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Preface

The proceedings of ECML/PKDD 2003 are published in two volumes: the *Proceedings of the 14th European Conference on Machine Learning* (LNAI 2837) and the *Proceedings of the 7th European Conference on Principles and Practice of Knowledge Discovery in Databases* (LNAI 2838). The two conferences were held on September 22–26, 2003 in Cavtat, a small tourist town in the vicinity of Dubrovnik, Croatia.

As machine learning and knowledge discovery are two highly related fields, the co-location of both conferences is beneficial for both research communities. In Cavtat, ECML and PKDD were co-located for the third time in a row, following the successful co-location of the two European conferences in Freiburg (2001) and Helsinki (2002). The co-location of ECML 2003 and PKDD 2003 resulted in a joint program for the two conferences, including paper presentations, invited talks, tutorials, and workshops.

Out of 332 submitted papers, 40 were accepted for publication in the ECML 2003 proceedings, and 40 were accepted for publication in the PKDD 2003 proceedings. All the submitted papers were reviewed by three referees. In addition to submitted papers, the conference program consisted of four invited talks, four tutorials, seven workshops, two tutorials combined with a workshop, and a discovery challenge.

We wish to express our gratitude to

- the authors of submitted papers,
- the program committee members, for thorough and timely paper evaluation,
- invited speakers Pieter Adriaans, Leo Breiman, Christos Faloutsos, and Donald B. Rubin,
- tutorial and workshop chairs Stefan Kramer, Luis Torgo, and Luc Dehaspe,
- local and technical organization committee members,
- advisory board members Luc De Raedt, Tapio Elomaa, Peter Flach, Heikki Mannila, Arno Siebes, and Hannu Toivonen,
- awards and grants committee members Dunja Mladenić, Rob Holte, and Michael May,
- Richard van der Stadt for the development of CyberChair which was used to support the paper submission and evaluation process,
- Alfred Hofmann of Springer-Verlag for co-operation in publishing the proceedings, and finally
- we gratefully acknowledge the financial support of the Croatian Ministry of Science and Technology, Slovenian Ministry of Education, Science, and Sports, and the Knowledge Discovery Network of Excellence (KDNet). KDNet also sponsored the student grants and best paper awards, while Kluwer Academic Publishers (the Machine Learning Journal) awarded a prize for the best student paper.

We hope and trust that the week in Cavtat in late September 2003 will be remembered as a fruitful, challenging, and enjoyable scientific and social event.

June 2003

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Petr Berka, Jan Rauch, and Shusaku Tsumoto

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