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Editorial

The INTEROP-ESA international conference, organised by the INTEROP NoE, offered a workshops program comprising four workshops. The objective of the workshops that have been hold on February 22nd, 2005, was to strengthen some key topics related to interoperability of enterprise applications and software. The workshops organisation left time slots to brainstorm between attendees in order to come out, at the end, with new research directions for the future.

It is a fact that enterprises need to collaborate if they want to survive in the current extreme dynamic and heterogeneous business world they are involved in. Enterprise integration, interoperability and networking have been disciplines that have studied how to do companies to collaborate and communicate in the most effective way. Enterprise Integration consists in breaking down organizational barriers to improve synergy within the enterprise so that business goals are achieved in a more productive and efficient way. The IFAC (International Federation for Automatic Control) Technical Committee 5.3 "Enterprise Integration and Networking" organised the Workshop "Enterprise Integration, Interoperability and Networking" (**EI2N'2005**) which aims to identify issues on Applications Interoperability for Enterprise Integration that will be developed in future research works.

One of the main domain related to interoperability concerns architectures. Technology such as Web services promises to facilitate the interaction between IT systems and enterprise applications. The workshop "Web services and interoperability" (**WSI'2005**) gathered researchers and practitioners in order to explore various aspects of web services and their benefits to the interoperability problem. However, interoperability needs common consensus through standards. The workshop "Interoperability Standards - Implementation, Dynamics, and Impact" (**ISIDI'2005**), organised by the NO-REST IST STREP project (Networked Organisations - REsearch into STandards and Standardisation Project) aimed at getting a better understanding of the impact ICT standards have on networked organisations. It was investigated the applicability and, specifically, the dynamics of standards and their implementations, focussing on the e-business and e-government.

In order to put in practice interoperability technologies, industry is a key focus. The ATHENA Integrated project (Advanced Technologies for interoperability of Heterogeneous Enterprise Networks and their Applications) organised the workshop "Towards Interoperability of Enterprise, Heterogeneous Enterprise Networks and their Applications : from Industries needs to ATHENA requirements" (**IEHENA'2005**) aiming at presenting and discussing the current results of ATHENA programme related to industry short and long term needs and requirements regarding interoperability of enterprise software and applications. In particular, the way industrial interoperability requirements are handled within the programme will be presented and specific examples of industry scenarios indicating interoperability needs and solutions will be provided.

Many thanks to all chairs for their scientific work that resulted in these workshops.

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