



PREFACE

WELCOME

I am delighted to welcome you to our biggest conference yet! Your presence is important to us and to the wider community of risk management professionals: as a delegate, you can bring back what you will learn and help raise awareness and improve standards; as a speaker, your expertise and contribution is deeply appreciated and will enrich those who hear it.

OUR DEVELOPMENT

In five years, EuSpRIG has grown in strength to not just a European, but a worldwide network of academics and practitioners. Our contributors this year are from Austria, Canada, Ireland, Japan, Slovenia, the UK, and USA. In previous years we had papers from Australia and New Zealand.

Our mission is to increase the awareness of spreadsheet risk and promote methods of assessing risk, detecting errors, and improving the productivity and quality of spreadsheet development.

The most significant step forward in the past year has been our joint work with the European Computer Driving License Foundation (ECDLF) in the drawing up of a syllabus of good spreadsheet practice, which will form the foundation of a new certification for end user competence. This will be welcomed by all stakeholders who are concerned about exposure to risk from uncontrolled spreadsheet development.

STANDARDS

Our review process involves three referees who provide feedback comments to authors. We apply strict standards of references and evidence to the academic papers, and appropriate standards of relevance and usefulness to the submissions from practitioners. This year, we received more papers than we could cope with, even after extending the conference from the previous format of two half-days to a day and a half. We were sorry to have to disappoint the authors of some good work, but the competition was strong.

THANKS

Special thanks are due to the committee who have given voluntarily of their time, expertise, and organisational resources, to bring this conference to its present success:

Pat Cleary, who took on the roles both of secretary and Programme Committee chair and ever present chivvier;



Roland Mittermeir of the University of Klagenfurt, who with his staff has organised our 2004 conference in the very heart of the new EU, on top of his academic programme and review role;

Graham MacDonald, our treasurer who set up our euro processing facilities this year and keeps a keen eye on correct books;

David Ward of KPMG for preparing the proceedings;

Barry Pettifor of PwC who along with David Ward of KPMG provided very valuable sponsorship of our teleconferences;

Grenville Croll of Frontline systems UK who not only managed our membership database, but secured prime sponsorship of this year's conference;

Ray Butler for the support of ISACA Northern England for EuSpRIG, their sponsorship of the Student Prize, and his own sage advice as a past chair;

David Chadwick, our 2003 Chair and a founder member who brought EuSpRIG to the prime position it holds today; regrettably his health did not permit his attendance this year, but our appreciation of his academic rigour is shown in the naming of the Student Prize;

Leon Strous who performed the very important task of processing credit card payments for the conference;

and all members of the EuSpRIG committee who gave of their time and thoughtful advice in our monthly teleconference calls: Markus Clermont, Barry Phillips, David Colver, and Jocelyn Paine and that was on top of their speaking commitments to this conference.

Enjoy the conference, contribute to the discussions, benefit from the networking, and keep in touch!

Patrick O'Beirne, Chairman 2004, EuSpRIG
Systems Modelling Ltd., Ireland, July 2004