

## Foreword

The European Dependable Computing Conference is in its fourth edition. EDCC is the successor of two European conference series on fault tolerance and dependability as well as on aspects of testing and diagnosis. One of them, known as the "International Conference on Fault-Tolerant Computing Systems" was organised 1982-91 by the German Technical Interest Group "Fault Tolerant Computing Systems". The other series, known as the "International Conference on Fault-Tolerant Systems and Diagnostics", was organised 1975-90 in the former Czechoslovakia, Poland, Bulgaria and the former GDR. EDCC-1 was held in Berlin (Germany) in October 1994, EDCC-2 in Taormina (Italy) in October 1996 and EDCC-3 in Prague (Czech Republic) in September 1999, and Toulouse (France) was chosen for this fourth edition.

EDCC is organised by the SEE Working Group "Dependable Computing" in France, GI/ITG/GMA Technical Committee on Dependability and Fault Tolerance in Germany, and the AICA Working Group "Dependability of Computer Systems" in Italy. Furthermore, committees of several global professional organizations, such as IEEE and IFIP, support the conference. EDCC is thus the forum for European researchers in dependability and is extending towards a world wide dimension as researchers from all over the world show their interest by choosing EDCC for submitting their manuscripts and presenting their work.

The field of dependability is growing and becomes more and more important in everyday life. This is highly recognised by the vast research programs that are launched all over the world including in the European Community. There have been specific actions on dependability in the current 5<sup>th</sup> Framework Programme on Information Society Technologies, and even more emphasis is put on dependability in 6<sup>th</sup> Framework Programme to be launched in few months.

The selection process was very careful. Each manuscript was sent out for review to three PC members plus two external reviewers. 51 submissions from 18 countries have been received and the 32 members of the Program Committee and 68 external reviewers returned on time a total of 217 reviews. This made the selection process very comprehensive. The entire process was managed using the START tool. Silvano Chiaradonna of CNUCE-CNR graciously helped with the acquisition, operation and maintenance of this tool, and for his efforts I feel particularly indebted to him. The committee met in Pisa, Italy for two days in May 2002 to arrange the technical program. A total of 16 papers were selected to appear in the Proceedings. The rest of the technical program was defined to include three panels, a forum for Fast abstract to report on very recent work and a keynote on contemporary topics.

I would like to thank the Program Committee members for their help in putting together the final program. They helped us in many ways right from the beginning including topic identification, suggestion of external reviewers, refereeing and attending the Pisa meeting in large numbers. I also thank all of the external reviewers

for making available their time and their technical knowledge and the authors of all the manuscripts for their contributions and the timely submissions. Special thanks go to Pascale Thevenod, an enthusiastic and supportive General Chair, Felicita Di Giandomenico, the Fast Abstract chair, Rogerio De Lemos, Jean-C laude Laprie and Luca Simoncini who took leadership in organising three panels on interesting and stimulating topics. I would like finally to acknowledge the support of the steering committee.

I hope you will find the conference interesting and stimulating and will continue to contribute to its success in the coming years.

Firenze, July 2002

Andrea Bondavalli  
Program Chair

These proceedings were just ready for printing when the sad and terrible news did reach the organizers that Jan Hlavicka, member of the Steering Committee of EDCC and the former Chairman of EDCC-3, has gone forever. Jan was not only an outstanding researcher and a devoted professor, but the archetype of a European scientist. He was the initiator of the FTSD Conferences held annually from the mid-seventies until 1990. The FTSD were the integrative platform for scientists working in the field of dependability in Central- and Eastern Europe and became one of the roots of the EDCC series. Jan was one of the first who made all efforts to integrate the scientists both at the regional and the international levels. We must thank him for the fast integration of our community after the political changes in 1989.

Jan's conviction that we have a unique European culture is such a message which obliges us to continue of the ideas of our late friend.

Jan's vision that we have a unique European culture is such an evident truth that we will keep pushing forward to continue the ideas of our late friend.