

# Preface

The work presented in this book is the result of the work conducted by the research network Human and Organizational Factors in Planning and Scheduling (HOPS). The HOPS network was established in 2004 and was funded as a so-called “Action” by COST (European Cooperation in Science and Technology; cf. <http://www.cost.eu>) for a period of four years. COST supports new Actions when they address a relatively new and relevant field of research, in many cases interdisciplinary. COST Actions have an open nature and any researcher interested in the topic can join them.

The HOPS network has been important in the sense that researchers with a wide variety of disciplines have been working together on joint projects over the course of the Action. The joint research has been very productive, with dozens of joint papers having been published in academic journals over the past few years.

In this book, we have brought together the main results from the Action, but have furthermore complemented these by providing more extensive, expository background writing in each of the Chapters that will enable the novel and experienced researcher in this field to get quickly at grip with the various disciplinary insights and knowledge that underlie our studies. We therefore expect this book to be useful for a variety of audiences. First of all, it serves as a reference of the current state of research in the field for those interested in conducting research in this area and intending to broaden their disciplinary and methodological scope. Second, it can serve as teaching material in a graduate course on the role that humans play in planning and scheduling environments. Finally, it also serves to help practitioner to better understand the background of their experiences with planning and scheduling systems, and provides guidelines and insights in how to better manage the design and implementation of such systems.

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Second, we would like to thank all contributors to this volume in spending their time to consolidate their multitude of findings and insights into a set of extensive and comprehensive book chapters.

Finally, we would like to thank Eindhoven University of Technology, and especially Walter Stein, for supporting us in the final editing stages of the process. Many book projects tend to fail at this important stage and without the support of Walter this book would not have been realized.

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