Message from the General Chair

Welcome to Lille, France, for the 16th international Working Conference on Reverse Engineering! This is a real and personal pleasure to get WCRE to Lille and this for several reasons.

First, because Lille is a crossroad in Europe, crossroad between France, Belgium and the UK and to a larger circle with the western part of Germany and the Netherlands which are reachable in a couple of hours.

The second reason is that since 2008 INRIA has established a new research laboratory at Lille: INRIA Lille Nord Europe. INRIA is (one of) the top research institutes in applied mathematics and computer science in France. Within the INRIA Lille Nord Europe laboratory, INRIA supported the creation of the RMoD Team (remodularization and modular software). The RMoD team is one of the too few teams in France working on reverse engineering and reengineering. Our team is working in two areas: reengineering and new dynamic languages (traits, for example, which are used in SUN Microsystem’s Fortress new scientific high performance language and may also be included in the next Javascript standard). We are contributing to a new open-source and modular object-oriented language named Pharo (http://www.pharo-project.org), descendant of Smalltalk. On the reengineering side we are continuously improving the Moose open-source reengineering environment, whose development started in 1996 and of which we rebuilt a large part last year (http://moose.unibe.ch/).

Third, Lille is located in the “Industries du commerce” region, meaning that large companies such as Auchan, Carrefour or Decathlon have their headquarters in the area of Lille. And as we know, such companies have legacy systems. Now in this moment where the society is getting more and more concerned about ecology, we have a new challenge: how can we help them producing software whose creation and evolution is preserving our environment? We should show that reuse and maintenance are CO2 free. In the past in some wealthy and large companies, project managers could just allocate 50 software engineers to rebuild software that already existed. We need to open new spaces to define CO2 free software.

I would like to thank the program co-chairs, Andy Zaidman and Giuliano Antoniol, the Ph.D. Forum chairs, Rainer Koschke and Spiros Mancoridis, the Workshop chairs, Yann-Gaël Guéhéneuc and Damien Pollet, the Tool Demonstration chairs, Martin Pinzger and Bram Adams, and all the members of the program committee for their good job assembling an exciting program.

I would like to thank Marie-Bénédicte Dernoncourt who took care of the local organization. Since none of the RMod team members are from Lille or North of France we had no clue about what to propose to you and organize but Marie-Bénédicte was there.

Particular thanks to all our sponsors: The Reengineering Forum and the supporting organizations: INRIA, TU Delft, Soccer Lab of the École Polytechnique de Montréal and IEEE Computer Society’s Technical Council on Software Engineering. I would like to thanks Cadbury and Caroline Hirsbein-Frommer for the excellent Carambars they nicely offered to us! Last but not least much gratitude is owed to Elliot Chikofsky for his advisory work on organizing WCRE this year.

Finally I hope that you will really enjoy the lively presentations, workshops, the city and the Carambars, of course.

Stéphane Ducasse
WCRE 2009 General Chair