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2nd International Workshop on Evidence-Based Technology Enhanced Learning

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Preface

Research on Technology Enhanced Learning (TEL) investigates how information and communication technologies can be designed in order to support pedagogical activities. The Evidence Based Design (EBD) of a system bases its decisions on empirical evidence and effectiveness. The evidence-based TEL workshop (ebTEL) brings together TEL and EBD. The workshop proceedings collect contributions concerning evidence based TEL systems, like their design following EBD principles as well as studies or best practices that educators or education stakeholders used to diagnose or improve their students' learning skills, including students with specific difficulties (e.g. poor/slow readers, students living in impoverished communities or families).

The ebTEL international workshop series was launched under the collaborative frame provided by the European TERENCE project (www.terenceproject.eu). The TERENCE project, n. 257410, is funded by the European Commission through the Seventh Framework Programme for Research and Technological Development, Strategic Objective ICT-2009.4.2, Technology-enhanced learning. TERENCE is building an AI-based Adaptive Learning System (ALS) for reasoning about stories, in Italian and in English, through reading comprehension interventions in the form of smart games. The project also is also developing innovative usability and evaluation guidelines for its users. The guidelines and the ALS result from a cross-disciplinary effort of European experts in diverse and complementary fields (art and design, computers, engineering, linguistics and medicine), and with the constant involvement of end-users (persons with impaired hearing and their educators) from schools in Great Britain and Italy.

The first edition of ebTEL collected contributions in the area of TEL from computer science, artificial intelligence, evidence-based medicine, educational psychology and pedagogy. Like the previous edition, this second edition, ebTEL'13, wants to be a forum in which TEL researchers and practitioners alike can discuss innovative evidence-based ideas, projects, and lessons related to TEL. The best papers of ebTEL'13 were also invited for a special issue of the International Journal of Technology Enhanced Learning (IJTEL) through a dedicated call for papers. The workshop takes place in Salamanca, Spain, on May 22nd–24th 2013.

This volume presents the papers that were accepted for ebTEL 2013. The full program contains 14 selected papers from 6 countries (Finland, Germany, Italy, Spain and United Kingdom). Each paper was reviewed by, at least, two different reviewers, from an international committee composed of 29 members of 9 countries. The quality of papers was on average good, with an acceptance rate of approximately 80%.

We would like to thank all the contributing authors, the reviewers, the sponsors (IEEE Systems Man and Cybernetics Society Spain, AEPIA Asociación Española para la Inteligencia Artificial, APPIA Associação Portuguesa Para a Inteligência Artificial, CNRS Centre national de la recherche scientifique and STELLAR), as well as the members of the Program Committee, of the Organising Committee and of the TERENCE consortium for their hard and highly valuable work. The work of all such people contributed to the success of the ebTEL'13 workshop.

We would like to especially acknowledge the contributions of a TERENCE colleague that, sadly, did not live long enough for seeing the results of our joint work: Emanuele Pianta, whose dedication to work, patient guidance and respect for others' views allowed us to hold our ground in difficult times and grow, all together, in the frame of ebTEL. This volume is for you, Emanuele. *Grazie*.

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