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Foreword

SOFSEM 2001, the International Conference on Current Trends in Theory and Practice of Informatics, was held on November 24 – December 1, 2001 in the well-known spa Piešťany, Slovak Republic. This was the 28th annual conference in the SOFSEM series organized either in the Slovak or the Czech Republic.

SOFSEM has a well-established tradition. Currently it is a broad, multidisciplinary conference, devoted to the theory and practice of software systems. Its aim is to foster cooperation among professionals from academia and industry working in various areas of informatics.

The scientific program of SOFSEM consists of invited talks, which determine the topics of the conference, and short contributed talks presenting original results. The topics of the invited talks are chosen so as to cover the whole range from theory to practice and to bring interesting research areas to the attention of conference participants. For the year 2001, the following three directions were chosen for presentation by the SOFSEM Steering Committee:

- Trends in Informatics
- Enabling Technologies for Global Computing
- Practical Systems Engineering and Applications

The above directions were covered through 12 invited talks presented by prominent researchers. There were 18 contributed talks, selected by the international Program Committee from among 46 submitted papers. The conference was also accompanied by workshops on Electronic Commerce Systems (coordinated by H. D. Zimmermann) and Soft Computing (coordinated by P. Hájek).

The present volume contains invited papers (including the keynote talk given by Vaughan R. Pratt), the Soft Computing workshop opening plenary talk (presented by Sándor Jenei), and all the contributed papers.

We are grateful to the members of both the SOFSEM Advisory Board and the SOFSEM Steering Committee for their proposals for the conference scientific program and for their cooperation in contacting the invited speakers. We also wish to thank everybody who submitted a paper for consideration, all Program Committee members for their meritorious work in evaluating the submitted papers, as well as all subreferees who assisted the Program Committee members in the evaluation process. We are deeply indebted to the authors of invited and contributed papers who prepared their manuscripts for presentation in this volume. Our special thanks goes to Miroslav Chladný who designed and managed electronic support for the Program Committee and who did most of the hard technical work in preparing this volume. We are also thankful to the Organizing Committee team lead by Igor Prívara, who made sure that the conference ran smoothly in a pleasant environment. Last but not least we would like to thank Springer-Verlag for their excellent cooperation during the publication of this volume.

September 2001

Leszek Pacholski, Peter Ružička

SOFSEM 2001

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