This special issue of the Information Resources Management Journal is composed of enhanced versions of selected papers submitted and presented at CENTERIS 2009 - Conference on ENTERprise Information Systems: Aligning Technology, Organizations and People, held in Ofir, Portugal, 7-9 October 2009. It was the first conference where, under the leitmotiv of Enterprise Information Systems, academics, scientists, IT/IS professionals, managers and solution providers from all over the world will had the opportunity to share experiences, bring new ideas, debate issues and introduce the latest developments.

INSIDE THIS ISSUE

This special issue includes five contributions to the discussion of the main issues, challenges, opportunities and developments related to EIS as tools for competitiveness, written by eleven authors, including internationally renowned and experienced researchers in the EIS field.

In the first paper, “How to Transform the Information Infrastructure of Enterprise into Sustainable, Global-oriented and to Monitor and Predict the Sustainability of Civilization - The Organizational and Social Aspects”, Andrew Targowski defines the ongoing evolution of the Classic Enterprise Information Infrastructure into Sustainability and Global Enterprise Information Infrastructure. The Global Civilization survival relies on the ability to monitor and predict its sustainability in relationship with enterprises. The paper also draws recommendations for the pathways toward a sustainable future.

Software processes are dynamic entities that are often changed and evolved by software development team members, and flexibility is one of the most important features within software processes and related tools. However, in everyday practice, team members do not wish for total flexibility, they prefer to follow controlled flexibility advice, that is, previously defined information on which, where, how and by whom they can change software process representations to match real-world situations. In the second paper, “Deriving goals for a Software Process Modelling Language to Support Controlled Flexibility”, Martinho, Domingos and Varajão define a set of goals and requirements for a language and supporting software tool to control the flexibility within software processes.

In the third paper, “Applicability Assessment of Semantic Web Technologies in Human Resources Domain”, Janev and Vranes analyse the applicability and the benefits of using semantic technologies in contemporary
information systems. By using an illustrative case study of deployment of Semantic Web technologies in Human Resources sector at the Mihajlo Pupin Institute, this paper shows how the latest semantic technologies could be used on top of existing Enterprise Information Systems and Enterprise Content Management system in order to ensure meaningful search and retrieval of expertise for in-house users as well as for integration in the European research space and beyond.

In “Virtual Product Development in University-Enterprise Partnership”, Dragoi, Draghici, Rosu and Cotet present a vision of next generation engineering working environments and describe a core information technology on which future systems can be built. Cooperative processes are not the automatic results of implementing collaborative, real-time communication technologies, but the result of a carefully designed and systematically maintained virtual team development plan. The paper discusses the critical issues of the virtual product development and builds a general architecture of an experimental platform for training, research and consulting in the new digital economy, located in the PREMINV center from University “POLITEHNICA” of Bucharest.

To deepen the knowledge on ERP implementation in SME, Iskanius introduces the study “Risk Management of ERP Projects in Manufacturing SMEs” that identifies and assesses the main risks in the ERP projects through the case study of three manufacturing SME. The author introduces two risk management methods targeted for SMEs in their ERP implementation projects. By using company-specific risk analysis method, the critical risks of the ERP projects have been identified and assessed. Then, by using characteristics analysis method, recommendations of how to divide the ERP projects into manageable sub projects are given.

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