# Message from the GE 2018 Chairs

ICT is pervasively influencing all human activities. In this context, more and more people of any age, gender and culture is exposed to such technologies and has to acquire some ability and skill in this context. For reasons that are still being studied, the engagement of  genders with ICT is not uniform. This gap is occurring at all levels and it is evident, for instance, in the small percentage of women covering top positions in professional and academic activities in the field.

At the same time, the community is realising that diversity, when it does not assume the negative aspects of discrimination, plays a key role to a successful and competitive context for software development and research. Such diversity is not only related to gender aspects but refers also to the combination of culture, religion and geographical distribution.

In this context, the purpose of this ICSE 2018 workshop is to discuss about the role, difficulties and opportunities concerning people of different gender in the field of software engineering, in research, education and industry.
The workshop includes four invited speeches, the presentation of 12 position papers, selected among 17 submissions, and 3 posters. All submitted papers have been reviewed by at least three members of the Program Committee and have been evaluated for their relevance to the specific context of gender diversity issues.

The workshop program is organized in four sessions each one featuring a keynote speech and  three paper presentations on related topics. The first session is opened by a keynote speech on the importance of diversity given by Gabriele Abermann (Salzburg University of Applied Sciences). The second session discusses about gender gap in specific domains with a keynote by Reyyan Ayfer (Bilkent University in Ankara). The third session focuses on education. The keynote by Philip B. Stark (University of California at Berkeley) highlights the different evaluations female instructors get by their students and the papers highlight other issues related to educating girls to computer science topics.  Finally, the fourth session starts with a keynote by Anna Nilsson-Ehle (Vinnova) offering an outlook to possible actions for promoting diversity and follows with experience reports by other research groups.

Our gratitude goes to our keynote speakers and authors who made this workshop possible by submitting their work and revising it according to the reviewers' comments. We are also particularly grateful to the members of the Program Committee of the workshop for helping us in seeking submissions and providing valuable and timely reviews.

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