Message from the Chairs

Benvenuti a Campobasso!

Welcome to Campobasso, the regional capital of Molise, in central/southern Italy, and welcome to SANER 2018, the 25th edition of the IEEE International Conference on Software Analysis, Evolution, and Reengineering.

SANER is the premier conference on the theory and practice of recovering information from existing software systems. It features the newest advances to the state of the art in software analysis, evolution, and reengineering. It also explores innovative methods for extracting the many kinds of information of interest to software developers and it examines innovative ways of using this information in system renovation and program understanding. Since 2015, SANER combines the Working Conference on Reverse Engineering (WCRE) series, i.e., the premier conference series on the theory and practice of recovering information from existing software and systems, and the European Conference on Software Maintenance and Reengineering (CSMR) series, i.e., the premier European conference series on the theory and practice of maintenance, reengineering, and evolution of software systems.

SANER 2018 is held at the University of Molise in Campobasso, Italy. The University of Molise counts four University campuses arranged across our beautiful region, over 10,000 students, more than 100 PhD students and about 600 personnel, split among teaching and non-teaching staff. The University campus in nearby the center of Campobasso. Campobasso is deep into history; it was originally a settlement of the Samnites, an ancient Italic people. In the 3rd century b.C. the Samnitic wars resulted in their inclusion in the Roman republic: witness of such a period, there are Samnite walls in the uptown and Roman remains in the nearby Altilia archaeological site.

SANER 2018 takes place from Tuesday, March 20th to Friday, March 23rd, 2018. It starts on Tuesday with the co-located International Workshop on Software Clones (IWSC), the Workshop on Blockchain Oriented Software Engineering (IWBOSE), the Workshop on Machine Learning Techniques for Software Quality Evaluation (MaLTeSQuE), the Workshop on Mining and Analyzing Interaction Histories (MAINT), and the Workshop on Validation, Analysis and Evolution of Software Tests (VST). The main conference starts on Wednesday and it features keynotes from Elmar Jurgens, Jan Bosch, and Peter Gromov, seventeen technical research paper sessions, one early research achievements (ERA) session, two sessions (new this year) for the track about Reproducibility Studies and Negative Results (RENE), two industry sessions, and three tool demonstration sessions, including a hands-on session.

This year, SANER received 151 full paper submissions, of which 5 were desk rejected and 146 were considered for review. Each paper was reviewed by at least three program committee members and extensively discussed online. We made decision on papers’ acceptance/rejection based only on the assessed papers’ quality, without considering any quota in terms of number of papers or topics to accept. Following this process, we selected 39 papers for presentation at the conference (27% acceptance rate). This year the program chairs will select a set of outstanding papers to be invited to submit extended versions of their work to a special issue of the Journal of Empirical Software Engineering. Also, for the first time in the SANER history, the technical committee of SANER will give two Distinguished Paper Awards sponsored by the IEEE TCSE.

Concerning the other tracks, we received: 18 ERA submissions, 5 of which have been accepted (27%); 11 RENE papers, of which 5 have been accepted (45%); 12 industry papers of which 5 have been accepted (42%); and 12 tool demos of which 7 have been accepted (58%).

In addition to the technical program, SANER 2018 features three social events: (i) the SANER cocktail hour, a buffet light dinner served at the Conference venue; (ii) the SANER reception, at Blue Note, the main Music Club in Campobasso. Before the reception, there will be a guided tour of the historical center of Campobasso; (iii) the
SANER banquet, at “Piana dei Mulini”, an ancient residence which dates back to the end of XVIII century. All the events provide an excellent opportunity for all participants to have fun, to network, and to exchange ideas and solutions to advance the state of the art in SANER related research areas.

Before concluding, we would like to thank all the people who actively participate to the organization of SANER. Special thanks go to the outstanding SANER 2018 Organizing Committee: Jens Krinke and Shane McIntosh (ERA track co-chairs); Mario Linares Vasquez and Luca Ponzanelli (Tool demo co-chairs); Dongmei Zhang and Neha Rungta (Industrial track co-chairs); Denys Poshyvanyk and Neil Ernst (Reproducibility Studies and Negative Results co-chairs); Julia Rubin (Journal First chair); Takashi Kobayashi (Workshops chair); Ahmed Hassan (MIP Award chair); Damian Tamburri (Finance chair); Fausto Fasano (Proceedings chair); Gabriele Bavota, Simone Scalabrin and Giovanni Carugno (Local Arrangements co-chairs); Salvatore Geremia, Fabio Palomba, Damian Tamburri, Michele Tufano, and Fiorella Zampetti (Social media), Angelo Parziale (Web master).

Special thanks go to XEOS s.r.l., our platinum sponsor, Democom s.r.l., our silver sponsor, and the University of Molise for their financial support, and to the student volunteers for helping us to organize a memorable edition of SANER 2018. We would also like to acknowledge the sponsorship of SANER 2018 through the IEEE Computer Society, which provides great benefits for conference organizers. And in particular, we would like to thank Daria Shypova from IEEE for her continuous support in the planning of the event. Finally, special thanks to Conference Publishing for the excellent work done for the production of SANER 2018 proceedings.

Last but not least, we would also like to thank all the people who allowed us to build up such an exciting program and in particular applaud the program committees in their efforts in reviewing papers. Also, we thank all the authors for submitting to SANER 2018 a set of very high quality papers.

We hope that you will have a productive and pleasant experience at SANER 2018!

Rocco Oliveto
University of Molise, Italy
General chair

Massimiliano Di Penta
University of Sannio, Italy
Program co-chair

David C. Shepherd
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