

Biography of Prof. Dr. Dr. h.c. Dieter Rombach

Director Business Development



Prof. Dr. Dr. H. Dieter Rombach studied mathematics and computer science at the University of Karlsruhe and obtained his Ph.D. in computer science from the University of Kaiserslautern (1984). Since 1992 he has held the Software Engineering Chair in the Department of Computer Science at the University of Kaiserslautern. In addition, he is the Director of Business Development of the Fraunhofer Institute for Experimental Software Engineering IESE in Kaiserslautern. From 1996 until 2014 he was the founding Executive Director of Fraunhofer IESE; from 2006 until 2009, he was also a member of the Management Board of the Fraunhofer-Gesellschaft e.V. and chairman of the Information and Communications Group, which consists of 17 institutes. Prior to being appointed director of Fraunhofer IESE, Prof. Rombach founded the Software Technologie Transfer Initiative (STTI) Kaiserslautern and was its director for four years. This initiative led to the foundation of Fraunhofer IESE. From 2001 to 2006, Prof. Rombach was also a Visiting Professor at the Computer Science Department of the University of New South Wales, Sydney, Australia. During the course of the years, Prof. Rombach has declined several university offers (including one to TU Vienna).

Previous career steps included the Institute for Data Processing in Technology at the Karlsruhe Nuclear Research Center (scientist; 1978-79) and the Department of Computer Science at the University of Kaiserslautern (scientist; 1979-1984). This was followed by positions as a guest professor at the University of Maryland and at NASA (1984-1986), as a professor for computer science at the University of Maryland (1986-1991), and as a professor at the Institute for Advanced Computer Studies at the University of Maryland and project manager at the Software Engineering Laboratory (SEL) at NASA's Goddard Space Flight Center (1986-1991). Prof. Rombach spent the summer semesters of 1988 and 1989 as a visiting professor at the Software Engineering Institute of Carnegie Mellon University in Pittsburgh, USA.

Prof. Rombach's research interests are in the area of "software engineering", particularly in engineering-style methods for the development of software with predictable quality; quantitative methods for the measurement of software products and processes for the purpose of project management and quality assurance; languages, methods, and tools for the creation and management of development processes on the basis of explicit software process models; as well as empirical methods and their application for determining the effects of software development methods.

In the context of his activities as director of Fraunhofer IESE, Prof. Rombach regularly serves as an expert, auditor, reviewer, and consultant for industry. He provides advisory services to a number of government bodies on the state and federal level as well as on the international level on issues concerning research as well as education and training in the area of computer science and on strategic decisions related to software. Prof. Rombach serves as a scientific adviser to various companies and research institutions.

Prof. Rombach is the author of more than 200 scientific publications. In 1990, he received the "Presidential Young Investigator Award" (endowed with US \$ 500.000) of the National Science Foundation (NSF) in the U.S. for his excellent work in the area of software engineering. In 2000, his contributions to the scientific and economic development of the state were recognized when he was awarded the Service Medal of the State of Rhineland-Palatinate. In 2003, he received the Distinguished Postdoctoral Award of the College for Computer, Mathematical and Physical Sciences of the University of Maryland and in 2013 the Founder's Award. In the year 2009, he was awarded the Federal Cross of Merit on Ribbon of the Federal Republic of Germany and the University of Oulu, Finland bestowed upon him an honorary doctorate degree in recognition of his lifetime achievements as a software engineer. Since 2009 he has been the chairman of the IEEE Awards Committees for the Software Process Achievement Award (SPA, awarded jointly with the Software Engineering Institute (SEI) of Carnegie Mellon University) and for the Harlan Mills Award. For his services to the Fraunhofer-Gesellschaft, he was awarded the Fraunhofer Medal in 2013.

Furthermore, Prof. Rombach is co-editor of several international journals (e.g., McCluer Journal for Empirical Software Engineering) and is regularly called upon to act as a program committee member of important software engineering conferences. His appointments include having been the General Chair of the International ACM/IEEE Conference on Software Engineering held in Berlin in 1996 and the Program Co-Chair of the International ACM/IEEE Conference on Software Engineering held in Shanghai in 2006. He is a member of the Gesellschaft für Informatik (GI) and is a Fellow of both ACM (since 2010) and IEEE Computer Society (since 2003).