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Preface

The papers presented at the Fourth Workshop on Language Descriptions, Tools, and Applications (LDTA '04) are contained in this volume. LDTA '04 was a satellite event of the European Joint Conferences on Theory and Practice of Software (ETAPS '04) and was held in Barcelona, Spain on April 3, 2004. Previous instances of this workshop have been held as satellite events of ETAPS in Warsaw, Poland in 2003, in Grenoble, France in 2002, and in Genoa, Italy in 2001.

As in past instantiations, the aim of this one day workshop was to bring together researchers from academia and industry who have an interest in the field of formal language definitions and language technologies. A special emphasis was placed on the development of tools based on formal language definitions.

The program for LDTA '04 consists of 7 regular papers, 3 tool demonstrations, and an invited talk by Jim Cordy entitled “TXL - A Language for Programming Language Tools and Applications”. The regular papers were selected from 16 submissions and cover a range of topics including formal methods, language analysis, parsing tools and techniques, and action semantics.

We would like to thank the members of the program committee for the careful review of the submitted papers. We also thank the ETAPS organizing committee for handling the local organization of the workshop. We are again pleased that this workshop is held in cooperation with ACM SIGPLAN and that these proceedings will be published as a volume in the Electronic Notes in Theoretical Computer Science (ENTCS) by Elsevier. We are especially grateful to Microsoft Research for their financial contributions.

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*Görel Hedin
Eric Van Wyk
Lund (Sweden) and Minneapolis (USA)
April, 2004*