

# Preface

Requirements Engineering is a dominant factor that influences the quality of software, systems, and services. The REFSQ working conference series is well established as one of the leading international forums for discussing RE and its many relations to quality. The first REFSQ took place in 1994, and since 2010 REFSQ has been organized as a stand-alone conference. During March 23–26, 2015, we welcomed participants at REFSQ 2015, which was held in Essen, Germany.

We chose “I heard it first at REFSQ” as the special theme for REFSQ 2015. The working conference is interested in the future of RE and in really new views on Requirements Engineering that are debated in the many interactive formats of REFSQ 2015. In addition to general papers on Requirements Engineering and quality, we therefore encouraged submissions that highlight the utilization of Requirements Engineering for solving our society’s Grand Challenges, such as the aging population and the expected scarcity of energy. We need novel ways for utilizing emerging technologies such as smart networks, novel Internet architectures, and the wide availability of sensors and data sources. Contributions from further related areas, such as systems engineering, economics, and management, were also very welcome for the insights they provide to Requirements Engineering.

We are pleased to present here the REFSQ 2015 proceedings that feature 23 papers presented during the REFSQ 2015 conference. This collection of papers resulted from a thorough peer-review process. Eighty-one abstracts were initially submitted. Not all abstracts were followed-up by papers, and three contributions were withdrawn. Sixty-two papers entered into the formal review process. Each paper was reviewed by three members of the Program Committee. An extensive online discussion within the Program Committee considered and enriched reviews during the search for a final decision. During a physical Program Committee meeting, the papers were discussed and selected for inclusion in the conference proceedings. Selected authors of rejected papers were encouraged to submit their papers at the REFSQ workshop, or as an industry or research methodology track contribution, or as a poster.

The REFSQ 2015 conference was organized as a three-day symposium. Two conference days were devoted to presentation and discussion of scientific papers. The two days connected to the conference theme with a keynote, an invited talk, and poster presentations. The keynote was given by Christoph Thümmler from Edinburgh Napier University and from the Klinikum Rechts der Isar, the hospital of the Technical University of Munich. Christoph had a crucial role in large-scale requirements engineering to align European computing infrastructure with the needs of the healthcare sector. One conference day was devoted to presentation and discussion of RE research methodology and industry experience.

There were two parallel tracks on the third day: the Industry Track and the new Research Methodology Track. In a joint plenary researchers met with industry to debate innovation in the discipline of requirements engineering.

REFSQ 2015 would not have been possible without the engagement and support of many who contributed in many different ways. As Program Co-chairs, we would like to thank the Steering Committee, all the members of the Program Committee, and the organizing team.

- Tobias Kaufmann and Selda Saritas were invaluable in the organization of this conference.
- Klaus Pohl headed the background organization of the REFSQ conference series.
- Adrian Zwingli transferred experience from the Swiss Requirements Day, introduced the REFSQ ambassador program, and prepared the stimulating industry track.
- Barbara Paech and Roel Wieringa launched the research methodology track.
- Raimundas Matulevicius and Thorsten Weyer increased the number of workshops substantially.
- Eric Knauss and Anna Perini were responsible for the posters.
- Dan Berry and Xavier Franch were responsible for the doctoral symposium.

All the research papers can be found in this present proceedings. The publications associated with the satellite events can be found in the REFSQ workshop proceedings published at CEUR.

We hope the proceedings convey the inspiration of the REFSQ conference and conversations throughout the symposium. We hope you will find research results and really new ideas that you have first heard at REFSQ 2015!

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