Acknowledgment

This book is the result of the collective work of several scientists, industry experts, and practitioners in the fields of enterprise interoperability, information systems, management, and socio-economics. We are highly grateful to all the authors for their continued efforts towards a high quality publication. We are also very pleased to acknowledge the support of the Editorial Advisory Board and all friends and colleagues involved in overall guidance, stimulation of the community, the review process, and the book finalization.

Many thanks go to colleagues at the National Technical University of Athens, UNINOVA, Coventry University, CNR, and Intrasoft International, as the core partners of the ENSEMBLE Project (“Envisioning, Supporting, and Promoting Future Internet Enterprise Systems Research through Scientific Collaboration,” Contract No: FP7-ICT-257548), as well as to the rest of the experts involved in the ENSEMBLE Scientific Experts Committee for their ideas and encouragement during the entire authoring and publication process.

This publication would have certainly been extremely difficult without the support of all experts in the Future Internet Enterprise Systems cluster, under the guidance of European Commission executives. We would like to especially thank Gerald Santucci and Cristina Martinez for their continued encouragement and critical thinking.

Special thanks also go to the publisher’s team and particularly to Austin DeMarco for his professional guidance, support, and feedback—decisive in keeping this project on schedule.

May this work be an inspiration for our students, colleagues, and beloved ones on their own paths for achieving development and fulfillment.

Yannis Charalabidis  
University of the Aegean, Greece

Fenareti Lampathaki  
National Technical University of Athens, Greece

Ricardo Jardim-Goncalves  
Centre of Technology and Systems (CTS) – UNINOVA, Portugal

September 2013