Welcome to the track on “Software Process and Product Improvement” (SPPI) at the Euromicro SEAA 2006 conference! The goal of the SPPI track is to establish a forum for exchanging advances and experiences in improving software quality, with a special focus on development processes. The size, complexity, and criticality of current software systems require innovative approaches to develop and evolve systems in an economic and timely manner. In today’s competitive world software quality is a key to economic success and stability. Software process and product improvement aims at significantly increasing both the quality of systems and the productivity of software development.

As in previous years a special session is offered as part of this track. The joint session on Value-based Software Engineering (VBSE) addresses the fact that stakeholder value is often not considered adequately in software engineering decisions and much of current practice and research is done in a value-neutral setting with negative impacts on project outcomes.

We received 53 submissions for this track. Papers went through a rigorous reviewing process and were reviewed by three program committee members. Papers submitted to the VBSE session were reviewed by a separate committee (see below).

The 17 accepted papers are organized in the following sessions: The session on “SPPI Industry Experiences” deals with lessons learned in applying and introducing SPPI methods in real-world settings. In the session on “Product Improvement” authors report research on specific product improvement aspects such as reliability. The papers in the session on “Acquisition” cover procurement and acquisition processes. The joint special session on “Value-based Software Engineering” deals with integrating value considerations into the existing and emerging software engineering principles and practices. The papers on “Requirements Engineering & Management” cover linguistic approaches and change impact analysis. The session on “Process Improvement” focuses on approaches and lessons learned in product line engineering, software processes in small companies, and goal-orientation in SPI.

We would like to thank all people that helped to make this conference track possible. In particular, we thank the General Chair Ivica Crnkovic for taking care of the local organization. We thank Aybüke Aurum, and Jyrki Kontio for co-organizing the joint special session on Value-based Software Engineering (VBSE). We are very grateful to all members of the Program Committee and additional reviewers for their timely delivery of reviews.

SPPI Program Committee

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Kontio, J. (Helsinki Univ. of Technology, Finland)
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Melnik, G. (University of Calgary, Canada)
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VBSE Special Session Committee

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