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Product-Focused Software Process Improvement

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Preface

On behalf of the PROFES Organizing Committee, we are proud to present the proceedings of the 13th International Conference on Product-Focused Software Process Improvement (PROFES 2012) held in Madrid, Spain.

Since 1999, PROFES has established itself as one of the recognized international process improvement conferences. The main theme of PROFES is professional software process improvement (SPI) motivated by product, process and service quality needs. PROFES 2012 addressed both quality engineering and management topics including processes, methods, techniques, tools, organizations, and enabling SPI. Both solutions found in practice and relevant research results from academia were presented.

The technical program was selected by a committee of leading experts in software process improvement, software process modeling, and empirical software engineering research. This year, 49 papers from 29 countries were submitted, with each paper receiving at least three reviewers. After thorough evaluation, the Program Committee finally selected 21 technical full papers (43% acceptance rate). The topics addressed in these papers indicate that SPI is still a vibrant research discipline, but is also of high interest for industry; many papers report on case studies or SPI-related experience gained in industry.

The technical program consisted of the tracks Process-Focused Software Process Improvement, Open-Source and Agile and Lean Practices, Product and Process Measurements and Estimation, Distributed and Global Software Development, Quality Assessment, and finally, Empirical Studies.

Since the beginning of the series of PROFES conferences, the purpose has been to bring to light the most recent findings and novel results in the area of process improvement. To fulfill that purpose, in this edition we organized a Special Session on Self-Organizing Systems, chaired by Horst F. Wedde (TU Dortmund). In this session, three high-quality papers about this topic were presented.

We were also proud to have one keynote speaker, Frank Houdek (Daimler AG), who presented the talk "Improving Requirements Engineering Processes. Impressions During One Decade of Improvement at Daimler".

Several events were co-located with PROFES 2012:

- The Second VALOIR workshop (Managing the Client Value Creation Process in Agile Projects), organized by Jeniffer Pérez, Luigi Buglioni and Maya Daneva
- The First INTEAMSE workshop (Managing the Influence of People and Team Factors in Software Engineering), organized by Silvia T. Acuña, Marta Gómez and Kostadin Koroutchev

- The tutorial "Requirements Meet Interaction Design," delivered by Hermann Kaindl
- The tutorial "Business IT Alignment Using the GQM+Strategies® Approach," delivered by Jens Heidrich and Martin Kowalczyk

We are thankful for the opportunity to have served as Program Co-chairs for this conference. The Program Committee members and reviewers provided excellent support in reviewing the papers. We are also grateful to the authors, presenters, and Session Chairs for their time and effort in making PROFES 2012 a success.

In addition, we sincerely thank Natalia Juristo for her work as a General Chair of PROFES 2012. Last, but not least, many thanks to Silvia T. Acuña and Sira Vegas for the local organization of this conference.

April 2012

Oscar Dieste
Andreas Jedlitschka
Natalia Juristo

Preface to the Short Papers Track

PROFES 2012 short papers present recent ideas or work based on research, practice or experience. Contributions of this track serve a distinct purpose and are subject to requirements different than those of full technical papers. Short papers may represent research work still under progress with preliminary results, ideas that may not be mature enough to be featured in a full technical paper, or experience with existing approaches or technologies that can be told in a compact form.

This year we received eight short paper submissions. The submissions underwent a rigorous review process by a separate, international Program Committee of 19 members. Each submission received at least four reviews. Based on these reviews and the Program Committee's overall assessments, we selected three submissions to be presented at the conference and to be included in these proceedings.

All of the accepted short papers focus on software process, hence they are best suited for the process-oriented reader. Two papers suggest frameworks for process conformance and one paper studies the effectiveness of effort estimation models. We hope that you will find their insights useful.

We thank the Program Committee for their diligence in reviewing the submissions and help with the selection process.

April 2012

Hakan Erdogmus
Sandro Morasca

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Table of Contents

Keynote Address

Process-Focused Software Process Improvement

Product and Process Measurements and Estimation

Open-Source, Agile and Lean Practices

Distributed and Global Software Development

Empirical Studies

Quality Assessment

Special Session on Self-Organizing Systems

Short Papers

Workshops and Tutorials