Foreword

The 4th ERCIM Workshop on "User Interfaces for All" builds upon the results of the previous three Workshops held at ICS-FORTH, Crete, Greece, October 30-31, 1995, Prague, Czech Republic, November 7-8, 1996, and Obernai, France, November 3-4, 1997.

The visionary goal of *User Interfaces for All* advocates the proactive realisation of the *Design for All* principle in the field of Human-Computer Interaction, and involves the development of user interfaces to interactive applications and telematic services, which provide universal access and quality in use to potentially all users. This user population includes people with different cultural, educational, training and employment background, novice and experienced computer users, the very young and the elderly, as well as people with different types of disabilities, in various interaction contexts and scenarios of use.

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 *usable*, i.e., provide high quality interaction to potentially all users, so that they are *acceptable* by the broadest possible end-user population.

This year's Workshop has attracted considerable interest, within but also beyond Europe. Following a stringent peer review process, the Workshop's proceedings include three main categories of articles accepted for publication : (a) 7 long papers, (b) 4 short papers, and (c) 4 position papers. Additionally, 3 posters will be presented during an interactive poster session at the Workshop.

We would like to thank all contributors and participants that have made this workshop a successful international event. In particular, we wish to thank the two invited speakers, Dr Michael Paciello, Yury Rubinski Insight Foundation, USA, and Dr Daniel Dardailler, W3C WAI, Project Manager, France, for their participation and contribution to this Workshop. Abstracts of their talks have been included in the proceedings.

Constantine Stephanidis and Annika Waern