

Welcome from the Workshop Chairs

Welcome to the first International Workshop on Empirical Requirements Engineering (EmpiRE 2011). EmpiRE is co-located with Requirements Engineering (RE) 2011.

Requirements Engineering (RE) is by now a well-established discipline where several approaches, techniques and tools have been proposed. Systematic attempts to evaluate and compare usefulness, effectiveness and usability of such proposals have resulted in a growing attention to methods for empirical assessment.

Empirical Software Engineering (ESE) aims at applying the empirical method to the software engineering field. In other terms, it aims at studying and proposing qualitative and quantitative methods to use experimentations as a means for evaluating software engineering approaches, techniques and tools. Surveys, case studies and experiments, hence, become valuable ways to check ideas and proposals with respect to the reality, thus allowing to understand their actual values in particular contexts.

On one side, the Workshop on Empirical Requirements Engineering (EmpiRE), encourages the exchange of ideas to understand why and how the empirical methods from ESE can assess and improve existing or new approaches in RE and in particular:

- which aspects and properties can be evaluated;
- what factors, criteria, and metrics are appropriate;
- which experiments can be conducted;
- how experiments can be replicated;
- which is the role of the user.

On the other side, by stimulating the discussion about the join between ESE and RE and promoting the creation of a new network of researchers for designing and conducting empirical studies in RE, the workshop intends to push the cross-fertilization between RE and ESE: new evaluation techniques from ESE to RE, and new domains and problems from RE to ESE for exercising new evaluation methods or building new ones.

The main benefits the EmpiRE participants can get are:

- Feedbacks about the possible impact of experimental methods in RE;
- The capability to identify critical factors and properties of empirical investigations;
- Knowledge about the best practices for conducting and publishing empirical studies;
- The possibility to be involved in a new research network in empirical studies in RE.

In this first edition of the workshop, we received 30 abstract submissions then finalized in 21 submitted papers. Each of these submissions has been reviewed by at least three members of the program committee of the workshop, composed of 28 international scientists. Of all submissions, only 9 have been accepted as full papers, 1 as short paper and 1 as young position paper. The full paper “Proximity-Based Traceability: An Empirical Validation using Ranked Retrieval and Set-based Measures” by Wei-Keat Kong and Jane Hayes has been selected as best paper of the event while a selection of the best papers will be invited for submitting an extended and revised version in a special issue on Empirical Requirements Engineering on the international Journal of Software and Systems – Elsevier. We would express our gratitude to the members of the program committee of EmpiRE 2011 and to all the external reviewers involved in the paper evaluation and selection activity. Thanks for the effort spent and the great work done in the selection of the contributions to be accepted for publication at workshop.

During the workshop a discussion panel with three experts will discuss about their ideas and vision about the current state and the future trends in the field of empirical requirements engineering. We would thank to prof. Neil Maiden (City London University - UK), prof. Massimiliano Di Penta (University of Sannio – Italy), and prof. Fabio Massacci (University of Trento - Italy). We would like to extend our gratitude to Siemens that sponsorship the event.

We would finally thank also the organizing committee and all the staff of the Requirements Engineering (RE) 2011 conference and, in particular, to Anna Perini and Angelo Susi (FBK – Italy) for their important support.

We hope you enjoy the workshop and the reading of the workshop proceedings.

The EmpiRE 2011 organizing team:

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