Preface

In a world where traditional business practices are reconsidered, economic activity is performed in a global context, new areas of economic development are recognized as the key enablers of wealth and income production, and the quest for collaboration and exploitation of synergies is recognized as an Information Technologies Primer, this book brings together academics, researchers, entrepreneurs, policy makers, and government officers aiming to contribute to the debate on emerging topics and technologies in information systems.

In the context of the knowledge society, the focus of research in this area has been set on applications of technologies for user-centered learning, building on the concept of human learning and on sound pedagogical principles, with the key objectives to be:

- To increase the efficiency of learning for individuals and groups.
- To facilitate transfer and sharing of knowledge in organizations.
- To contribute to a deeper understanding of the learning process by exploring links between human learning, cognition, and technologies.
- To promote humanistic visions for a better world based on open learning for all.

Technology enhanced learning is the best term to describe the domain of knowledge society technologies as applied in the learning context: “Learning for anyone, at any time, at any place”. With the shift towards the knowledge society, the change of working conditions and the high-speed evolution of information and communication technologies, peoples’ knowledge and skills need continuous updating.

The book “Emerging Topics and Technologies in Information Systems” aims to become the reference edition for all those interested in knowing the current state of the art in technologies and trends in information systems field.

The special feature of this book is that it goes beyond the verbalism of wishful thinking and applies modern approaches through emerging technologies like knowledge portals, push/pull technologies, Web 2.0, Semantic Web, adaptive and personalized technologies, metadata and content standards, free and open source software, ubiquitous and pervasive technologies, intelligent agents, content/knowledge management systems and grid technologies, among others.
From the other hand, all the state-of-the-art themes are categorized and for the full list we develop strategies supported by emerging technologies. An important feature of the book we would like to highlight is the focus on real cases. For every strategy, supported by a key theoretical issue and a combination of technologies, the discussion is made in an organizational context. Real-world cases are used to show how theory supports practice and vice versa.

Additionally we also include further readings of a complimentary nature to the contents of the rest of our publication. As an added value to our readers, the further readings are to provide additional related data in support of the book’s comprehensive concepts, principles, and results, as well as studies that build upon the appeal of this publication as a one-stop reference source.