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deRSE26 - Selected Contributions of the 6th Conference for Research Software Engineering in Germany (Part 1)

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Preface

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Preface to the First Volume of the deRSE26 Post-Proceedings

We are pleased to present the first volume of the proceedings of deRSE26 - the 6th Conference for Research Software Engineering in Germany, organised in 2026 by the University of Stuttgart. This annual conference serves as a unique meeting point for research software engineers, researchers, and developers to share their insights, projects, and experiences. Over the years, the deRSE series of conferences has become a cornerstone event for the community of research software engineers in Germany, fostering exchange across disciplines and addressing key topics such as teaching, practice, and recognition of the field.

We are also grateful to de-RSE e.V. (the German Society for Research Software) for their endorsement of this conference. The de-RSE e.V. plays a vital role in fostering the development, sharing, and professional recognition of research software engineering in Germany. Established to provide a platform for collaboration, knowledge exchange, and advocacy, de-RSE e.V. brings together a broad spectrum of persons who are developing and maintaining software in an academic environment. academia, research institutions, and industry who are passionate about advancing the field of research software engineering. The organization emphasizes community-driven initiatives, inclusivity, and the acknowledgement of research software as an integral component of modern scientific inquiry.

This year's conference program reflects the diversity and dynamism of the field. It features a wide array of contributions, including 77 talks, two keynote presentations, 14 interactive sessions such as workshops, meetups, and hackathons, as well as 92 poster presentations and demos; all designed to spark conversation and collaboration. The contributions span key areas of research software engineering, including RSE Practices, RSE Infrastructure, RSE Community, RSE Training, RSE Policy, and RSE Research.

We extend our deepest gratitude to our sponsors, whose generous support is instrumental in bringing this event to life. Their commitment to the advancement of research software engineering is greatly appreciated:

- We thank NFDI4ING: National Research Data Infrastructure for Engineering Sciences for their extensive support.
- We are grateful to the Cluster of Excellence EXC 2075: Data-Integrated Simulation Science (SimTech) for supporting us.
- We thank SFB 1667: Advancing Technologies of Very Low Altitude Satellites (ATLAS) for their support.
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- We are grateful to the Cluster of Excellence EXC 2120: Integrative Computational Design and Construction for Transformative Architecture (IntCDC) for their support.

- We thank Informatik-Forum Stuttgart e.V. (infos) for their co-organisation and extensive administrative support.

Process of the review

All contributions presented at the conference were invited to submit to the deRSE26 Post-Conference Proceedings, with the option to publish as individual works or as joint efforts combining multiple contributions.

The review process is conducted by a diverse group of experts, including authors of other submissions, members of the program committee, experienced RSEs, and champions in the field. This collaborative approach ensures a thorough and community-driven evaluation of the submissions.

Each submission is going through a structured review process with four possible outcomes:

- Accepted as is – No further revisions were required.
- Minor revision – Authors were asked to make small adjustments, without requiring a second review round.
- Major revision – Submissions requiring substantial improvements were given the opportunity for revision and a second review round.
- Declined or Resubmit Elsewhere – These outcomes meant that the contribution is not published, since it did not meet the required level of quality, or is better suited for a publication elsewhere.

The post-proceedings of the annual deRSE conferences, published in ECEASST, have become an established venue for presenting the work of the deRSE community. This is reflected in the 46 submissions received for the present edition. To accommodate this considerable number of contributions, we have decided to publish the proceedings in two volumes. In this first volume, we present 20 accepted papers that have successfully undergone a rigorous peer-review process. We are grateful for the reviewers' dedication and substantial investment of time in assisting authors to enhance the quality of their work.

All accepted contributions are published in this diamond open-access journal, ensuring free access for both authors and readers while maintaining rigorous academic quality.

Additionally, we wish to recognize the invaluable contributions of the program chair(s) and the entire program committee. Their expertise and dedication have shaped the high-quality program we proudly present in this volume.

This first volume of the deRSE26 Post-Conference Proceedings would not have been possible without the help of the community. Therefore it is our pleasure to thank our reviewers from the national and international RSE community that have contributed to this volume.

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- Hans Werners
- Urszula Wolski

We hope these proceedings serve as both a valuable reference and an inspiration for further innovation and collaboration in research software engineering. May this conference be a stepping stone for new ideas, partnerships, and a stronger community.

Finally, we want to thank all the authors, reviewers, session chairs, and volunteers whose efforts have ensured the success of this conference. Your commitment to advancing the field of Research Software Engineering is evident in every page of these proceedings. We hope these proceedings serve as both, a valuable reference, and an inspiration for further innovation and collaboration in Research Software Engineering.

Sincerely, the Post-Conference Proceedings Editors:

Bernd Flemisch, René Caspart, Bernadette Fritzsch,
Florian Goth, Jean-Noël Grad, Florian Thiery

Data availability: To promote reproducibility and transparency, we encouraged authors to make the research data and software underlying their publications publicly available wherever possible and requested this data availability statement in their publications.

Declaration on the use of AI: To ensure transparency, we encouraged authors to disclose any use of AI-assisted tools in the preparation of their manuscripts and requested this statement of AI use in their publication.