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EUROPEAN SOFTWARE ENGINEERING CONFERENCE 1987

Chairman's Introduction

It is now nearly 20 years since the idea first arose that it might be worthwhile to explore the analogy between building software and building other large and complex artefacts - in other words, to look at software construction as a form of engineering. This has turned out to be a most fruitful line of development and has clarified our ideas on a range of topics such as the need for adequate specifications through the software life cycle to quality control, configuration management and integrated toolsets for software engineering.

Many software engineering conferences have taken place in recent years, both nationally and internationally. We now think it worthwhile to embark on a series of conferences for software engineering professionals in Europe. There are increasingly close and important technical links between countries in Europe, fostered by the E.E.C. and expressed in activities such as the Esprit project. This is bringing about a cohesive professional community. Our purpose is to provide an opportunity for the presentation of top quality work in software engineering done primarily with a European basis but not, of course, excluding distinguished work from elsewhere in the world.

The Conference Programme is based on some 40 papers selected from over 200 which were submitted and refereed. They cover a wide range of current interests in the field, from formal methods through to application systems. We hope you find the Programme interesting and look forward to seeing you at the Conference.

FOREWORD

This volume contains the proceedings of the First European Software Engineering Conference, held at Strasbourg on 9-11 September 1987.

The purpose of ESEC 87 was to provide a European forum for the interchange of ideas, and presentations of the current state of research and development in software engineering. The conference was attended by over 400 people, papers were presented from all over Europe, Japan and from North America.

The programme committee had a very difficult job in selecting from the large number of papers submitted. Our thanks go to all who helped to make the conference a success, the presenters, the referees, and the members of the committees and professional organisations. Particular thanks go to Professor John Buxton, Chairman of the Programme Committee and Claire van Hieu and Marie-France Kalogera of the Secretariat, without whose efforts this inaugural conference would not have got off the ground.

We invite you to note the dates for the next ESEC, 11-14 September 1989 at Warwick University, United Kingdom, and look forward to your participation.

Dan Simpson, Brighton Polytechnic & Howard Nichols, RSRE, Malvern.
October 1987

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