

Preface

The 7th European Conference on Case-Based Reasoning (ECCBR 2004) was held from August 30 through September 2, at the Complutense University of Madrid, Spain. ECCBR was born in Aberdeen, UK (2002), after a series of European workshops held in Trento, Italy (2000), Dublin, Ireland (1998), Lausanne, Switzerland (1996), Paris, France (1994), and Kaiserslautern, Germany (1993). ECCBR is the premier international forum for researchers and practitioners of case-based reasoning (CBR) in the years interleaving with the biennial international counterpart ICCBR, whose 5th edition was held in Trondheim, Norway in 2003.

The CBR community has shown for years a deep interest in the application of its research to real-world problems. As a result, the first day of both ECCBR and ICCBR has been traditionally dedicated to presenting industrial CBR applications. ECCBR 2004 Industry Day was co-chaired by Mehmet Göker and Francisco Martín who invited professionals from different fields to describe their fielded CBR systems. The second day of the conference was dedicated to four workshops focusing on the following research interests: CBR in health sciences, explanation in CBR, computational creativity, and CBR applied to time series prediction. We are grateful to the Workshop Program co-chairs, Pablo Gervás and Kalyan Moy Gupta, for their efforts in coordinating these workshops, along with the individual workshop chairs and participants. Materials from the Industry Day and the workshops were published separately and can be obtained from the ECCBR 2004 website, <http://www.idt.mdh.se/eccbr/>.

This volume comprises the papers presented at the conference organized into three sections: two invited papers are followed by 31 research papers and 25 application papers. Especially relevant is the number of applied research papers in wide-ranging application areas, such as traffic control, Web search, music generation, object recognition, medicine, and software engineering. The quality of the submitted papers was unusually high this year, and of the total of 85 submissions, the program committee selected 24 papers for oral presentation and 32 papers for poster presentation. Papers presented as posters were classified by the reviewers to be more suitable for a limited interacting audience and three time slots of the conference were dedicated to poster sessions.

The chairs would like to thank all those who contributed to the success of ECCBR 2004. Particular thanks goes to all the program committee and additional reviewers without whose time and effort this volume of selected papers would not exist. We also wish to thank the invited speakers, Agnar Aamodt and Mehmet Göker, and all session chairs. A special thanks goes to Luis Hernández-Yáñez and Mercedes Gómez-Albarrán for local arrangements, Pablo Beltrán-Ferruz and Federico Peinado-Gil for preparing the proceedings, and Ning Xiong for his assistance in the paper selection process. Finally, we gratefully acknowl-

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