potential users and in a holistic way.

At the core of the vision of User Interfaces for All is a mix of existing and emerging technologies, which are likely to predominate the life cycle of future user interfaces to a wide range of applications and telematic services. These interfaces must be both accessible and provide high quality interaction to potentially all users, so that they are usable by a diverse user population, including people with different cultural, educational, training and employment background, novice and experienced computer users, the very young and the elderly, and people with different types of disabilities, in various interaction contexts and scenarios of use.

This year's Workshop has attracted considerable interest, not only across Europe, but also from USA and Korea. Although for practical reasons much of this interest could not be translated to actual participation, a significant number of papers has been received and reviewed by the Programme Committee of the Workshop. The proceedings include three main categories of accepted communications: (a) 7 long papers, (b) 17 short papers, (c) 1 position paper, and (d) 6 posters. Papers have been classified using these categories, and the sequence of papers in each category is according to the order of presentation during the workshop. We would like to thank all the authors, who have submitted their work for publication and presentation in the Proceedings of the 3rd Annual ERCIM Workshop.

The Workshop organisers wish to express their appreciation to the invited speakers, Dr Len Bass and Dr Mark Maybury, for their participation in the workshop. Abstracts of their presentations are included in the proceedings.

Constantine Stephanidis and Noelle Carbonell