

SPI MEETS IN SOFIA
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Title of the presentation /Tutorial

Challenges and misconceptions of SPI in very big and very small organizations

Speaker(s)

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Category

Getting Started x Intermediate High Maturity
 Presentation Tutorial

Target Audience

x Senior Management IT Managers
 Project Leaders x SEPG Leaders
 Practitioners Others:

Key Words

SPI (Software Process Improvement), CMMI, appraisals, customization

Abstract (maximum 250 Words)

There is a tendency nowadays – in „times of crisis“ – to do software process improvement as efficiently as possible. Management expects maximum results („results“ often meaning a successful appraisal) in minimum of time and with a minimal investment of effort and cost. SEPG leaders therefore try to customize any standard or model cutting all that is not the „minimum requirement“. In very big (eg. multinational) companies customization is frequently done by reusing all the existing documented procedures that were developed at corporate level, without taking into account the specificity of the local division. In very small companies (eg. companies having between 25-50 employees) the tendency is to keep the set of documented procedures as small as possible, fact that results in omitting or mis-interpreting certain elements of standards or models. In both cases the result of the SPI is poor in terms of contribution to a really efficient way of working: software developers consider the existing quality system too complicated to make it possible to be understood and used, or too generic to give any concrete aid in everyday work.

In my presentation I will show these types of pitfalls of SPI, based on the experience I have while doing SCAMPI appraisals in different software companies, located in Central and Eastern Europe and China (I participated in 11 SCAMPI appraisals, and I was lead appraiser in 8 cases). I will also concentrate on frequent mis-conceptions regarding different requirements of the CMMI model I observed in these appraisals.

CV (200 words)

Katalin Balla was founding member of SQI-Hungarian Software Quality Consulting Institute Ltd. in 2004, where she has the job of managing director. SQI is an authorized SEI Partner and member of the ESI@net, the European Software Institute's commercial network. Katalin works as a consultant in software process improvement. She is a qualified ISO 9001:2000, Bootstrap and SPICE auditor, she is a SEI-certified Lead Appraiser for CMMI-DEV.

Katalin graduated as an informatician in 1984 from "Babeş Bolyai" University of Science Cluj, Romania. She worked as a programmer and a software system engineer. She attained post-graduate studies in software engineering at Technical University Budapest in 1993, followed by Ph.D. studies between 1994-1997. She obtained her Ph.D. in 2001 at the Technical University of Eindhoven, the Netherlands, in the field of software quality. She worked as a quality director at IQSOFT / IQSYS Ltd., for 11 years (1993-2004).

Mrs. Balla is a lecturer at Technical University Budapest since 2001, where she developed and teaches courses in software quality management and software testing (in Hungarian and English). She participated in many international research projects.

Katalin lives in Budapest with her husband and their daughter.



Photo

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