First International Workshop on Conducting Empirical Studies in Industry (CESI 2013) – An ICSE 2013 Workshop

www.essi.upc.edu/~franch/cesi2013

Workshop Organization

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Keynote Speaker

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Roel Wieringa, U. Twente, The Netherlands
Jon Whittle, Lancaster U., UK

Important Dates

Submission of papers:	February 7, 2013
Notification:	February 28, 2013
Camera-ready:	March 7, 2013
Workshop:	May 20, 2013

Call for Papers

Empirical studies lie at the heart of software engineering (SE). Researchers increasingly face the need to demonstrate the validity of their technological solutions by conducting credible studies, and there is a need for empirical studies for theory building and evaluation. The quality of these studies is a determinant of the success and future evolution of SE.

Empirical studies conducted in industrial settings are particularly challenging because the actual environments are complex and what is first observable by researchers is only tip of the iceberg. Yet, investigative questions must be formulated, valid constructs need to be defined, trust needs to be in place, quality data must be gathered within small time-frames available, etc. In essence, researchers often need to start running with studies when they are still learning how to walk.

The aim of this workshop is to discuss challenges and experiences in conducting empirical studies in industrial settings; discuss strategies for overcoming them; debate about the limitations of contemporary research methods; and project towards their resolutions. Arguments, both positive and negative, will be sought from both industry and academic participants so that the empirical SE community has an improved understanding of the subject matter.

Topics of interest include, but are not restricted to: how to recognise issues in practice that warrant conducting empirical studies in actual projects; formulating investigative questions, responses to which would benefit the purpose of the study; improving communication between researchers and practitioners; dealing with threats in the design of, and in conducting, empirical studies in industry; designing and conducting a family of studies; interpreting results in industrial contexts; impact of industrial settings on the design of, and on conducting, case studies, action research, studies in the field, exploratory studies, longitudinal studies, etc.; designing and conducting surveys; enablers for ensuring that results of a study are utilised fruitfully.

Paper categories

Experience reports describe the experience with conducting studies in industry over a period of time and lessons that have been learnt that would be useful to add to the body of knowledge on conducting empirical studies in industry.

Technical papers are expected to focus on empirical studies conducted in industry, highlighting original aspects concerning the way the studies were designed or conducted to overcome industrial challenges, and their outcomes. Also expected in these papers are comparisons of the advances made against the state-of-the-art.

Experience reports and technical papers are limited to be in the 4-6 pages range for the core material. A further up to 2 pages is permitted as appendix.

Practitioner messages. Industry participants are particularly invited to submit their views on conducting empirical studies in industry. For example, how much value-add is there to business by following rigorous empirical study procedures over “rough cut” and “quick” analysis of “good enough” quality and amount of data? A contribution in this category is limited to 1-2 pages long.

Papers must describe original work not submitted or presented at other forums. Accepted papers will be published in electronic ICSE proceedings. A short post workshop report is planned to be submitted to ACM SEN. A longer report may also be written if the outcome of the workshop is especially challenging. Depending on the number and quality of submissions, the organizers will explore the possibility of editing a special issue of a major journal.

Submission information

Submissions are required to be uploaded electronically in pdf form at the Easychair workshop submission site, https://www.easychair.org/conferences/?conf=cesi2013. Submissions must be formatted according to ICSE 2013 formatting guidelines, available at http://2013.icse-conferences.org/content/submission-guidelines.