

# Preface

The 9th IFIP Working Conference on the Practice of Enterprise Modeling (PoEM 2016), was held during November 8–10 in Skövde, Sweden, hosted by the University of Skövde.

Enterprise modeling (EM) includes a set of activities by which knowledge about several perspectives of an organization is elicited, documented, analyzed, and communicated, typically through a structured, iterative, stakeholder-centric, and model-based approach. This way, the knowledge of the enterprise is made explicit and further actions can be performed, such as making strategic decisions, undertaking organizational reengineering, standardizing ways of working, developing or acquiring information and communication technology. As a consequence, EM has an impact on large economic markets such as consulting and information system development, making it a relevant field of research and industrial practice.

The PoEM conferences, starting in 2008, have contributed to establishing a dedicated forum where the use of EM in practice is addressed by bringing together researchers, users, and practitioners. The main focus of the PoEM conferences is EM methods, approaches, and tools as well as how they are used in practice. More specifically the goals of the conference are to contribute to a better understanding of the practice of EM, to contribute to improved EM practice, as well as to share knowledge among researchers and practitioners.

PoEM is supported by the IFIP WG8.1 and is a very interesting and dynamic event where new research challenges emerge from success and failure stories related to EM practices, and practitioners take the opportunity to learn about new EM methods and tools.

This year PoEM received 54 paper submissions covering a wide variety of EM topics. Each paper was evaluated by at least three members of our expert Program Committee members, providing constructive feedback. We were able to accept 18 full papers and nine short papers, all published in this volume. The acceptance rate for full papers was thus below 35%.

The conference audience enjoyed an excellent keynote by Prof. Robert Winter, from the Institute of Information Management, University of St. Gallen, Switzerland. Prof. Winter's talk was entitled "Establishing 'Architectural Thinking' in Organizations".

This year, the PoEM conference included two associated events, occurring on the first day. A Doctoral Consortium was organized to highlight upcoming EM doctoral research, providing students with valuable feedback. For the first time, PoEM hosted the OMI (Open Models Initiative) Symposium, a gathering to discuss and promote the result of the Erasmus+ project OMI that focusses on developing a shared repository of tools and meta-models for EM.

We hope that this PoEM conference contributed to further strengthening and integrating the field of EM. PoEM is a working conference. Hence, the focus lies on practical concepts, tools, and methods, as well as on the evaluation of the usefulness of

EM. However, we appreciate the community trend of identifying cross-links to related domains, such as requirements modeling.

To conclude, we would like to express our gratitude to a number of people who spent their time and energy in organizing and successfully running PoEM 2016. We would like to thank the Program Committee members and additional reviewers for their help in selecting the papers for the scientific program of the conference, the authors of the papers for their confidence in PoEM, and the presenters and session chairs for lively presentations and discussions. We are grateful to the PoEM Steering Committee chairs for their continuous assistance and the chairs of the doctoral consortium for creating an exciting event. Finally, we extend our gratitude to the local organizing team at the University of Skövde for their hospitality and for organizing this conference. We would also like to thank our colleagues in the local IT department and administration of the University of Skövde for their strong support and enthusiasm.

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