Preface

It is our great pleasure to welcome you to the proceedings of the 23rd International Working Conference on Requirements Engineering – Foundation for Software Quality! The REFSQ working conference series is a leading international forum for discussing Requirements Engineering (RE) and its many relations to quality. The first REFSQ conference took place in 1994. The conference was organized as a stand-alone meeting since 2010 and is now well established as Europe's premier conference series on RE. This conference publication contains the proceedings of REFSQ 2017, held in Essen, Germany, from February 27 to March 2, 2017.

Requirements Engineering is a crucial factor for developing high-quality software, systems, and services. RE methods, tools, and processes are nowadays expected to support engineering diverse types of systems of different scale and complexity – such as information systems, safety-critical systems, socio-technical systems, service-based applications, apps for mobile devices, or cyberphysical systems – and are applied in diverse domains. The special theme of REFSQ17 was "My RE" to emphasize an important issue: How can RE evolve to deal with this diversity, still keeping its ultimate objective: understanding what is the right software system and helping developing it in the right way.

The exciting program consisted of high-quality contributions selected after a thorough reviewing process. This year we invited four categories of submissions for the main track of the REFSQ conference: (1) technical design papers that describe and explain novel solutions for requirements-related problems or significant improvements of existing solutions; (2) scientific evaluation papers that investigate existing real-world problems, evaluate existing real-world implemented artifacts, or validate newly designed artifacts, e.g., by means such as case studies, experiments, simulation, surveys, systematic literature reviews, mapping studies, or action research; (3) vision papers that state where the research in the field should be heading towards; and (4) research previews that describe well-defined research ideas at an early stage of investigation.

This year, 82 abstracts were submitted to the research track, resulting in 74 submissions. The program chairs desk-rejected two papers violating the formatting instructions or the guidelines stated in the call. The remaining 72 submissions were reviewed by the members of the Program Committee (PC), with each paper receiving at least three reviews. We also had a very active online discussion phase, with many long and detailed discussions among the members of the PC. During a physical PC meeting held at the paluno Ruhr Institute for Software Technology in Essen on December 2, 2016, the members of the Program Committee selected the 24 papers to be presented at REFSQ 2017. Specifically, the research track comprised seven technical design papers, nine scientific evaluation papers, one vision paper, and seven research previews (some of these were recategorized long papers).

The REFSQ 2017 conference was organized as a three-day symposium: Two conference days were devoted to presentations and discussions of research papers. A one-day industry track reported on real-world experiences and applications of RE. In addition, the REFSQ conference program also included a research methodology track as well as posters and tools. Furthermore, several workshops and a doctoral symposium were co-located with the conference. All papers from the Research Track and the Research Methodology Track can be found in the present proceedings. The papers included in the satellite events can be found in the REFSQ 2017 workshop proceedings published with CEUR.

The REFSQ conference program was enriched by two keynote talks: Lionel C. Briand from the University of Luxembourg on "Analyzing Natural-Language Requirements: The Not-Too-Sexy and Yet Curiously Difficult Research that Industry Needs" and Inga Wiele from gezeitenraum on "Design Thinking in a Nutshell-90 Minutes from Idea to Prototype and Back."

REFSQ 2017 would not have been possible without the engagement and support of many individuals who contributed in many different ways. As program co-chairs, we would like to thank the REFSQ Steering Committee members for their help and guidance. We are grateful to all the members of the Program Committee for their timely and thorough reviews of the submissions and for dedicating their time to the online discussion and the face-to-face meeting. In particular, we thank those PC members who volunteered to serve as a shepherd or gatekeeper to authors of conditionally accepted papers. We are grateful to all members of the Organizing Committee, who organized the different tracks and co-located events. Finally, we would like to thank Christina Bellinghoven, Eric Schmieders, and Klaus Pohl for their excellent work in coordinating the background organization, as well as Fitsum Meshesha Kifetew (Fondazione Bruno Kessler) and Anna Kramer (Springer) for their support in preparing this volume.

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