Preface
EAST 2017

The 4th International Workshop on Evidential Assessment of Software Technologies (EAST 2017) is being held in Nanjing, Jiangsu, China on 4 December 2017. Welcome to the proceedings!

Existing focus in Evidence-Based Software Engineering (EBSE) is largely around evidential assessments (particularly in the forms of systematic reviews, mapping studies, and meta-analyses), which have regularly been reported on a wide variety of topics in major SE journals and conferences. Though the rigor of evidence-based practice for research has been recognized by SE community, there are still many remaining issues. The EAST 2017 aims to provide a platform for discussing the state-of-the-practice of evidence-based practice over the past decade or so, identifying and debating on the emerging challenges and issues in current empirical and evidence-based research, and particularly suggest improvements for theories and practices in characterizing and enhancing evidence reliability in SE.

EAST 2017 features six technical presentations and one working panel exploring issues and research directions to characterizing and enhancing evidence reliability. Major contributions include evidential assessments and innovative approaches on the effectiveness and relevance of software technologies. In particular, the topics cover a broad range of spectrum from agile scaling, regression testing, bug resolution, effort distribution, etc., each in an innovative manner consistent with the workshop theme. Moreover, the workshop also consists of a panel and work group discussion that converges on a research agenda with an emphasis on evidence reliability will be devised for continuous methodology adaptation and improvement, and progressive alignment between evidence aggregation and practical needs.

We would like to thank everyone who made the workshop possible, including the authors for sharing their ideas and results with us, the Program Committee members for their help in evaluating and selecting the papers, and the EAST 2017 Workshop Chairs. Up-to-date information on the workshop can be found at: http://softeng.nju.edu.cn/east2017/.

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