Submission data for 2023 CORE conference ranking process
International Workshop on Requirements Engineering: Foundation for Software Quality

Fabiano Dalpiaz, Alessio Ferrari

Introductory Questions

Conference

Title: International Workshop on Requirements Engineering: Foundation for Software Quality
Acronym : REFSQ
Rank: B

Requested Rank

Rank: A

Conference Details

Month: March
Publisher: Springer Nature
Bi-annual: False
Multiconference: False
Component in a multi-conference or umbrella event: False
Colocated with other events: True
Colocated event description: Doctoral Symposium, Workshops, Industry day (on invitation)
Event relationship description: The program chairs appoint chairs for the colocated events, who are then given the task of assembling the program. For DS and workshops, there are submissions with a peer review process.
Alternative content: False

Proceedings Publishing Style

Proceedings Publishing: series
Link to most recent proceedings: https://link.springer.com/book/10.1007/978-3-031-29786-1
Further details: REFSQ has a long-standing agreement with Springer LNCS since 2007, when REFSQ turned from a large workshop co-located with CAiSE to a full-fledged (working) conference.
https://link.springer.com/conference/refsq

Most Recent Years

Most Recent Year

Year: 2023
URL: https://2023.refsq.org/
Location: Barcelona, Spain
Papers submitted: 78
Papers published: 25
Acceptance rate: 32
Source for numbers: https://link.springer.com/book/10.1007/978-3-031-29786-1

General Chairs

Name: Carme Quer Affiliation: Universitat Politècnica de Catalunya Gender: F H Index: 24 GScholar url: https://scholar.google.com/citations?hl=it&user=g-U6tyoAAAAJ DBLP url: https://dblp.org/pid/80/3358.html
Name: Xavier Franch Affiliation: Universitat Politècnica de Catalunya Gender: M H Index: 49 GScholar url: https://scholar.google.com/citations?user=k6b-lLYAAAAJ DBLP url: https://dblp.org/pid/f/XavierFranch.html

Program Chairs

Name: Alessio Ferrari Affiliation: CNR-ISTI, Italy Gender: M H Index: 27 GScholar url: https://scholar.google.com/citations?hl=it&user=-BlCPzcAAAAJ DBLP url: https://dblp.org/pid/21/7271.html
Name: Birgit Penzenstadler Affiliation: Chalmers - Gothenburg University, Sweden Gender: F H Index: 32 GScholar url: https://scholar.google.com/citations?hl=it&user=TNoA6ZMAAAAJ DBLP url: https://dblp.org/pid/92/3113.html

Second Most Recent Year

Year: 2022
URL: https://2022.refsq.org/
Location: Birmingham, UK
Papers submitted: 45
Papers published: 19
Acceptance rate: 42
Source for numbers: https://link.springer.com/book/10.1007/978-3-030-98464-9

General Chairs

Name: Nelly Bencomo Affiliation: Durham University, UK Gender: F H Index: 35 GScholar url: https://scholar.google.com/citations?hl=it&user=86H7HmkAAAAJ DBLP url: https://dblp.org/pid/96/6687.html
Name: Pete Sawyer Affiliation: Aston University, UK Gender: M H Index: 45 GScholar url: https://scholar.google.com/citations?hl=it&user=uaLkZrYAAAAJ DBLP url: https://dblp.org/pid/s/PeterSawyer.html

Program Chairs

Name: Vincenzo Gervasi Affiliation: University of Pisa, Italy Gender: M H Index: 29 GScholar url: https://scholar.google.com/citations?user=4nMaoMEAAAAJ&hl=it&oi=ao DBLP url: https://dblp.org/pid/g/VincenzoGervasi.html
Name: Andreas Vogelsang Affiliation: University of Cologne, Germany Gender: M H Index: 20 GScholar url: https://scholar.google.com/citations?user=knNRUtEAAAAJ&hl=it&oi=ao DBLP url: https://dblp.org/pid/19/8725.html

Third Most Recent Year

Year: 2021
URL: https://2021.refsq.org/
Location: Essen, Germany
Papers submitted: 52
Papers published: 15
Acceptance rate: 29
Source for numbers: https://link.springer.com/book/10.1007/978-3-030-73128-1

General Chairs

Name: Klaus Pohl
Affiliation: Paluno - University of Duisburg-Essen, Germany
Gender: M
H Index: 57
GScholar url: https://scholar.google.com/citations?user=LONCDwsAAAAJ&hl=it&oi=ao
DBLP url: https://dblp.org/pid/p/KlausPohl.html

Program Chairs

Name: Fabiano Dalpiaz
Affiliation: Utrecht University, the Netherlands
Gender: M
H Index: 38
GScholar url: https://scholar.google.com/citations?user=KBPFzMAAAAAJ&hl=it&oi=ao
DBLP url: https://dblp.org/pid/00/203.html

Name: Paola Spoletini
Affiliation: Kennesaw State University
Gender: F
H Index: 24
GScholar url: https://scholar.google.com/citations?hl=it&user=CHUvvdkAAAAJ
DBLP url: https://dblp.org/pid/92/1332.html

Policies

Chair Selection: The Steering Committee (SC) Chair invites the SC members to propose names of candidates independently. The candidates are shortlisted based on the number of proponents. The SC members vote again for two candidates among the shortlisted ones, and the process continues through majority voting until two PC Chairs are selected.
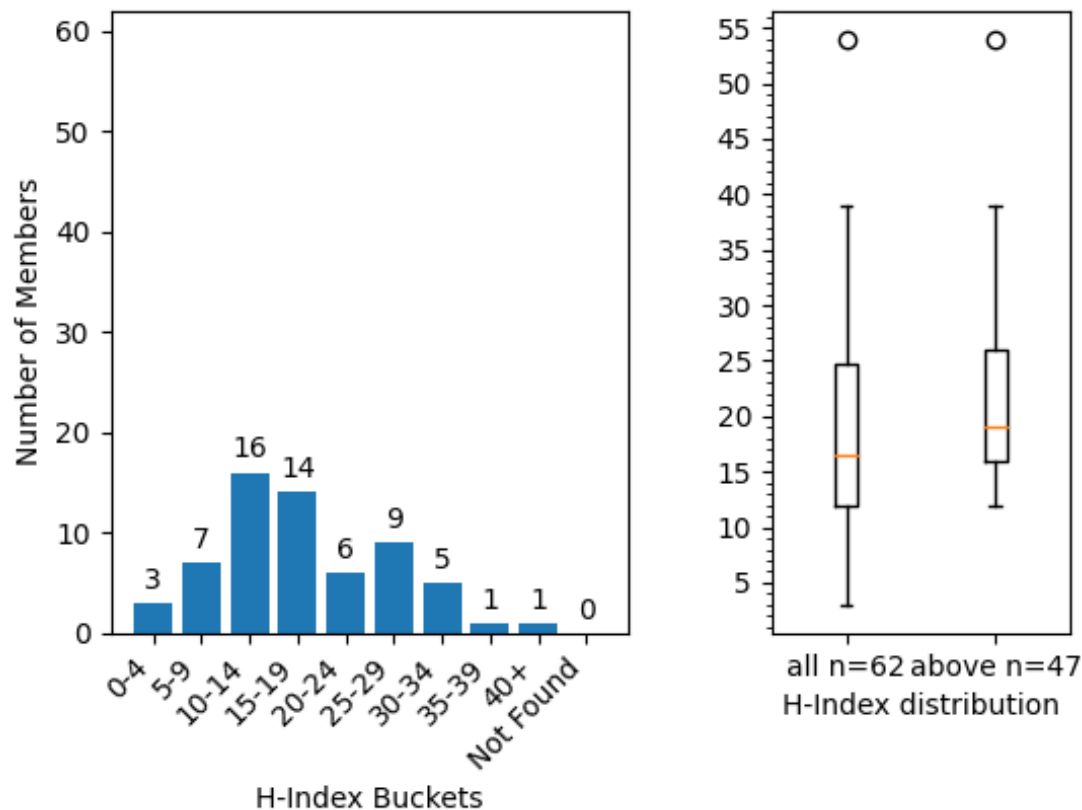No Policies.

Program Committee

Link to pc: https://2023.refsq.org/track/refsq-2023-papers
File: http://portal.core.edu.au/core/media/2023/pc_members/refsq-23-pc_fEewtRF.txt
H-index plot: http://portal.core.edu.au/core/media/2023/pc_graphs/higherrank_hindex_buckets_2239.png

Information contained within these graphs is derived using the Elsevier Scopus Database 2023.
Scopus h-index is generally about 30% lower than Google Scholar h-index.

Publishing of established researchers in the PC

http://portal.core.edu.au/core/media/2023/conf_submissions_clean_spc/higherrank2239_spc_report.csv
WPP Report: http://portal.core.edu.au/core/media/2023/wpp_reports/pA2tkSIy.txt

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1. Requirements Engineering: Foundation for Software Quality (REFSQ)
Core Rank: B

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This venue was published at 122 times by 34 of 40 individuals in the last 5+ years.

The individuals that publish at this venue are: Fabiano Dalpiaz(17), Andreas Vogelsang(12), Xavier Franch(11),
Sjaak Brinkkemper(9), Angelo Susi(8), Anna Perini(8), Jennifer Horkoff(8), Barbara Paech(7), Daniel M. Berry(7),
Kurt Schneider(7), Maya Daneva(7), Paola Spoletini(7), Norbert Seyff(6), Davide Fucci(5), Luisa Mich(5), Eric
Knauss(4), Paul Grunbacher(4), Samuel A. Fricker(4), Mehrdad Sabetzadeh(3), Michael Unterkalmsteiner(3), Nazim H.
Madhavji(3), Renata Silva Souza Guizzardi(3), Didar Zowghi(2), Jorg Dorr(2), Michael Vierhauser(2), Nan Niu(2),
Vincenzo Gervasi(2), Carina Frota Alves(1), Daniel Amyot(1), Emmanuel Letier(1), John Mylopoulos(1), Klaus
Schmid(1), Martin Glinz(1), Stefanie Betz(1)

In 2018, there were 24 publications by 18 individuals: Andreas Vogelsang, Angelo Susi, Anna Perini, Barbara Paech,
Carina Frota Alves, Daniel M. Berry, Davide Fucci, Didar Zowghi, Eric Knauss, Fabiano Dalpiaz, Luisa Mich, Martin
Glinz, Maya Daneva, Nazim H. Madhavji, Paola Spoletini, Samuel A. Fricker, Sjaak Brinkkemper, Xavier Franch
In 2019, there were 28 publications by 22 individuals: Andreas Vogelsang, Angelo Susi, Anna Perini, Barbara Paech,
Daniel M. Berry, Emmanuel Letier, Fabiano Dalpiaz, Jorg Dorr, Kurt Schneider, Luisa Mich, Maya Daneva, Mehrdad
Sabetzadeh, Michael Unterkalmsteiner, Michael Vierhauser, Nazim H. Madhavji, Norbert Seyff, Paola Spoletini, Paul
Grunbacher, Samuel A. Fricker, Sjaak Brinkkemper, Vincenzo Gervasi, Xavier Franch
In 2020, there were 21 publications by 21 individuals: Andreas Vogelsang, Angelo Susi, Anna Perini, Barbara Paech,
Daniel M. Berry, Davide Fucci, Didar Zowghi, Fabiano Dalpiaz, Jennifer Horkoff, Kurt Schneider, Luisa Mich, Maya
Daneva, Michael Vierhauser, Norbert Seyff, Paola Spoletini, Paul Grunbacher, Renata Silva Souza Guizzardi, Samuel
A. Fricker, Sjaak Brinkkemper, Vincenzo Gervasi, Xavier Franch
In 2021, there were 15 publications by 14 individuals: Andreas Vogelsang, Angelo Susi, Anna Perini, Barbara
Paech, Jennifer Horkoff, John Mylopoulos, Klaus Schmid, Kurt Schneider, Luisa Mich, Maya Daneva, Michael
Unterkalmsteiner, Nan Niu, Nazim H. Madhavji, Sjaak Brinkkemper
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In 2022, there were 12 publications by 11 individuals: Angelo Susi, Anna Perini, Barbara Paech, Daniel M. Berry, Eric Knauss, Fabiano Dalpiaz, Jennifer Horkoff, Kurt Schneider, Nan Niu, Paola Spoletini, Renata Silva Souza Guizzardi

In 2023, there were 22 publications by 20 individuals: Andreas Vogelsang, Angelo Susi, Anna Perini, Barbara Paech, Daniel Amyot, Daniel M. Berry, Davide Fucci, Eric Knauss, Fabiano Dalpiaz, Jennifer Horkoff, Kurt Schneider, Mehrdad Sabetzadeh, Michael Unterkalmsteiner, Norbert Seyff, Paola Spoletini, Renata Silva Souza Guizzardi, Samuel A. Fricker, Sjaak Brinkkemper, Stefanie Betz, Xavier Franch

34 out of the 40 individuals published at this venue in 1 or more years
26 out of the 40 individuals published at this venue in 2 or more years
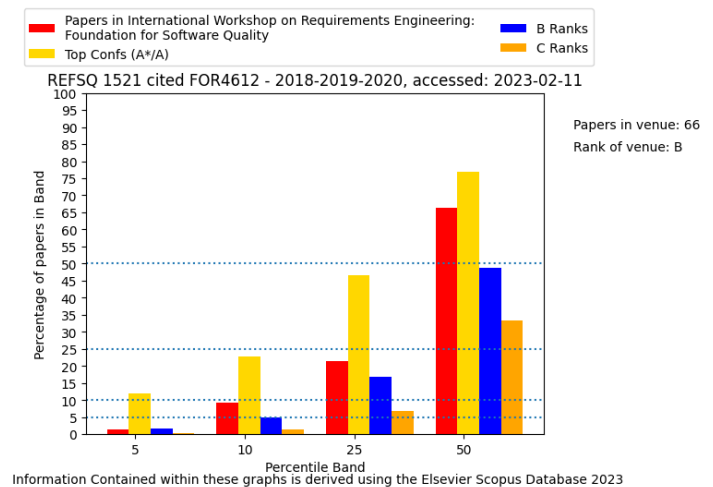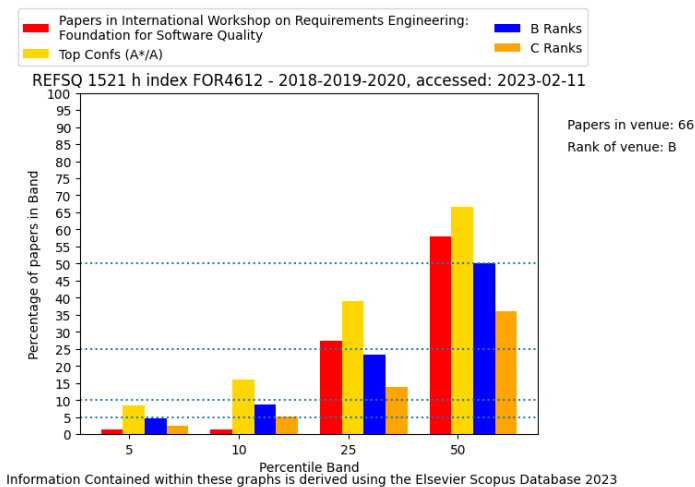20 out of the 40 individuals published at this venue in 3 or more years
14 out of the 40 individuals published at this venue in 4 or more years
9 out of the 40 individuals published at this venue in 5 or more years
3 out of the 40 individuals published at this venue in 6 or more years

Centile graphs of paper metrics

Information Contained within these graphs is derived using the Elsevier Scopus Database 2023

Information Contained within these graphs is derived using the Elsevier Scopus Database 2023

Top People Involvement

name: Xavier Franch
h-index: 49
Google Scholar URL: https://scholar.google.com/citations?user=k6b-lLYAAAAJ
Justification: - Member of the Academia Europea - General chair of IEEE RE'08 and ESEIW/ESEM'24 - PC chair of CAiSE'22, RE'16, CAiSE'12 - Most influential paper award at IEEE RE conference 2022 - Editorial board of Information & Software Technology, Requirements Engineering Journal, Journal of Systems and Software, Computing
Paper counts:

Most Recent:	Second most recent:	Third most recent:	Fourth most recent:	Fifth most recent:
1	0	0	2	1

Attendance: Almost always (>80% of the time)

name: Sjaak Brinkkemper
h-index: 60
Google Scholar URL: https://scholar.google.com/citations?user=yC-jFt0AAAAJ
Justification: - Hall of fame of the International Software Product Management Association (2023) - General Chair of ECIS 2013 and of CAiSE'12 - Most influential paper at the IEEE RE conference in 2014 - Member of IFIP 8.1 - IFIP Silver Core Medal (1988) - Best industrial innovation paper award at IEEE RE'21
Paper counts:

Most Recent:	Second most recent:	Third most recent:	Fourth most recent:	Fifth most recent:
1	0	0	2	1

Attendance: Often (50-80% of the time)

name: Anna Perini
h-index: 45
Google Scholar URL: https://scholar.google.com/citations?user=_iN3o9sAAAAJ
Justification: - PC chair of RE'19 and of RCIS 2021 - FBK Distinguished Fellow
Paper counts:

Most Recent:	Second most recent:	Third most recent:	Fourth most recent:	Fifth most recent:
0	0	2	0	1

Attendance: Almost always (>80% of the time)

name: Paul Grünbacher

h-index: 47

Google Scholar URL: https://scholar.google.com/citations?user=7Wpa7ysAAAAJ

Justification: - Fellow of Automated Software Engineering (2021) - Editorial board of Information & Software Technology and of Empirical Software Engineering Journal - ACM SIGSOFT Distinguished Paper Award ICSE 2003 - Best paper award at MODELS'15 (MDE in practice track), WICSA'14

Paper counts:

Most Recent:	Second most recent:	Third most recent:	Fourth most recent:	Fifth most recent:
0	0	0	2	1

Attendance: Sometimes (20-50% of the time)

name: Fabiano Dalpiaz

h-index: 38

Google Scholar URL: https://scholar.google.com/citations?user=KBPFzMAAAAAJ

Justification: - Editorial Board of the Requirements Engineering Journal and of Business & Information Systems Engineering - PC chair of IEEE RE'23 and RCIS 2020 - Best industrial innovation paper award at RE'21

Paper counts:

Most Recent:	Second most recent:	Third most recent:	Fourth most recent:	Fifth most recent:
1	2	0	2	1

Attendance: Almost always (>80% of the time)

name: Jennifer Horkoff

h-index: 34

Google Scholar URL: https://scholar.google.com/citations?user=mQvdcosAAAAJ

Justification: - Editorial Board of the Requirements Engineering Journal and of Journal of Systems & Software - PC chair of IEEE RE'23 - PC chair of ER'20

Paper counts:

Most Recent:	Second most recent:	Third most recent:	Fourth most recent:	Fifth most recent:
1	1	0	1	0

Attendance: Almost always (>80% of the time)

name: Eric Knauss

h-index: 35

Google Scholar URL: https://scholar.google.com/citations?user=jlnAa9cAAAAJ

Justification: - PC chair of RE'22 - Best paper awards at Profes (2022, 2019), ICSSP (2018), ICSE Best Educational Paper (2016) ESEM (2010).

Paper counts:

Most Recent:	Second most recent:	Third most recent:	Fourth most recent:	Fifth most recent:
2	1	0	0	0

Attendance: Almost always (>80% of the time)

name: Kurt Schneider

h-index: 39

Google Scholar URL: https://scholar.google.com/citations?user=Jlu_3qcAAAAJ

Justification: - General Chair of RE'23 and of PROFES'18 - PC Chair of RE'21

Paper counts:

Most Recent:	Second most recent:	Third most recent:	Fourth most recent:	Fifth most recent:
1	2	0	2	1

Attendance: Almost always (>80% of the time)

name: Mehrdad (Mike) Sabetzadeh

h-index: 36

Google Scholar URL: https://scholar.google.com/citations?user=6DJb9s4AAAAJ

Justification: - Editorial Board member of Empirical Software Engineering - Best research paper at RE'19 - Best industrial innovation paper at RE'19

Paper counts:

Most Recent:	Second most recent:	Third most recent:	Fourth most recent:	Fifth most recent:
1	0	0	0	1

Attendance: Sometimes (20-50% of the time)

name: Tony Gorschek

h-index: 49

Google Scholar URL: https://scholar.google.com/citations?user=9eXSw7UAAAAJ

Justification: - Former Coordinating Editor Empirical Software Engineering Journal - Awarded Researcher of the year 2011, Blekinge Institute of Technology - General Chair of IEEE RE'14 - Leader of Software Engineering ReThought – Sweden'ss largest software engineering research initiative: www.rethought.se

Paper counts:

Most Recent:	Second most recent:	Third most recent:	Fourth most recent:	Fifth most recent:
0	0	1	1	0

Attendance: Sometimes (20-50% of the time)

Area Leaders publishing

Method of selection: We searched for "requirements engineering" as a label on Google Scholar. We took the top 20, removing one person who is clearly not in the field (Bertrand Nicquevert). Then, we added obvious omissions (people without the label in Scholar) and added some ACM Fellows.

Keyword: requirements engineering

name	h-index	gscholar url
John Mylopoulos	94	https://scholar.google.com/citations?hl=en&user=mQ6mh2OAAAAJ
Jeff Kramer	71	https://scholar.google.com/citations?hl=en&user=t-fuDjMAAAAJ
Matthias Jarke	76	https://scholar.google.com/citations?hl=en&user=JbioEFgAAAAJ
Eric Yu	61	https://scholar.google.com/citations?hl=en&user=c36OREEAAAAJ
Bjorn Regnell	46	https://scholar.google.com/citations?hl=en&user=W37CtAwAAAAJ
Klaus Pohl	57	https://scholar.google.com/citations?hl=en&user=LONCDwsAAAAJ
Bashar Nuseibeh	64	https://scholar.google.com/citations?hl=en&user=aUQ8O9gAAAAJ
Roel Wieringa	59	https://scholar.google.com/citations?hl=en&user=iipNiVIAAAAJ
Paolo Giorgini	56	https://scholar.google.com/citations?hl=en&user=ulBOWtkAAAAJ
Betty Cheng	55	https://scholar.google.com/citations?hl=en&user=qABYFOIAAAAJ
Natalia Juristo	48	https://scholar.google.com/citations?hl=en&user=v3AC8vAAAAAJ
Gustavo Rossi	46	https://scholar.google.com/citations?hl=en&user=qqgXKN8AAAAJ
Daniela Damian	51	https://scholar.google.com/citations?hl=en&user=B-1karUAAAAJ
Pete Sawyer	45	https://scholar.google.com/citations?hl=en&user=uaLkZrYAAAAJ
Jane Cleland-Huang	55	https://scholar.google.com/citations?hl=en&user=IQ5XCgYAAAAJ
Patrick Heymans	51	https://scholar.google.com/citations?hl=en&user=Gr1rdc8AAAAJ
Annie Anton	52	https://scholar.google.com/citations?hl=it&user=IQosWycAAAAJ
Fabio Massacci	51	https://scholar.google.com/citations?hl=it&user=gC_ZVPgAAAAJ
Paul Grunbacher	47	https://scholar.google.com/citations?hl=it&user=7Wpa7ysAAAAJ
Lionel Briand	94	https://scholar.google.com/citations?hl=it&user=Zj897NoAAAAJ
Carlo Ghezzi	63	https://scholar.google.com/citations?hl=it&user=Y8BLBGcAAAAJ
Anthony Finkelstein	64	https://scholar.google.com/citations?hl=it&user=n8xuCVkAAAAJ

WPP Report: http://portal.core.edu.au/core/media/2023/wpp_reports/JX92ShnF.txt

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4. Requirements Engineering: Foundation for Software Quality (REFSQ)
Core Rank: B

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This venue was published at 11 times by 7 of 19 individuals in the last 5+ years.

The individuals that publish at this venue are: Paul Grunbacher(4), Roel J. Wieringa(2), Bashar Nuseibeh(1), Jane
Cleland-Huang(1), John Mylopoulos(1), Lionel C. Briand(1), Paolo Giorgini(1)

In 2018, there were 3 publications by 2 individuals: Paolo Giorgini, Roel J. Wieringa
In 2019, there were 5 publications by 3 individuals: Jane Cleland-Huang, Lionel C. Briand, Paul Grunbacher
In 2020, there were 1 publications by 1 individuals: Paul Grunbacher
In 2021, there were 1 publications by 1 individuals: John Mylopoulos
In 2023, there were 1 publications by 1 individuals: Bashar Nuseibeh


7 out of the 19 individuals published at this venue in 1 or more years
1 out of the 19 individuals published at this venue in 2 or more years
```

Additional Data

Google Scholar Data

Sub-category url: https://scholar.google.com.au/citations?view_op=top_venues&hl=en&vq=eng_softwaresystems
Position in sub-category: 20+
h5 index of 20th item in category: 30
No Google Scholar h5 index available for this conference
Potential reason for no h5 index: Scholar combines journals and conferences in the same page of the top-20; given the breadth and the number of venues in software systems (software engineering, programming, operating systems, ...), only few conferences are listed there, and there is no way to see the h5-index as calculated by Scholar.

Relationship to similar conferences

Partial ordering of similar conferences in the area, with argument as to where the current venue fits and why:

IEEE RE (A-ranked): - same group of researchers as demonstrated by the substantial overlap in the PC - similar quality of the works that appear - comparable acceptance rate (26% in 2022, 32% in 2021, 26% in 2020 for RE; 32% in 2023, 42% in 2022, 29% in 2021, 25% in 2020 for REFSQ) - somewhat higher participation for RE: international vs. European conference.

SEAMS (A-ranked): - similar size. SEAMS had 49 submissions in 2022 (25 full papers); 77 submissions in 2021 (36 full papers) 61 submissions in 2020; 74 submissions in 2019. REFSQ had 78 submissions in 2023, 45 submissions in 2022, 52 submissions in 2021, 84 submissions in 2020. - similar level of contributions. - comparable quality of the PC members.

CAiSE (A-ranked): larger conference both in terms of scope and attendance, similar level of contributions and quality of PC members.

EASE (A-ranked): similar number of submitted papers (information unavailable in the proceedings for 2022, 85 submissions in 2021, 115 submissions in 2020), similar scope, similar quality of the submissions.

ISSRE (A-ranked): similar acceptance rate, broader scope compared to REFSQ, comparable quality of the papers.

ICSE (A*-ranked): the leading conference in the field, much broader scope, good visibility of REFSQ PC members on the ICSE PC, showing leadership in the requirements engineering field.

FSE (A*-ranked): broader scope, larger audience, similar level as ICSE.

Other Information

Other Relvant Info

Other relevant information: The "Requirements Engineering: Foundation of Software Quality" (REFSQ) conference is an annual event that takes place in Europe (as defined by its charter) in the period of March/April. REFSQ is called a working conference to denote its focus on the discussion of the research; ample time is dedicated to the discussion of each presentation. Roughly, the presentation of a full paper is allocated 20 minutes, followed by a discussion and Q&A of another 20 minutes, moderated by a discussant: the author of another paper presented in that session.

REFSQ topics typically include requirements engineering for software, hardware, socio-technical and cyber-physical systems, also considering human and regulatory aspects. The papers are characterized by a wide spectrum of research methods, such as controlled experiments, case studies, surveys, systematic reviews, grounded theory, ethnography and others, which show the complexity of the multi-faceted requirements engineering landscape.

Top academics regularly publish and participate in the conference, such as John Mylopoulos, Klaus Pohl, Sjaak Brinkkemper, Xavier Franch, and Roel Wieringa. Furthermore, thought leaders of requirements engineering (the impact of their contributions go beyond the bibliometric indicators) have been and are active in the conference, including Martin Glinz (whose research is at the basis of the IREB certification for professionals), Barbara Paech, Björn Regnell, Anthony Finkelstein, Vincenzo Gervasi, and Daniel Berry.

The conference normally lasts four days: after a first day with workshops (typically four) and a doctoral symposium, there are two days dedicated to research paper presentations, and an additional industry day where industrial speakers are invited to deliver talks about the practice of RE and the challenges they encounter, leading to an academy-industry debate about the discipline of requirements engineering. The conference also features a posters and tools track. Doctoral symposiums, posters and tools track, and paper-based workshops have independent chairs and program committees. The conference also features 3 keynotes by internationally renowned scholars and practitioners. Best paper, best poster, and best tool awards are assigned each year, and from 2023 also a 10-year most influential paper award has been established. The proceedings of the conference are published in Springer Lecture Notes in Computer Science, while those of the co-located events are published as CEUR proceedings. Special issues with high-quality journals such as Information & Software Technology and Requirements Engineering are typically organized by inviting distinguished papers from the conference.

REFSQ is governed by a steering committee regulated formally by a charter: `https://2023.refsq.org/info/refsq-charter` . REFSQ started in 1997 as a workshop of the CAiSE conference; given its growth in size, REFSQ became a working conference in 2007 and, since then, it has been an independent event. REFSQ can be seen as the European conference on Requirements Engineering, with an increasingly international authorship and program committee that demonstrate its quality.

The continuity of REFSQ is ensured by a so-called Background Organization, which preserves the organizational memory, arranges monthly calls, and provides advertising media and materials. The background organization role has been played by the University of Essen (Klaus Pohl) from 2007 to 2021, and is currently covered by the Polytechnic University of Catalunya (Xavier Franch).

Attachments

N/A

Proposers

First name: Fabiano
Last name: Dalpiaz
Affiliation: Utrecht University
Email: f.dalpiaz@uu.nl

First name: Alessio
Last name: Ferrari
Affiliation: ISTI-CNR
Email: alessio.ferrari@isti.cnr.it

Submitted By

Name: Dalpiaz Fabiano
Email: fabiano.dalpiaz@gmail.com