REFSQ'14 Empirical Track

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These proceedings include the description and protocol of the studies ran at the Empirical Track held as part of the 20th Working Conference on Requirements Engineering: Foundation for Software Quality (REFSQ 2014) in Essen, Germany. REFSQ seeks reports of novel ideas and techniques that enhance RE processes and artifacts as well as reflections on current research and industrial practice about and in RE. The increasing interest on the use of empirical methods to perform this research and investigate about the industrial practice was the origin of the Empirical Track held for the first time at REFSQ 2011. The goals of this track, besides those of the studies themselves, are to raise awareness for the necessity and benefits of empirical studies in the REFSQ community, and to show that participating in them should not be considered harmful.

Two types of studies were solicited: live studies and online questionnaires. Alive studies are controlled experiments, requiring no more than 90 minutes in total, in which REFSQ attendees participate actively in the experiment Online questionnaires, designed to require no more than 15 minutes, are promoted at REFSQ and that can be filled out by all interested REFSQ participants, in their (not much) spare time at the conference. Proposals were evaluated in the light of their technical quality as research instrument, adequacy of the topic to REFSQ, and expected participation of the audience in the study.

We selected one live experiment and three electronic surveys:

- "Experiment: Understandability of Goal Modeling with ARMOR", by Engelsman and Wieringa, for assessing the understandability of the ARMOR language modeling concepts for its intended users.
- "Towards Crowdsourcing for Requirements Engineering", by Hosseini et al., for investigating the potential of crowdsourcing in supporting RE.
- "Survey Protocol: Traceability during Development of Systems with Safety and Security Implications - Importance, Tools, and Challenges", by Katta and Stålhane, for gathering and reporting experiences related to traceability.
- "State of the Practice for Sustainability as an Explicit Objective", by Penzenstadler, Khurum and Petersen, to consider sustainability objective from the very beginning of software systems development.

We would like to express our gratitude to the conference program chairs to support this track and the workshop chairs that managed the publication of the proceedings as part of the CEUR series. We would also like to thank the members of the program committee who devoted their time and helped us putting together the track program.

Finally, we are thankful to the REFSQ 2014 organizers for putting all the efforts to make this a successful, exciting, and enjoyable event.

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