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Product Focused Software Process Improvement

Third International Conference, PROFES 2001
Kaiserslautern, Germany, September 10-13, 2001
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Preface

The Third International Conference on Product Focused Software Process Improvement (PROFES 2001) continued the success of the PROFES'99 and PROFES 2000 conferences. PROFES 2001 was organized in Kaiserslautern, Germany, September 10 - 13, 2001. The PROFES conference has its roots in the PROFES Esprit project (http://www.ele.vtt.fi/profes/), but it quickly evolved into a full-fledged general-purpose conference in 1999 and since then it has gained wide-spread international popularity.

As in previous years, the main theme of PROFES 2001 was professional software process improvement (SPI) motivated by product and service quality needs. SPI is facilitated by software process assessment, software measurement, process modeling, and technology transfer and has become a practical tool for quality software engineering and management. The conference addresses both the solutions found in practice as well as relevant research results from academia. The purpose of the conference is to bring to light the most recent findings and results in the area and to stimulate discussion between the researchers, experienced professionals, and technology providers for SPI.

With the tremendous growth of the Internet, e-commerce, m-commerce, telematics, and telecommunication applications, it is ever more important to emphasize the quality of software products and processes. With plenty of new people and new software-based applications emerging at a very fast pace, it is easy to forget the importance of product and process improvement, and to repeat the same mistakes that have been committed in more traditional software development. The PROFES conferences have always addressed this issue by explicitly focusing on mechanisms for ensuring high product quality under various circumstances of software development and for diverse market needs.

As in 2000, another important element of the conference was the Learning Software Organizations (LSO 2001) workshop, which was again organized in conjunction with the PROFES conference. The LSO workshop series is a communication forum that addresses the questions of organizational learning from a software point of view and builds upon existing work on Knowledge Management and Organizational Learning. LSO complements the PROFES program, which encourages fruitful discussions and information exchange between the participants of PROFES 2001 and LSO 2001. The proceedings of LSO 2001 appear as LNCS 2176.

The conference program included four top level keynote speakers (Prof. Dieter Rombach of the University of Kaiserslautern and Fraunhofer IESE, Prof. Victor Basili of the University of Maryland and Fraunhofer-Center Maryland, Prof. Werner Mellis of the University of Cologne, and Prof. Mary Shaw of Carnegy Mellon University – in order of appearance). Once again we received plenty of high-quality submissions. Each paper was reviewed by three independent reviewers. The program committee was very critical in its reviewing and selected 27 papers for presentation at the

conference. In addition, the committee selected three half-day tutorials and one full-day tutorial.

We wish to thank Fraunhofer IESE, the University of Kaiserslautern, VTT Electronics, and the University of Oulu for supporting the conference. We are also grateful to the authors for providing high-quality papers, the Program Committee for reviewing and participating in the design of the program, the Organizing Committee, and numerous individual contributors who helped to organize this conference.

July 2001

Frank Bomarius
Seija Komi-Sirviö

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