Preface

This volume compiles the papers accepted for presentation at the 16th Working Conference on Requirements Engineering: Foundation for Software Quality (REFSQ 2010), held in Essen during June 30 and July 1-2, 2010.

Since 1994, when the first REFSQ took place, requirements engineering (RE) has never ceased to be a dominant factor influencing the quality of software, systems and services. Initially started as a workshop, the REFSQ working conference series has now established itself as one of the leading international forums to discuss RE in its (many) relations to quality. It seeks reports of novel ideas and techniques that enhance the quality of RE products and processes, as well as reflections on current research and industrial RE practices. One of the most appreciated characteristics of REFSQ is that of being a highly interactive and structured event. REFSQ 2010 was no exception to this tradition.

In all, we received a healthy 57 submissions. After all submissions had been carefully assessed by three independent reviewers and went through electronic discussions, the Program Committee met and finally selected 15 top-quality full papers (13 research papers and 2 experience reports) and 7 short papers, resulting in an acceptance rate of 38%.

The work presented at REFSQ 2009 continues to have a strong anchoring in practice with empirical investigations spanning over a wide range of application domains.

As in previous years, these proceedings serve as a record of REFSQ 2010, but also present an excellent snapshot of the state of the art of research and practice in RE. As such, we believe that they are of interest to the whole RE community, from students embarking on their PhD to experienced practitioners interested in emerging knowledge, techniques and methods. At the time of writing, REFSQ 2010 has not taken place yet. All readers who are interested in an account of the discussions that took place during the conference should consult the post-conference summary that we intend to publish as usual in the ACM SIGSOFT Software Engineering Notes.

REFSQ is essentially a collaborative effort. First of all, we thank Klaus Pohl for his work as General Chair of the conference. We also extend our gratitude to Ernst Sikora and Mikael Berndtsson who served REFSQ 2010 very well as Organization Chair and Publication Chair, respectively. Also we thank Andreas Gehlert for serving very well as Workshop and Poster Chair and Mikael Berndtsson for his work as Publications Chair.

As the Program Chairs of REFSQ 2010, we deeply thank the members of the Program Committee and the additional referees for their careful and timely reviews. We particularly thank those who have actively participated in the Program Committee meeting and those who have volunteered to act as shepherds to help finalize promising papers.

April 2010
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Anne Persson
REFSQ 2010 Conference Organization

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