

# Preface

This was the first year that the European Software Process Improvement Conference – EuroSPI – had a separate research track with its own proceedings. The EuroSPI conference is in its eleventh year, and has become the main meeting place in Europe for the software industry and academia to discuss software process improvement. The conference deals with software process improvement in a broad sense, investigating organizational issues as well as methods and tools for software process improvement.

EuroSPI is an initiative financed by a consortium of Nordic research centers and user networks (SINTEF, DELTA and STTF), ASQF, a German quality assurance association, and ISCN in Ireland, the coordinating network partner.

The research papers describe innovative and significant work in software process improvement, which is relevant to the software industry. The papers are readable for a scientific and industrial audience, and support claims with appropriately described evidence or references to relevant literature.

Thirty-one papers were submitted in this year's research track, and each paper was sent to three or four members of the program committee or additional reviewers. Papers were evaluated according to originality, significance of the contribution, quality of the written and graphical presentation, research method applied, and appropriateness of comparison to relevant research and literature. Almost 100 reviews were received and 18 papers were selected for presentation in the research track, giving a rejection rate of 42%. Many high-quality submissions had to be rejected because of limited space in the conference program.

The selected papers cover a wide area in software process improvement, from improving agile development methods, techniques for software process improvement, and knowledge management in software companies to effort estimation and global software development.

I would like to thank the paper authors for providing papers of high quality, and the program committee and additional reviewers for critiques, praise and advice on how to make the papers even better.

For further information about future EuroSPI conferences, see [www.eurospi.net](http://www.eurospi.net).

August 2004

Torgeir Dingsøy



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