Preface to the Workshop on Enterprise Engineering Theories and Methods  
(WEETM 2014)

Enterprise engineering is an emerging discipline that studies enterprises from an engineering perspective. It means that enterprises are studied as being purposely designed and implemented systems. Enterprise engineering is rooted in both the organizational sciences and the information system sciences. The rigorous integration of these traditionally disjoint scientific areas has become possible after the recognition that communication is a form of action. The operating principle of organizations is that actors enter into and comply with commitments, and in doing so bring about the business services of the enterprise. This important insight clarifies the view that that enterprises belong to the category of social systems, i.e., its active elements (actors) are social individuals (human beings). The unifying role of human beings makes it possible to address problems in a holistic way, to achieve unity and integration in bringing about any organizational change.

Also when regarding the implementation of organizations by means of modern information technology (IT), enterprise engineering offers innovative ideas. In a similar way as the ontological model of an organization is based on atomic elements (namely, communicative acts), there is an ontological model for IT applications. Such a model is based on a small set of atomic elements, such as data elements and action elements. By constructing software in this way, the combinatorial effects (i.e., the increasing effort it takes in the course of time to bring about a particular change) in software engineering can be avoided.

The development of enterprise engineering requires the active involvement of a variety of research institutes and a tight collaboration between them. This is achieved by a continuously expanding network of universities and other institutes, called the CIAO! Network (www.ciaonetwork.org). Since 2005 this network has organized the annual CIAO! Workshop, and since 2008 its proceedings have been published as Advances in Enterprise Engineering in the Springer LNBIP series. From 2011 on, this workshop was replaced by the Enterprise Engineering Working Conference (EEWC), already in its 4th year. To further contribute to the purpose of the CIAO! Network we decided to start a new event: a workshop whose primary goal is promoting active discussions centered on theories and methods for the discipline of Enterprise Engineering (EE). We seek to develop a foundation of sound theories over which methodologies can be built and used to effectively engineer and manage enterprises. Hence our main scope is on the presentation, discussion and evolution of EE theories and/or methods. These can be: (1) inspired or related to the postulates of the “Enterprise Engineering Manifesto” and/or the principles in the paper “A discipline of Enterprise Engineering” as proposed by members of the CIAO! research network (http://www.ciaonetwork.org/); or (2) other original EE theories and/or methods. The CIAO! network aims at disseminating and developing EE with sound theories as a base and, with this workshop, seeks constructive discussion within the network itself and with other groups and individuals interested to contribute to the body of knowledge of the EE discipline.

CBI 2014 involves two workshops that are topically related to the WEETM workshop: LABEM (Lowering the Adoption Barrier of Enterprise Modelling) and the 8th workshop on Transformation & Engineering of Enterprises. We are happy to announce that in 2015, LABEM, TEE and WEETM will merge under the TEE banner, with the joint support of the Enterprise Engineering Team (http://www.ee-team.eu/) and the CIAO! research network (http://www.ciaonetwork.org/). The future TEE workshops will aim to attract papers in domains including: Enterprise Transformation & Innovation; Enterprise Engineering and Architecting and Enterprise Modelling. Case reports on transformation & engineering of enterprises will be another essential domain for papers submitted to TEE. Stay tuned on the TEE website (www.tee-series.org) for news and updates on domains and topics relevant for TEE.

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