Introduction

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Enterprise engineering (EE) aims at researching concepts, methods, systems and technology in order to model, develop and analyse various aspects of an organisation. Its primary focus is on understanding the relationships and dependencies between strategy, business processes and the business supporting systems. It encompasses multi-disciplinary topics, ranging from modelling goals and business processes, formalising enterprise ontologies, representing information system services to identifying best practices and business patterns. EE integrates and makes use of concepts from areas of knowledge that are usually not directly associated. These include information systems, requirements engineering, software engineering, management theory, systems theory and knowledge management.

The alignment between business and information systems and technology as well as business process management are probably amongst the topics that have been receiving most attention from researchers and practitioners in the last few years. Business process modelling has been widely used for multiple purposes, such as facilitating understanding and communication, supporting process improvement through business processes analysis and simulation, supporting business process re-engineering, automating the execution of business processes and supporting the analysis and design of process-oriented software implementations.

Moreover, the relevance of this area grows with the increasing usage of interoperable and distributed services and an ubiquitous communication infrastructure that enable business processes to be automated and coordinated within and across organisational boundaries. These systems and technologies are making possible to integrate enterprise applications and automate business processes, which should facilitate rapidly deploying and managing a business solution, allowing the organisation to adapt to a changing environment and realising a real return on investment due to reduced integration and development costs. However, for this to be successfully achieved, the overall alignment between technological concepts, such as web services and information system architecture, and business concepts, such as business processes and strategy, must be clearly assessed and understood.

The current special issue of the *International Journal on Organisational Design and Engineering* presents five extended papers originally presented at the 'Enterprise Engineering' track at the ACM Symposium on Applied Computing (http://ee.ist.utl.pt/). This track, currently on its tenth edition, is a forum where theoretical and applied research work as well as cases from the industry have been presented and shared to researchers, academics and practitioners interested in organisational modelling and analysis, methods and supporting tools.

The papers included in this issue present different approaches to the design and engineering of organisation emphasising both the multi-disciplinary aspect of EE and its complementary nature. Anne Cleven, Robert Winter and Felix Wortmann from the University of St. Gallen, Switzerland, discuss how process performance management is able to address organisational design issues. Artur Caetano, António Rito Silva and José Tribolet from the Technical University of Lisbon, Portugal, present a technique based on separation of concerns to facilitate the design consistent business processes. Evellin C.S. Cardoso, João Paulo A. Almeida and Renata S.S. Guizzardi from the Federal University of Espírito Santo, Brazil, propose a common ontological foundation to analyse enterprise modelling approaches. Jan Stefan Addicks and H-Jürgen Appelrath from the Institute for Information Technology and the University of Oldenburg, Germany, describe a method to evaluate business applications in the overall context of enterprise architecture. Finally, Jelena Zdravkovic and Tharaka Ilayperuma from the Royal Institute of Technology, Sweden, focus on designing and analysing collaborative business value models.