Message from the General Chair and the Program Co-Chairs

¡Bienvenido a Madrid!

On behalf of the entire conference committee, it is our great pleasure to welcome you to Madrid for ICSME 2018, the 34th IEEE International Conference on Software Maintenance and Evolution. ICSME is the premier international forum for researchers and practitioners from academia, industry, and government to present, discuss, and debate the most recent ideas, experiences, and challenges in software maintenance and evolution.

ICSME 2018 has a rich and diverse program on the latest innovations and visions in software maintenance and evolution. The Research track received 176 submissions, of which 6 were desk-rejected. The remaining papers each received at least three reviews. We adopted a double-blind reviewing process to the Research Track based on the success of double-blind reviewing adopted last year. Following an extensive online discussion, 45 papers were accepted (8 of them being conditionally accepted in a first stage), yielding an acceptance rate of 25.6%. No specific acceptance rate was communicated as a guideline to the reviewers. The reviewers were free to accept any paper deemed strong and novel enough, and were encouraged to look for reasons to accept papers rather than to just point out flaws. The accepted papers will be published in the official conference proceedings, which will also be available in the IEEE Digital Library. Up to top 10% of accepted papers would be awarded the IEEE TCSE Distinguished Paper Awards. The award papers will be announced at the conference.

ICSME has a long tradition of partnering with influential software engineering journals. Following the success of last year's Journal First / Conference Second (J1C2) track, ICSME 2018 also has this track and we select presentations based on submissions from authors. The goal was to accommodate as many journal first presentations as possible. The participating journals and magazines were the Journal of Software: Evolution and Process (JSEP), Empirical Software Engineering (EMSE), Journal of Systems and Software (JSS), and IEEE Software. The J1C2 program received 8 submissions, and all were selected for inclusion in the conference program. As in previous years, authors of selected papers from the research track will be invited to submit extended versions of their work to a special issue of the Springer international journal of Empirical Software Engineering (EMSE).

Similar like last year, the ICSME 2018 program is organized into blended sessions to improve the cohesiveness of sessions by combining research, journal-first, new idea and emerging results, industry, and demo presentations.

The conference will feature two keynotes, by a researcher and a practitioner with outstanding contributions to the field of software maintenance and evolution: Margaret Burnett, from Oregon State University, will talk about “Software Maintenance: Gender Bias "Bugs" and What to Do about Them” and Markus Pizka, from itestra GmbH, will talk about “On the Diversity of Legacy Challenges... and Possible Solutions”. The conference will also feature a retrospection on the Most Influential Paper (MIP) of ICSM 2008 which was held in Beijing, China: “Duplicate bug
reports considered harmful... really?” by Nicolas Bettenburg, Rahul Premraj, Thomas Zimmermann and Sunghun Kim.

Many people contributed to making ICSME 2018 possible. We apologize in advance if we do not mention everyone by name. A special thanks to all the members of the organizing committee for their fantastic work in putting together the conference. Another special thanks to the program committee members of the various ICSME 2018 tracks. They have worked hard on reviewing many great contributions and selecting the best for presentations during ICSME. And a very special thanks to the Steering Committee (SC) and, in particular, to Alexander Serebrenik (the current chair of the SC) for their active support and guidance.

Co-located events provide opportunities for exchanging views, advancing ideas, and discussing preliminary results in various areas of software maintenance and evolution. We are proud to host the following co-located events: SCAM 2018, VISSOFT 2018, and DySDoc 2018. We thank the organizers of all co-located events for their help in making ICSME 2018 successful.

Finally, we would like to acknowledge the IEEE Computer Society for the sponsorship of ICSME 2018 through its IEEE Technical Council on Software Engineering (TCSE). We deeply thank our patrons and supporters for their generous support: Universidad Rey Juan Carlos, itestra GmbH, source{d}, CQSE, and Bitergia. We hope that you will enjoy the program, and have plenty of opportunities for networking, and thought-provoking and inspiring discussions.

Gregorio Robles
ICSME 2018 General Chair

Foutse Khomh and David Lo
ICSME 2018 Program Co-Chairs