ANNPR 2003, the first IAPR TC3 Workshop on Artificial Neural Networks in Pattern Recognition, was held on September 12, 13 2003 at the University of Florence, Italy. Papers dealing with neural networks regularly appear in most important journals and conferences related to pattern recognition. However, after more than fifteen years of massive applications, the actual advances with respect to other classic and established technologies seem to be still the subject of never-ending discussions. The aim of this workshop is to check the current state of the art in pattern recognition applications of artificial neural networks and to try to build up an active community around IAPR Technical Committee 3.

An international Program Committee was set up composed of 14 members. A total of 39 papers were submitted and after the review process 23 were selected for oral presentation and 9 as posters. Posters were introduced with short oral presentations in appropriate sessions. Besides paper presentations, the program also features one invited talk by Terry Caelli (University of Alberta, Canada), one panel discussion and two poster sessions. The book is organized into several main topics. All the most relevant application domains are included, ranging from one-dimensional signals to image and document processing. New applications of learning in structured domains are also analyzed. Theoretical aspects are covered by papers in two sessions, one of them devoted to classifiers and learning. The best papers of the workshop will be selected after an additional review process and published in a special issue of Pattern Recognition Letters.

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Simone Marinai
Program Chair