Welcome to Italy and to Florence with ICSM 2001, the IEEE International Conference on Software Maintenance. ICSM is the major international conference in the field of software and systems maintenance, evolution, and management.

This year the conference has attracted several other activities. During the tutorial day we have a parallel national event organized by TABOO (Italian association of Object Oriented Technology). At the end of the conference you may integrate your work/research with several specific workshops in this order: IEEE WESS (Workshop on Empirical Studies of Software Maintenance), SCAM (Workshop on Source Code Analysis and Manipulation), and WSE (Workshop on Web Site Evolution). Thanks to Chairs of these events to have chosen to colocate their activities with ICSM to make a stronger and attractive software engineering week in Florence.

For these reasons, I would like to think about this week of November (from 6 to 10) in Florence as a unique event including all the above mentioned activities. This even is a perfect occasion for industry, academic, practitioners, system professionals, technology transition experts, project managers, and software engineers for discussing about current and future problems and for sharing their experiences.

In this view, I have strongly appreciated the acceptance to be involved in ICSM of our keynoters speakers: Prof. David Lorge Parnas, Prof. Dieter Rombach, and Dr. Ivar Jacobson and also of Kent Beck that provides his talk during the tutorial day in the TABOO event.

The conference is the result of a considerable amount of work performed by a lot of people that not only have worked with a common objective but that have accepted to work together, sharing ideas and converging at new solutions. Firstly, I would like to thank to Prof. A. Cimitile for his early suggestion of Florence candidature for ICSM. A warm than to Prof. V. Rajlich for his support with IEEE. Thanks to the European Commission that has partially funded the conference. We are also in debt with the University of Florence, IBM Italia, O.Group, and Telelogic for their support, and with the several institutions that has patronized and promoted the conference.

I would like to thank the Technical Committee Members that accepted to insert several novelties in the management and structure of the conference and in the general organization: the two-steps review process to listen the opinion of the proponent about the reviews and to increase the confidence of the review process; the dissertation forum to strongly stimulate and facilitate young researchers to work in this area; the advertising mechanisms to attract more people; the industrial tracks to attract industries to integrate their work with that of the academia; the tutorial day to attract more people; the demonstration section to share real experiences; etc. For the new tracks we received a very huge number of submissions demonstrating the provoked interest and consensus. Thanks, since in several cases, technical committee members have strongly contributed to make early ideas effective and concrete to be applied.

Finally a very warm thanks to all people in my research group that supported me in any occasion and worked very hard for the success of the conference, especially Marius Bogdan Spinu for the cover and for the web pages. Thanks also to the authors who have submitted very interesting works, and I am sorry that we could not accept more. Finally, many thanks to participants of the conference who really make it exciting.

Paolo Nesi (General Chair)
Dipartimento di Sistemi e Informatica
Università degli Studi di Firenze, Firenze, Italy