

# Preface

The circle is closed. The *European Modula-2 Conference* was originally launched with the goal of increasing the popularity of Modula-2, a programming language created by Niklaus Wirth and his team at ETH Zürich as a successor of Pascal. For more than a decade, the conference has wandered through Europe, passing Bled, Slovenia, in 1987, Loughborough, UK, in 1990, Ulm, Germany, in 1994, and Linz, Austria, in 1997. Now, at the beginning of the new millennium, it is back at its roots in Zürich, Switzerland. While traveling through space and time, the conference has mutated. It has widened its scope and changed its name to *Joint Modular Languages Conference (JMLC)*. With an invariant focus, though, on modular software construction in teaching, research, and “out there” in industry.

This topic has never been more important than today, ironically not because of insufficient language support but, quite on the contrary, due to a truly confusing variety of modular concepts offered by modern languages: modules, packages, classes, and components, the newest and still controversial trend. “The recent notion of component is still very vaguely defined, so vaguely, in fact, that it almost seems advisable to ignore it.” (Wirth in his article “Records, Modules, Objects, Classes, Components” in honor of Hoare’s retirement in 1999). Clarification is needed.

The JMLC 2000 featured four distinguished speakers: Ole Lehrmann Madsen, Bertrand Meyer, Clemens Szyperski, and Niklaus Wirth and 20 presentations of high-quality papers from 9 countries, a careful selection from 54 papers initially submitted to the refereeing process. Perspectives comprised parallel and distributed computing, components, extensions and applications, compilers, and runtime environments. A tutorial prelude taught by international experts shed light on commercially available component systems, including COM, JavaBeans, CORBA, Component Pascal, and Eiffel, and a special Oberon event provided a forum for Oberon developers from industry and academia to present their latest creations.

I would like to thank Springer-Verlag for publishing these proceedings and Wolfgang Weck for his editorial assistance. My thanks also go to the program committee members and to the referees whose competence assured the quality of this conference. Last but not least I thank all the helpful people at ETH and in particular Eva Ruiz, Patrik Reali, Marco Sanvido, Michela Taufer, and André Fischer for their work and dedication.

Modular Programming Languages

Joint Modular Languages Conference, JMLC 2000 Zurich,

Switzerland, September 6-8, 2000 Proceedings

Gutknecht, J.; Weck, W. (Eds.)

2000, X, 302 p., Softcover

ISBN: 978-3-540-67958-5