

15th Bled Electronic Commerce Conference
eReality: Constructing the eEconomy
Bled, Slovenia, June 17 - 19, 2002

**Electronic Commerce Research Center
Directors Meeting**

Co-Chairs:

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A meeting of Electronic Commerce (EC) Research Center Directors will be held on Tuesday, June 18, 2002 from 11:00 to 12:30 and from 14:00 to 15:30 in Hotel Kompas, Jezerska Hall. All EC Research Center Directors or their designated representatives are invited to attend. This will be the sixth year in a row that such a meeting has been held as a part of the Bled Conference.

The Research Directors Meeting provides a forum to discuss recent developments in Electronic Commerce, to explore linkages between research and teaching, to present current research programs, and to identify potential cooperation partners.

The meeting will consist of brief presentations of the activities at four Centers followed by topics addressing the effectiveness of Centers, issues of cooperation, an open discussion of perspectives and trends in EC research and in the management of EC Research Centers. The program agenda is as follows:

1. Brief presentations on Electronic Commerce Research Trends and Research Centers:
 - E-Business as an Interdisciplinary Research Area: Challenges for IS Researchers. (Stefan Klein, University of Münster, Münster, Germany)
 - E-Commerce Competence Center (EC3): A Research Center at the Interface between Academia and Industry - Some Experiences. (Hannes Werthner, E-Commerce Competence Center, Vienna, Austria)
 - U-Commerce: Conceptual and Proposed Empirical Work. (Rick Watson, Center for Information Systems Leadership, University of Georgia, Athens, GA, USA)

- Center of Competence for E-Business, University of Applied Sciences in Basel (FHBBB) (Petra Schubert, University of Applied Sciences Basel, Basel, Switzerland)
 - Ecademy, the National Network of Excellence in E-Business and E-Government in Switzerland. (Walter Dettling, Ecademy President and University of Applied Sciences Basel, Basel, Switzerland)
2. The Electronic Commerce Institute: An Update on the Development of a Certification Examination for EC Professionals (Don McCubbrey, Center for the Study of Electronic Commerce, University of Denver, Denver, CO, USA)
 3. Cooperation between and among Centers, especially International Cooperation and Collaboration.
 4. Open Discussion Forum:
 - a. Funding issues
 - b. Liability and other legal issues
 - c. Attracting and retaining students
 - d. Increasing faculty participation in Center activities
 - e. Attracting and retaining faculty in the current market
 - f. The need for depth vs. breadth of activities in the center
 - g. Successful organizational structures for centers -- should we re-evaluate our current structure and functioning?
 - h. Other issues and concerns

This will be an opportunity for Research Center Directors to share what has worked and what has not worked and to gain a better perspective on future opportunities. In addition, we will focus on ways to leverage on the work of each other and take positive steps towards fostering a viable virtual community of EC researchers. This should provide more opportunities for collaborative research efforts and more timely sharing of knowledge and insights.

Descriptions of EC Research Centers from around the world will be published as part of the conference proceedings. A written summary of the research directors meeting will be made available on the Conference web site.