

**Proceedings of
the 1st Balkan Conference
in Informatics**

Organizers

Greek Computer Society

Aristotle University

University of Macedonia

Technological Institution of Thessaloniki

Editors

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PREFACE

On the occasion of organizing the 9th Panhellenic Conference in Informatics (PCI'2003) at Thessaloniki during 21-23 of November 2003, the Greek Computer Society (EPY) accepted the proposal of the three local institutional organizations, the Aristotle University, the University of Macedonia and the Technological Educational Institution of Thessaloniki, and supported the organization of a collocated event, the 1st Balkan Conference in Informatics (BCI'2003).

In the era of globalization and while the European Union is being augmented with new member states, it is unavoidable to open the borders aiming towards an integrated European scientific ground. This way, scientists from all the Balkan countries will have the opportunity to meet, communicate with colleagues from the greater geographical area, discuss and share ideas and thus establish the foundations for future collaborations.

This volume contains 60 high quality papers originating from virtually all Balkan countries (i.e. Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Bulgaria, FYRO Macedonia, Serbia and Montenegro, Romania and Turkey) and other countries as well. These papers have been selected after a thorough review from 134 submitted papers, where each paper has been reviewed on the average by 2 members of the Program Committee or by experts from a list of External Reviewers. In addition, we have one plenary session: a keynote speech by Ioannis Tsoukalas, Professor and Chairman of the Department of Informatics of the Aristotle University. In addition, the BCI'2003 program is multiplexed with the PCI'2003 program resulting in a total of 29 technical sessions. Thus, this cross-fertilization will be of benefit to all the participants of the two conferences.

We believe that the organization of the BCI'2003 is a significant added value to the PCI'2003 and will be appreciated by the Greek participants. Moreover, we anticipate that participants from other countries will capitalize from their experience in the combined BCI'2003 and PCI'2003 program, and enjoy their staying at Thessaloniki. Finally, we hope that the initiative of organizing a regional event, the 1st Balkan Conference in Informatics, will attract the interest of scientists from other Balkan countries, which will take the torch to organize the 2nd Balkan Conference in Informatics and establish it in the future as a regional event of major scientific importance.

This event would not be possible to be accomplished without the financial help of the above institutions plus a number of other public bodies and private companies. We gratefully acknowledge the support of Altec, Delta-Singular, Intracom, Microsoft, PC Systems, ECDL, EUCIP, MLS, City College, and most important the Ministry of Interior, Public Administration and Decentralization and the Ministry of Education. Thus, warm thanks are due to our generous sponsors for their support and contribution.

As a final word: it would not be possible to have this event organized without the help of the members of the Program Committee and the Organizing Committee. Thus, we would like to cordially thank them for their efforts for a successful 1st Balkan Conference in Informatics. We trust that all conference participants will appreciate these efforts and enjoy the conference.

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