VaMoS 2014 Report

The 8th edition of the International Workshop on Variability Modelling of Software-intensive Systems (VaMoS) was held on the Valrose campus of the Université Nice Sophia Antipolis. The workshop started on the Wednesday, January 22nd , and finished on the Friday 24th: three days of intensive knowledge exchange in the Valrose Castle, in its main room "Theatre de Valrose".

After a warm welcome from the organizers on the Wednesday, the participants could have a glance on the industry scenario with the keynote speaker Juha Savolainen, from the Danfoss Power Electronics A/S in Denmark. He pictured the point of view of the industry towards the product line engineering, discussing what has been successfully used in practice and what the research still ignores.

The first section of scientific papers came right after the keynote and the coffee break, three empirical studies showed, respectively, the scenario of product line teaching, a taxonomy of Software Product Line (SPL) reengineering and the management of variability in a company that was unaware of SPL. All papers had intense discussions and feedbacks, as the format of the workshop facilitates it, by having one discussant responsible for elaborating a small review of the paper and for preparing questions, besides the feedback from the audience. Continuing after lunch, we could follow two sections of experience reports, research and vision papers on variability modeling and configuration. Presenters walked through classifying and capturing variability, as well as reconfiguring and comparing products. A guided visit to the Matisse Museum followed by a welcoming cocktail closed the first day.

Bran Selic opened the second day of the workshop, with his keynote entitled "A retrospective on an Industrial Product-Line Project". Bran is a reference on the software engineering field, being one of the contributors to the Unified Modeling Language (UML) creation. He gave his report and rationale on the key design choices of a project involving both industry and research in Norway, regarding the SPL point of view. After his keynote, a section on SPL testing followed with two research papers and one problem statement. After lunch, three more papers were presented, in different areas but all exploiting variability, whether managing non-functional characteristics of product variants or structural patterns or technical specificities like in web-based scenarios. The last section of the day presented papers around Dynamic SPL, with research on its staged configuration and object migration. A Gala dinner closed the day at the Mediterranean Palace.

The third and last day of the workshop had its first section on the Variability and Architecture theme, ranging from the analysis over dependencies among architectural decisions to structuring variability of embedded systems architectures. The last section of the workshop had two papers on properties of variability models, the first one on the extraction of feature model changes from the domain of operating systems and the second one on the analysis of systems using variability model metrics. The organizers closed the workshop followed by the last lunch of VaMoS 2014.

VaMoS continued proving to be a great venue for exchange information on SPL research and practice, also being an excellent forum for receiving feedback on both mature and ongoing research.