

# Welcome from the Workshop Chairs

Welcome to the seventh International Workshop on Empirical Requirements Engineering (EmpiRE 2018) at RE'18!

Recently, some important developments in the Information Technology Services marketplace as well as in the software industry has fueled the debate on the evaluation of Requirements Engineering (RE) approaches, techniques and tools and the comparison of their usefulness, effectiveness and utility in specific practical contexts. Examples of such market trends include, among others: increased interest in collaborative and just-in-time applications of RE techniques; data analytics for mining requirements repositories; etc. Also, existing RE technology is more and more being applied in the context of new areas, such as Internet of Things, software ecosystems, green and cloud computing, to name a few. This, increased interest in empirical evaluation is precipitating a growing number of industry-university collaborations in the RE community which, in turn, is instrumental in generating empirical data through case studies, action research studies, experiments, and surveys. As empirical studies are recognized as invaluable for assessing the actual benefits and costs of applying RE methods and tools, the conversation on adopting these and on evaluating existing practices intensifies even further.

The overall objective of the EmpiRE workshop series at the annual RE conference is to increase the cross-fertilization of Empirical Software Engineering (ESE) methods and RE by actively encouraging the exchange of knowledge and ideas between the communities of ESE and RE. Since its launch at RE'11 in Trento, the EmpiRE workshop has been serving as the platform for promoting the use of new evaluation techniques from ESE in the area of RE as well as the discussion on new domains and problems in RE where involving ESE will make a significant difference. Some outcomes of the past editions of EmpiRE include: the identification of open research problems and possible solutions to these problems, including: (i) the aspects of RE approaches that can be evaluated; (ii) the factors, criteria, and metrics that are appropriate for empirical evaluation purposes; (iii) the replication of empirical RE studies; and (iv) the role of the users' perspectives in empirical RE.

In the 2018 edition, we aim to shape the next phase of cross-fertilization of RE and ESE, specifically: (i) to open up the interdisciplinary debate on the steadily moving frontiers in empirical RE, and (ii) to extend the network of RE and ESE researchers designing and conducting empirical studies in RE which, in turn, is expected to lead to cross-fertilization between RE and ESE. The targeted outcomes of this workshop include the identification of open research problems and the possible solutions to these problems, regarding:

- Application of RE methods, processes and tools in new domains, e.g. Internet of Things and Big Data;
- Simplicity and complementarity in using research methods, and leveraging theories from other disciplines in the field of RE;
- Emerging research methods;
- New and unexpected forms of collaboration with industrial partners in empirical research projects; and
- Replication of empirical studies in diverse contexts.

A new feature of the EmpiRE workshop this year is conducting live studies (i.e., during the conduct of the workshop). The EmpiRE 2018 concept of live studies rests on the well-elaborated

live study model of the REFSQ conference series ([www.refsq.org](http://www.refsq.org)). In a nutshell, a live study is a special, plenary session involving the workshop attendees on a voluntary basis in the execution of an empirical study. This could be a (controlled) experiment, a focus group on a topic relevant to RE, or a well-scoped aspect of an empirical study (e.g., validation). This year, the live study focuses on the validation of a RE domain-model depicting development insight for internal stakeholders. This study is planned for up to 90-mins, engaging all the workshop attendees.

EmpiRE 2018 received 10 submissions: 8 scientific papers and 2 live studies. Each of these submissions was reviewed by at least two members of the workshop's program committee, composed of 26 scientists and practitioners. Of the submissions, four have been accepted as technical papers and one as a live study.

The resulting EmpiRE 2018 program features topics in the following RE sub-areas: creativity in RE, prototyping of requirements, crowd-based requirements, RE tools, and domain models. Critical components of our program are a keynote on RE in industry-university collaboration settings and an expert panel on the topic *"Transferability of empirical research results to practice"*.

We would like to thank the Program Committee members for their dedication to rigorous and timely peer review, which allowed us to highlight the very best research from the empirical RE community. We also thank all the authors who considered EmpiRE 2018 as the destination of their empirical RE papers. Finally, we would like to express our appreciation for the timely response and assistance that we received from the organizing committee and the staff of the RE'18 conference and, in particular, to the RE'18 General Chair Guenther Ruhe, the RE'18 Workshop Chairs Norbert Seyff and Birgit Penzenstadler, and the RE'18 Proceedings Chairs Sepideh Ghanavati and Federica Sarro.

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

The EmpiRE 2018 organizing team:

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