Proceedings

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Table of Contents

Introduction vii

Conference Organization viii

Conference Committees ix

Additional Reviewers xi

Keynote: Empirical Models: Towards a Science of Software Engineering Prof. Dieter Rombach (Software Engineering Chair, CS Dept., University of Kaiserslautern Executive Director, Fraunhofer IESE, Kaiserslautern) 1

Session 1 - 'Tertiary and Secondary Studies'

Systematic Literature Reviews in Global Software Development: A Tertiary Study. *June Verner, Pearl Brereton, Barbara Kitchenham, Mark Turner and Mahmood Niazi.* (FP).....2

Preliminary Results of A Systematic Review on Requirements Evolution. *Juan Li, He Zhang, Liming Zhu, Ross Jeffery, Qing Wang and Mingshu Li.* (FP) 12

Causes of Requirement Change – A Systematic Literature Review*. Muneera Bano, Salma Imtiaz, Naveed Ikram, Mahmood Niazi and Muhammad Usman.* (FP) 22

Sustainability in Software Engineering: A Systematic Literature Review for Building up a Knowledge Base. *Birgit Penzenstadler, Veronika Bauer, Coral Calero and Xavier Franch.* (FP)..32

A Systematic Mapping Study on the Open Source Software Development Process. *Silvia Teresita Acuña Castillo, John Wilmar Castro Llanos, Oscar Dieste and Natalia Juristo Juzgado.* (SP) 42

A Study on Risk Management for Software Engineering. *Luanna Lopes Lobato, Paulo Silveira, Ivan Machado and Silvio Meira.* (SP) 47

A Systematic Review on the Effectiveness of Web Usability Evaluation Methods. *Adrian Fernandez, Silvia Abrahão and Emilio Insfran.* (SP) 52

A Mapping Study of the Definitions used for Service Oriented Architecture. *Maria Anjum and David Budgen*. (SP).....57

Session 2 - 'Primary Studies 1'

An Initial Evaluation of Requirements Dependency Types in Change Propagation Analysis. *Juan Li, Liming Zhu, Ross Jeffery, Yan Liu, He Zhang, Qing Wang and Mingshu Li.* (FP) 62

Towards an Explanatory Theory of Motivation in Software Engineering: A Qualitative Case Study of a Government Organization. *A. César C. França, Adelnei De L. C. Felix and Fabio Q. B. Da Silva* (FP) 72

Understanding Lack of Trust in Distributed Agile Teams: A Grounded Theory Study. *Siva Dorairaj, James Noble and Petra Malik*. (FP) 81

Maturity of Software Modelling and Model Driven Engineering: a Survey in the Italian Industry. *Federico Tomassetti, Marco Torchiano, Alessandro Tiso, Filippo Ricca, and Gianna Reggio.* (FP)……91

Evaluating Methods and Technologies in Software Engineering with Respect to Developers' Skill Level. *Gunnar R. Bergersen and Dag I. K. Sjøberg.* (FP) ……101

Evaluation of Traceability Recovery in Context: A Taxonomy for Information Retrieval Tools. *Markus Borg, Per Runeson and Lina Brodén.* (FP)……111

The Influence of Human Aspects on Software Process Improvement: Qualitative Research Findings and Comparison to Previous Studies. *Davi Santos, Cleidson R.B.de Souza, Dalton Vilela, Gleison Santos, Rafael Prikladnicki and Tayana Conte.* (SP) ……121

Session 3 - 'Methodology and Guidelines'

Mapping study completeness and reliability - a case study. *Barbara Kitchenham, Pearl Brereton and David Budgen.* (FP) ……126

Pattern-Based Guideline to Empirically Analyse Software Development Processes. *Daniel Méndez Fernández, Birgit Penzenstadler and Marco Kuhrmann.* (FP) ……136

On Integrating Student Empirical Software Engineering Studies with Research and Teaching Goals. *Matthias Galster, Dan Tofan and Paris Avgeriou*. (FP) ……146

Reporting Guidelines for Simulation-Based Studies in Software Engineering. *Breno de França and Guilherme Travassos.* (SP) ……156

Towards a Unified Checklist for Empirical Research in Software Engineering: A First proposal. *Roel Wieringa*. (SP) ……161

GlobReq: A Framework for Improving Requirements Engineering in Global Software Development Projects: Preliminary Results. *Mahmood Niazi*, *Mohamed El-Attar, Muhammad Usman and Naveed Ikram* (SP) ……166

Towards Evidence-Based Ontology for Supporting Systematic Literature Review. *Yueming Sun, Ye Yang, He Zhang, Wen Zhang and Qing Wang.* (SP) ……171

Keynote: Using ethnography in empirical software engineering
Prof. Helen Sharp (The Open University, UK.) ……176

Session 4 - 'Primary Studies, Estimation'

An Experimental Setup to Assess Design Diversity of Functionally Equivalent Services. *Amanda S. Nascimento, Fernando Castor, Cecília M. F. Rubira and Rachel Burrows.* (FP) ……177

Using the ISO/IEC 9126 product quality model to classify defects: a Controlled Experiment. *Antonio Vetro', Nico Zazworka, Carolyn Seaman and Forrest Shull.* (FP) ……187

A study of the effectiveness of two threshold definition techniques. *Laura Sánchez González, Felix Garcia, Francisco Ruiz and Jan Mendling.* (FP) ……197

Software Effort Estimation with a Generalized Robust Linear Regression Technique. *Luigi Lavazza and Sandro Morasca*. (FP) ……206

First Impressions in Software Development Effort Estimation: Easy to Create and Difficult to Neutralize. *Magne Jorgensen and Erik Loehre*. (FP) ……..216

Test Case Quality in Test Driven Development: A Study Design and a Pilot Experiment. *Adnan Causevic, Daniel Sundmark and Sasikumar Punnekkat*. (SP) ……..223

Does the use of Fibonacci numbers in Planning Poker affect effort estimates? *Ritesh Tamrakar and Magne Jorgensen*. (SP) ……..228

Session 5 - 'Secondary Studies'

Risks of Off-The-Shelf-based Software Acquisition and Development: A Systematic Mapping Study and A Survey. *Dana S. Kusumo, Mark Staples, Liming Zhu, He Zhang and Ross Jeffery.* (FP) ……..233

Risk Management in Software Engineering: A Scoping Study. *Luanna Lopes Lobato, Ivan Machado, Paulo Silveira Neto, Eduardo Almeida and Silvio Romero de Lemos Meira.* (FP)…….243

Aspect-Oriented Software Maintenance Metrics: A Systematic Mapping Study. *Juliana Saraiva, Emanoel Barreiros, Adauto Almeida, Flavio Lima, Aline Alencar, Gustavo Lima, Sérgio Soares and Fernando Castor.* (FP) ……..253

Maintainability Prediction of Relational Database-Driven Software Applications: A Systematic Review. *Mehwish Riaz*. (FP) ……..263

A Mapping Study of Software Code Cloning. *Thomas Shippey, David Bowes, Bruce Christianson and Tracy Hall.* (SP) ……..273

Development of Maturity Models: A Literature Review. *Gabriel Alberto García-Mireles, M. Ángeles Moraga and Félix García.* (SP) ……..279

What Agile ERP Consultants Think of Requirements Engineering for Inter-organizational ERP Systems: Insights from a Focus Group in Benelux. *Maya Daneva and Niv Ahituv.* (SP) ……..284

Introduction

Over the past 16 years the *International Conference on Evaluation & Assessment in Software Engineering* has provided a forum where empirical researchers can present their latest research, and where issues related to all forms of empirical and evaluation studies in software engineering can be discussed. The EASE tradition is one of providing a workshop-like atmosphere, in which papers can be presented with time for constructive discussion of their results and processes.

The 16th edition (EASE 2012) has been organized by the Alarcos Research Group and hosted by the Escuela Superior de Informática in the University of Castilla-La Mancha located at Ciudad Real (Spain).

A total of 72 full papers and 31 short papers were submitted from all over the world and of these 22 full papers (31%) and 14 short papers (45%) were accepted for presentation at the Conference and inclusion in the Conference Proceedings. These papers address topics such as systematic literature reviews and mapping studies, formal experiments, qualitative studies, estimation and empirical software engineering.

In addition to the research papers, there are two keynote speeches: the first by Professor Dieter Rombach, Chair for Software Engineering at the University of Kaiserslautern, and Executive Director of the Fraunhofer Institute for Experimental Software Engineering in Kaiserslautern, Germany, is on the topic of "Empirical Models: Towards a Science of Software Engineering"; the second, by Professor Helen Sharp, Professor of Software Engineering at The Open University, UK, is on the topic of "Ethnographic studies in Software Engineering".

We would like to thank all of those who have contributed in numerous ways to making this conference a success: the authors for submitting their papers, the Program Committee members for their important work in reviewing and selecting the papers and in promoting the conference, the Executive Committee for agreeing to have the conference in Spain, the Organizing Committee together with all the people that helped in planning the conference, and the delegates. In addition, we would also like to thank all the sponsors to this event and the University of Castilla-La Mancha for hosting the conference.

We hope that you enjoy very much attending this conference and also your stay in Ciudad Real.

Mario Piattini (General Chair)
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