Benvenuti! Welcome!

We are happy and proud to greet you all in beautiful Florence/Firenze, hosting the 37th International Conference on Software Engineering. ICSE returns to Italy after more than 20 years, in the attractive region of Tuscany and to the worldwide-celebrated symbol of Italian renaissance, art, craft, and fashion.

In this extraordinary venue, it is easy to forecast that ICSE 2015 will be an unforgettable experience for our delegates. An outstanding social program, including the opportunity of an exclusive nighttime visit to the Uffizi Gallery, certainly promises so. Notwithstanding, as devoted professionals, we took on us the difficult challenge to imprint in your memories first and foremost the high-quality and attractive scientific program, and then the fantastic sightseeing and food. We leave on you to judge if we have succeeded, inviting you to enjoy the many tracks and events the program offers.

The ICSE 2015 program spans from Saturday May 16th to Sunday May 24th, following the traditional structure of the core main conference from Wednesday to Friday, complemented by four days of pre-conference and two days of post-conference meetings. The heart of the multi-track main conference is the prestigious Technical Research Paper track, which is accompanied by several other tracks offering altogether stimulating sessions for all tastes.

We are delighted to offer two plenary keynotes addressing two challenging issues facing modern software engineers. Claudio Silenzi, head of hardware and software development in “Scuderia Ferrari”, illustrates how his team provides the needed high performance and reliability within the very strict development and validation cycles of car racing in Formula One. Susan Landau, Professor of Cybersecurity at Worcester Polytechnic Institute, focuses on the growing concerns around preserving our privacy, and will specifically talk about how much information apparently safe metadata can disclose.

The program also features two plenary awards talks. One is by the recipients of the Most Influential Paper from ICSE 2005 that is “Is Mutation an Appropriate Tool for Testing Experiments?”, by James H. Andrews, Lionel C. Briand and Yvan Labiche. The other talk is by the recipient of the 2015 IEEE CS Harlan D. Mills Award, Gerard J. Holzmann, head of the Laboratory for Reliable Software at NASA's Jet Propulsion Laboratory in recognition of his “fundamental contributions to improving software quality, in particular through model-checking tools and coding standards, and for successfully transferring these contributions to practitioners developing mission-critical software.”

The Technical Research Paper track always attracts many top-quality submissions and this year was no exception with 452 submissions from more than 1200 authors and 37 countries. With the goal of improving the overall reviewing quality and broadening participation, we revisited the reviewing process (described at http://2015.icse-conferences.org/technical-research-faq) using a program committee (PC) and a reviewing committee (RC). In the first phase of reviewing, two members, one from the PC and one from either the PC or the RC, reviewed each submission. Based on these reviews, 241 submissions were promoted to the second reviewing phase, during which each submission received a third review performed by a PC member. PC and RC members then discussed the submissions online, lead by assigned PC members that also prepared summaries capturing the reviewers' perspectives. After the online discussion, a fourth PC reviewer was assigned to submissions that required further expertise. In total, the committees wrote reviews and discussions that equaled in length more than 100 submissions. The final phase of the process was the program committee meeting in Pisa, Italy, Dec 12th-13th 2014, to discuss in depth the submissions remaining in contention. Based on the reviews, summaries, and discussion among the committee, 84 papers (18.5 %) were selected for publication and presentation at the conference. A report assessing the reviewing process from the perspectives of authors and committees can be found at: http://2015.icse-conferences.org/technical-research-reviewing-assessment.
Although the whole ICSE program targets both academy and industry, the Software Engineering in Practice (SEIP) track has long established itself as the privileged channel by software engineering practitioners for exchanging concrete results and useful innovations. This year for the first time the call, in addition to refereed papers, invited also talks, with the aim of encouraging busy practitioners to attend and share their experiences. As usual, the competition was high: out of 102 papers and six talk proposals submitted, the SEIP committee selected 23 papers and two talks. Moreover, an outstanding and well-known “software engineering practitioner”, Grady Booch of IBM Research, gives the SEIP keynote in which he surveys the history of software engineering and offers his vision on the grand challenges for the future.

The ICSE 2015 program features a new track titled Software Engineering in Society (SEIS). We felt that it was time the flagship conference in software engineering more explicitly recognizes and tackles the role and impact of software engineering in a sustainable society. The first SEIS received 39 submissions (24 long and 15 short), among which five long papers and six short papers have been selected for presentation.

The New Ideas and Emerging Results (NIER) track is the place for introducing radically new research directions and for exposure of thought-provoking proposals. As such, it usually attracts a high number of submissions from the imaginative ICSE community. NIER 2015 invited three kinds of papers: Reflections (on the past), Initiatives (recently funded large projects), and Visions (of the future). Of the 135 submissions received, the NIER committee selected 25 first-class outstanding contributions (which matches the 18.5% rate of the TR papers).

The traditional Software Engineering Education and Training Track (SEET) joined forces with the Conference on Software Engineering Education and Training (CSEE&T). The new Joint Program JSEET set on the theme: "Software Engineering Education and Training: System Thinking and System Scale", attracted 71 paper submissions (54 full and 17 short), plus one panel proposal. 20 full papers and seven short papers have been selected for presentation. The panel session will discuss collaboration between Industry and University in Software Engineering Education.

The New Faculty Symposium (NFS) offers a venue to those who have recently started their research careers or expect to hold a position soon. Attendees receive advice and guidance from leading software engineering faculty and researchers. The program includes talks on key concerns such as career management, research funding, students’ recruitment, and leaves ample time for informal and small group interactions.

Technical Briefings (TBs) provide an alternative model to tutorials. A TB consists of a 90 minutes lecture introducing the state-of-the-art in an emerging topic. Of the 25 proposals received, 10 excellent TBs have been selected: attendees can freely choose to attend up to four full technical briefings or even hop between all ten.

The program also includes several students’ tracks. First, ICSE 2015 hosts an ACM Student Research Competition (SRC), sponsored by Microsoft Research. While competing for prizes, students can present their results to ICSE attendees, and make their first steps in the research world. The competition collected a healthy number of 32 submissions (from 23 graduate and 9 undergraduate), out of which the 14 accepted (11 graduate and three undergraduate) will be all presented in a poster session, and a selected subset in a dedicated conference session. SRC winners will advance to the SRC Grand Finals. Second, inspired by the international Student Contest on Software Engineering (SCORE) from past ICSEs, we launched the SCORE-it competition, open to Italian Universities, to provide an early exposure to the research world to young students. At the time of writing this message, the competition is still open: the finalists will be invited to attend ICSE and present their projects. Third, through the Doctoral Symposium (DS), PhD students in Software Engineering will have the opportunity to present their work to a committee of senior researchers and receive feedback. This year, the DS call has been extremely well received, which resulted in 62 students submitting a research proposal. Of these, 25 students have been selected to attend the symposium: 6 of them will give a 30-minute talk, whereas the other 19 will present a poster about their research.

Hands-on experience with tools and data sets is offered by the Demonstrations track, a highly interactive venue where researchers and practitioners can demonstrate their results and discuss them with attendees. The track received 42 submissions, and accepted 26 of them.

An informal setting to discuss recent advances and ongoing work is provided by the Posters track. It received 47 poster submissions, and accepted 21 for presentation. The Posters will be exhibited all along the main conference in the large area of “Passi Perduti” around the Conference Hall, conveniently close to the lunch and break area. We invite the delegates to talk to the authors while drinking a coffee or hanging around after lunch waiting for the sessions to start, or even to pay a visit after the sessions close.
We are proudly hosting the first journal-first paper session in software engineering co-organized with ACM TOSEM and IEEE TSE. This initiative aims at enabling authors of articles that were first submitted to a journal to reach a broader conference audience, and at the same time it enriches the conference program with work that may not fit the standard conference format and process. ICSE 2015 features three articles that have been selected jointly by the Program Chairs and the Editors in Chief among recent articles.

**ICSE Workshops** provide a lively and plentiful set of interactive meetings for small groups of researchers active on current and focused topics. Often ICSE Workshops serve as incubators for emerging research areas and new scientific communities that form and share a future research agenda. This year we have selected **30 attractive workshops** out of the 42 proposals received. The participants can choose among repetitions of workshops already held in previous years, or brand-new proposals, scheduled both before and after the main conference.


Putting together this extraordinarily rich and articulated program required an incredible complex machinery, whose successful arrival to destination (Florence May 16th-24th) was only made possible with the dedication and inspiration of all involved people: the authors, the chairs of the tracks, the members of the many committees, the student volunteers, and the meticulous and tireless work of those assisting with the administration of proceedings, web, social media, publicity, budget, registrations, and many other related activities that go along with such a big event. It has been an honor and a privilege to coordinate such huge effort, and we would like to express to all of them our great gratitude.

It has also been a lot of fun: **ICSE can also engage creativity and play spirit**. We launched the first ever ICSE Video Contest on “The top three reasons I wouldn't miss ICSE 2015”, and cast a public vote to select the official promotional ICSE video. The winner video (co-authored by Pasquale Salza and Filomena Ferrucci) is in our home page. We also performed on stage at the closing session of ICSE 2014: our flash mob dance on the notes of the song “Nel blu dipinto di blu” (better known as “Volare”) is a must-see (http://2015.icse-conferences.org/resources/videos/other-videos)! The photo above was taken just after that event.

We are grateful to the ICSE co-sponsors IEEE and ACM, and to our supporters (and in particular our Platinum supporter Microsoft Research, and Gold supporter Google) that make ICSE 2015 more affordable, thus allowing for a wider participation.
Finally, we would like to thank all ICSE speakers and attendees, i.e., YOU: we have all made our best effort to make your trip to Florence worthwhile, and offer you an unforgettable and fruitful event. Enjoy, interact, socialise, and in your spare time be aware of the “Florence syndrome” (more commonly known as Stendhal's syndrome).

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xxvii