BENVENUTI A FIRENZE!

Welcome to Florence, one of the most beautiful cities in Italy and the cradle of Italian Renaissance, and welcome to the 23rd IEEE International Conference on Program Comprehension (ICPC 2015)!

ICPC is the main yearly running venue for researchers and practitioners from academia, industry, and government to present and discuss state-of-the-art research results and best practices in the field of program comprehension. This year, ICPC is co-located with the 37th IEEE/ACM International Conference on Software Engineering (ICSE 2015) and is held in the Congress Centre of the amazing Florence, coming back to Italy after 11 years for the fourth time and the first time after evolving from a workshop to a conference. We would like to thank the ICPC Steering Committee and the ICSE 2015 organizers, in particular the General Chair Antonella Bertolino, for giving us this opportunity.

We are proud to announce that this year, ICPC received a record number of 73 submissions to the research track making the task of selecting papers very challenging. All submissions went through a rigorous review process: each paper was reviewed in detail by at least three Program Committee members from industry and academia. All decisions were open for discussion by the entire Program Committee before being finalized. In the end, we selected 23 full papers, originating from 22 countries, giving an acceptance rate of 31.5%.

Since 2013, ICPC also includes an Early Research Achievement (ERA) track. ERA papers help highlight important novel results in emerging research topics in our continually growing and evolving community. A separate committee reviewed ERA track papers following the same rigorous standards as the research track, albeit within its objective. Among the 22 submissions, seven ERA papers were selected for inclusion in the final program. ERA papers are particularly important for our community and this is why we want to give these papers high visibility, by including ERA presentations in homogeneous program sessions together with technical research paper presentations. This year's program includes sessions on exciting topics such as reading and visualization, large-scale empirical studies in program comprehension, feature location, mining software repositories and learning and sharing program knowledge.

ICPC does not disregard how the techniques pioneered in academia are used in practice. The conference program of ICPC 2015 includes an industry track were industrial experiences, success stories, and challenges in applying program comprehension techniques in industry will be presented. The industry track will feature three papers (out of five submitted) that will be presented in a plenary session facilitating the discussion and the interaction between researchers and practitioners.

Furthermore, there will be four tool demonstrations (out of five submitted) featuring state-of-the-art tools in the field. These tools represent important contributions to program comprehension practice and we are looking forward to their demonstrations.

An outstanding keynote will complete the technical program. This year, we are very fortunate and delighted to have as keynote speaker one of the top software engineering researchers around the world: Andreas Zeller, Professor of Software Engineering at Saarland University in Saarbrücken, Germany. Prof. Andreas Zeller will give a very exciting talk titled “Test Complement Exclusion: Guarantees from Dynamic Analysis”, where he will present a method that combines test generation and sandboxing to improve the completeness of dynamic analysis. We would like to sincerely thank Prof. Andreas Zeller for accepting our invitation.

Keeping up with the recently established tradition, ICPC 2015 will feature also the Most Influential Paper (MIP) from the 13th International Workshop on Program Comprehension (IWPC 2005), held in St. Louis, MO, USA, May 15-16 2005. This year's MIP is the paper entitled “Concise and Consistent..."
Naming”, by Florian Deissenböck and Markus Pizka. The Program Committee members selected this paper from all those published at IWPC 2005 through an anonymous ballot. We are looking forward to hear ten years later the authors’ reflections on the state-of-the-art and the open challenges on the topic of identifier naming and its impact on code comprehensibility.

ICPC is not only technical program. We are very delighted to provide our attendees with a very special social event at Castello Vicchiomaggio, located about 25 Km far from Florence, in the relaxing quiet of the beautiful Chianti countryside. ICPC 2015 attendees will have the opportunity to visit the historical wine cellars, to taste different types of very good wines together with typical appetizers of Tuscany region, and have a dinner in the castle hall “Lorenzo il Magnifico”, in a very suggestive atmosphere. ICPC 2015 awards will also be announced during the social event.

ICPC 2015 is a joint effort of a number of individuals that worked in synergy as an effective team. We express our strongest gratitude to the organizing and program committee members. Their voluntary work and commitment have brought the objectives of ICPC 2015 to full fruition. Names are many and their contributions plenty; however, we would be amiss not to recognize Gabriele Bavota and Michael Collard (ERA Co-Chairs), Bram Adams and Sonia Haiduc (Tool Co-Chairs), Cristina Marinescu, Suresh Thummalapenta, and Patrick Wagstrom (Industry Co-Chairs), Carmine Gravino (Finance Chair), Giuseppe Scanniello (Proceedings Chair), Giuseppe Lami (Local Arrangement Chair), Chris Parnin and Aiko Yamashita (Publicity Chairs), and Fabio Palomba (Webmaster) for a well done job in their respective roles. We particularly like to thank all the authors for submitting a set of very high quality papers to ICPC 2015 and the members of the program committees of the different tracks as well as the many additional reviewers for their substantial effort and great work during the review process. They provided detailed and constructive timely reviews and actively participated in the discussion. Last, but not the least, special thanks go to Microsoft Research and the Department of Management and Information Technology of the University of Salerno for their financial support, to the ICSE conference secretariat managed by DGMP, and to the student volunteers for helping us to organize a memorable edition of ICPC 2015. We would also like to acknowledge the sponsorship of ICPC 2015 through the IEEE Computer Society Technical Council on Software Engineering, which provides great benefits for conference organizers.

We hope that you will have a productive and pleasant experience at ICPC 2015!

Andrea De Lucia
University of Salerno, Italy
General Chair

Christian Bird
Microsoft Research, USA
Program Co-Chair

Rocco Oliveto
University of Molise, Italy
Program Co-Chair