

# 4th FAST Sprint Meeting: Event Guide

12-13.5.25 Greater Helsinki

## Goal and Target Audience

The goal of the FAST meetings is to present our latest research in Software Engineering and plan the next research sprint. Doctoral researchers and members of the industry are invited to participate in the meetings to exchange ideas and shape the future of Software Engineering research in Finland.

The meetings are open to anybody interested in doctoral research in Software Engineering. We encourage all doctoral researchers and supervisors participating in the Doctoral Pilot in Software Engineering to register and attend the meeting.

This document describes the 4th FAST meeting that takes place in Helsinki on May 12 and 13, 2025. This meeting marks the beginning of the 4th sprint for the researchers starting in August 2024 and the beginning of the 2nd sprint for the doctoral researchers starting in January 2025. Doctoral researchers can present their plans, drafts and articles during the meeting for discussion, feedback and collaboration.

	August 2024		January 2025	
Meeting	Sprint	Outcome	Sprint	Outcome
#1 Otaniemi	1	Research Poster		
# 2 Lahti	2	Thesis Research Plan		
# 3 Oulu	3	Plan first research article	1	Research Poster
# 4 Helsinki 12-13.5.2025	4	Draft / full article / plan next article	2	Thesis Research Plan
# 5 Jyväskylä 12-13.8.2025	5	Draft / full article / plan next article	3	Plan first research article
# 6 Tampere 4-5.11.2025	6	Draft / full article / plan next article	4	Draft / full article / plan next article

# Meeting Overview

The 4th FAST Sprint meeting comprises two main events located in different venues, all in the greater Helsinki area:

- Monday 12.5 11.30-16h Industry Connect at the Clarion Airport Hotel, Vantaa.
- Monday 12.5 18h Dinner, Burgers & Wine (Fredikanterassi 1, 00520 Helsinki)
- Tuesday 13.5 8.30-16h Workshop at the University of Helsinki, Kumpula campus.

The Industry Connect on Monday morning is organized in collaboration with the Technology Industries Association / Teknologiateollisuus, SW4E software engineering ecosystem, and the Finnish Doctoral Program Network in Artificial Intelligence (AI-DOC). This event is intended mainly for doctoral researchers. Supervisors are also welcome but, due to space restrictions, attendance is limited to 2 or 3 supervisors per university. The social event on Monday is limited to 60 persons.

The Workshop on Tuesday is intended for all doctoral researchers and supervisors and we do not expect attendance limits for these events.

## Important dates before the meeting:

- 27.4 Registration deadline. Note that you should register for each event separately.
- 27.4 Workshop submission deadline (see below)
- 30.4 Notification of the workshop sessions and groups. Please reserve some time during week 19 to familiarize yourself with the presentations in your group.

## Registration:

The registration deadline is 27.4. You need to register for each day separately:

- 12.5 Industry Connect [https://www.lyyti.fi/reg/industryconnect\\_may25](https://www.lyyti.fi/reg/industryconnect_may25) 130€
- 12.5 Dinner <https://www.softwareengineering.fi/register> 80€
- 13.5 Sprint Review: <https://www.softwareengineering.fi/register> 85€

# Monday 12.5 Industry Connect – Matchmaking in AI and Software Engineering Doctoral Research Pilots

## Registration

[https://www.lyyti.fi/reg/industryconnect\\_may25](https://www.lyyti.fi/reg/industryconnect_may25)

## Location

Clarion Hotel at Helsinki Airport, Taivastie 3, Vantaa (*not to be confused with Clarion Aviapolis*)-

## Goals

**For companies:** Meet and connect with the next generation of talented professionals driving innovation in Artificial Intelligence and Software Engineering. Advertise the company to doctoral researchers, and explore research collaboration, internships, or mentoring opportunities.

**For PhD researchers:** When you embark on your PhD journey, connecting with industry leaders early on can give you insights that will enrich your research and pave the way for a successful career in industry after graduation. In that case, you will connect with industry leaders and find companies related to your industry.

**For supervisors:** Support your doctoral researchers by facilitating contacts with relevant industry partners. Through cooperation, you will promote the success of doctoral training pilots and strengthen the foundations for continued government funding. Matchmaking can also increase cooperation between industry and academia.

## Program

From 11.00 Registration: participants receive a badge and a program guide. Location: floor 0.

11.30-12.30 Lunch. Location: Gateway restaurant on the 2<sup>nd</sup> floor.

12.30-16.00 Industry and doctoral researchers' matchmaking, focusing on connecting doctoral researchers with companies. Included also short pilot presentations, keynotes and talks. Location: floor 0.

12.30-13.00 Meet the Researchers – companies matched with PhD candidates. Doctoral researchers should prepare some material, for example, a powerpoint slide or two, to be able to discuss their topic. Note: it cannot be a poster, since there will not be an opportunity to arrange poster stands.

13.00-13.20 Opening & info session:

- Leena Pöntynen, Technology Industries of Finland
- Iida Lähdemäki, AI Finland – *AI 1000 Program*
- International House Helsinki – *Finnish Job Market Overview*

13.20-13.45 Keynote: Jarkko Pellikka, Nokia.

13.45-15.30 Matchmaking Sessions – student groups visit companies, matched based on research interests.

15.30-16.00 Open Networking.

Dinner Monday 12.5 18.00

### Registration

<https://onlinepayments.it.helsinki.fi/product/finnish-software-engineering-doctoral-research-network/>

### Location

Pasila at [Burgers & Wine](#) (Fredikanterassi 1, 00520 Helsinki). Entry: outside not from the inside of the mall.

# Tuesday 13.5 Workshop

## Registration

<https://onlinepayments.it.helsinki.fi/product/finnish-software-engineering-doctoral-research-network/>

## Location

Exactum building, Kumpula Campus, University of Helsinki. Pietari Kalmin katu 5, 00560 Helsinki.

<https://maps.app.goo.gl/6AHLjseQpJkoR7766>

## Goals

The goal for the sprint review and planning sessions is to create a forum for doctoral researchers to present both research plans and research articles, including drafts, preprints, accepted articles, in order to obtain feedback and establish collaborations with researchers and supervisors beyond their local research group.

As a **doctoral researcher** you can submit their research plans and research articles at any level of maturity and readiness for presentation and discussion. By participating in the workshop sessions you can:

- Practice your presentation and communication skills in front of a large, yet friendly audience
- Get feedback from other researchers and supervisors beyond the local group at your own university.
- Establish new collaborations, plan new research work with other researchers and supervisors beyond your local group. Plan visits and mobility periods to other universities.

**Supervisors** are key to provide expert feedback to our doctoral researchers. By participating in the workshop you can share your expertise, give back to our research community and contribute to our mission to improve doctoral education in Finland.

**Everybody** is invited to attend the keynote by an acclaimed international researcher and to participate in our community meetings, to share experiences, improve of way of working, or simply keep your sanity until the next meeting.

## Program

8.30-8.50 Coffee in Exactum, aula.

08.50-10.00 Welcome by Mika Mäntylä.

9-10h "From submitted to published - an editor's view of SE (journal) publication." Keynote by Robert Feldt, Professor of Software Engineering at Chalmers University of Technology, Sweden and editor in chief for the International Journal on Empirical Software Engineering, one of the top journals in our field. Location: Exactum, B123.

10.00-10.15 Coffee break in Exactum, aula.

10-12h Workshop parallel sessions 1

Group 1: Exactum, B121

Group 2: Exactum, B322

Group 3: Exactum, C322

Group 4: Exactum, BK114

Group 5: Exactum, C222

Group 6: Exactum, C220  
Group 7: Exactum, B321  
Group 8: Exactum, CK108  
Group 9: Exactum, BK106  
Group 10: Exactum, C321  
Group 11: Exactum, CK111

12-13h Lunch (location: Exactum, aula)

13-15h Workshop parallel sessions 2 (coffee break 14.00-14.15 in Exactum, aula)

15-16h Community meetings, in parallel:

- PhD researcher community meeting, chair: Tamara Ahmed, Md Mahade Hasan. Location: Exactum, D123.
- Supervisor community meeting, chair: Valentina Lenarduzzi. Location: Exactum, CK112.

## Preparing for the Workshop: Submit your contribution

**Doctoral researchers** are invited to submit to our workshop **one** of the following documents for presentation and discussion:

1. An **analysis of an existing paper**. This is a short analysis of a paper that is relevant to your research problem and is published in a top software engineering venue. This is a great way to move forward if you are unsure on how to proceed with your research work. See the appendix for more information.
2. A **research plan for your next article**. A concrete plan for a specific phase of your research or for your next research article. This can also be a registered report (See the appendix for more information). You will get feedback, ideas and instructions that will make you more successful.
3. A **draft of your research article**. This can be a short article or a work in progress that you are preparing and you want to receive feedback or discuss possible collaborations.
4. A **full research article**. This can be a technical report, a preprint of an article submitted for review or an article already accepted for publication at a conference or journal. You have an opportunity to practice your presentation skills, disseminate your research results and establish new collaborations. You should be one of the authors of this article.

**You should not create a new document just for this workshop.** Submit instead your actual plans, drafts and papers that are part of your current research work and are necessary for your thesis. Feel free to adapt these so you can get feedback, opinions, instructions, etc. on the issues that you deem as important. The purpose of these sessions is not to evaluate anything but to provide help to all. The sessions are for YOU.

The submitted documents will be shared with all the doctoral researchers and supervisors that participate in the event. However, these documents will not be published or distributed outside the event by the organizers. Likewise, you cannot copy the contents or ideas presented in the workshop without express permission of the authors. If you wish to use in your own research contents or ideas presented during the workshop you should contact the original authors and establish a research collaboration.

## Preparing for the Workshop: Read your group's contributions

The workshop will be organised as a number of parallel sessions where doctoral researchers will present and discuss their submissions. The meeting organisers will form the workshop groups and sessions soon after the submission deadline. For this meeting, we expect to send the workshop schedule by April 30.

Each **doctoral research and supervisor** will be assigned to a workshop group. You should read and get familiar with the submissions in your group so you can provide detailed feedback. Please reserve some work time during week 19 for this.

## During for the Workshop Sessions

We allocate 30 minutes for each research presentation and feedback. All doctoral researchers and supervisors must read all the documents to be presented in their session beforehand and prepare to give feedback.

First there will be a presentation by the doctoral researcher. After that, the discussion phase is kicked off by the pre-assigned discussants and moderated by a group chair who is one of the doctoral supervisors.

### Roles

- **Session chair** - controls only the program and schedule. Also controls that the discussion is businesslike, helping, friendly and leads to actionable conclusions. Makes sure that everyone has a chance to speak. Fills-in questions if there is time.
- **Doctoral researcher** - uploads the document to present to the shared site. Prepares a short presentation for the document. Reads the submissions of all other doctoral researchers in the group. Prepares 1-2 questions of all submissions in the session. Participates the discussion with all doctoral researchers and gives feedback.
- **Lead discussant** - another doctoral researcher is assigned as the lead discussant of each doctoral researcher's plan or paper. Opens the discussion after the pitch.
- **Doctoral supervisor** - is assigned to a work group. Reads beforehand all the submissions in the group. Is prepared to discuss and give helpful and actionable feedback to all doctoral researchers. Prepares 1-2 questions of all submissions. Participates in the discussion and gives feedback.



# Preparing Workshop Submissions

## Analysis of an existing paper

The analysis of an existing paper should be based on a paper that is relevant to your research and is published in a top software engineering venue. Top Venues include conferences like ICSE and FSE, journals like IEEE Transactions on Software Engineering, and Empirical Software Engineering. Talk to your advisor about the top forums and whether the paper is relevant for your research before starting. Through detailed analysis of the paper you should learn how to write a high quality paper and you present these learnings to others.

- a. Motivation: What specific problem does the paper address? How does it justify its importance? Does it reference industry needs, prior gaps in research, emerging trends or something else?
- b. Positioning: How does the related work section frame the novelty of the approach? Does the paper build on, refine, or contradict prior work?
- c. Methodology & Results: What are the key methods used? What type of empirical evaluation (case study, controlled experiment, etc.) is performed? How do the results support the claims?
- d. Limitations & Future Work: Does the paper openly discuss limitations? Are the proposed future work ideas feasible?

## Registered Reports

A registered report is a detailed description of the research protocol for a planned study before its execution so that the plans can be peer-reviewed and adjusted based on feedback. For a reference paper on registered reports in software engineering, please see:

<https://link.springer.com/article/10.1007/s10664-022-10277-5>

Since a registered report is a "plan" there are no expectations to have results yet. It is the full paper minus the results and related discussions and conclusions. However, if you have preliminary results, e.g., a small-scale pilot, it is ok to include them in the registered report. For example, with which most of you could be familiar, the protocol for a systematic literature review can be considered a registered report (e.g., the details on the plan for conducting the actual review). Do not let this example bias you towards submitting an SLR protocol - indeed, try to avoid submitting one. Registered reports can be about all types of empirical studies, e.g., case studies, experiments, repository mining and analysis, etc. Remember the goal here: to get feedback on your next empirical study design. Hence, we advise not to submit a report for an already completed or in progress study.

We will not enforce a strict template on the format and structure of the registered report, but you can find some examples of the expectations for content in certain SE conferences and journals. For example:

ESEM'24: <https://conf.researchr.org/track/esem-2024/esem-2024-registered-reports>

MSR'24: <https://2024.msrconf.org/track/msr-2024-registered-reports#Call-for-Registrations>

ICSME'24:

<https://conf.researchr.org/track/icsme-2024/icsme-2024-registered-reports-track#Author-s-Guide>

TOSEM: <https://dl.acm.org/journal/tosem/registered-papers>

Examples (from EMSE):

[https://link.springer.com/journal/10664/topicalCollection/AC\\_dd4c363331f30533f999822c865f34a0/page/1](https://link.springer.com/journal/10664/topicalCollection/AC_dd4c363331f30533f999822c865f34a0/page/1)

# Practical Information

## Travel

Monday 12.5 Travel to Helsinki airport:

<https://www.finavia.fi/en/airports/helsinki-airport/access> If you travel to the event by train you can often buy a ticket from your home city to the airport. In this case, you will switch trains in the Pasila train station.

Monday 12.5 Evening: Travel from Helsinki airport to Pasila: We recommend that you take the local trains I or P ( Train I is 5 minutes faster but usually you can take whatever train leaves first): <https://www.hsl.fi/en/travelling/visitors/airport-train>

Hotel: We recommend that you stay in a hotel in the Pasila area or the Helsinki city center. In Pasila, consider the Original Sokos Hotel Tripla. For more information, please visit <https://www.sokoshotels.fi/en/hotels/helsinki/original-sokos-hotel-tripla>. You can also explore other accommodation options here: <https://www.myhelsinki.fi/visit/plan-your-trip/accommodation/>. Hotels near Helsinki city center train station offer good bus connections to Kumpula.

Tuesday 13.5 From your hotel to the Kumpula campus: Use the HSL route planner <https://www.hsl.fi/en>

## Code of Conduct

A primary goal of the FAST meetings is to promote the open exchange of ideas and the freedom of thought and expression among researchers. Meeting participants may get access to unpublished research plans, drafts and work in progress documents during our events. You should always get explicit permission from the authors before you can use in your own research work any unpublished content or ideas you gain in our events. Likewise, you should always get explicit permission before you share, distribute, or publish any of these contents or ideas to others outside the event. If you wish to use or expand the contents or ideas presented during an event you should contact the original authors and establish a research collaboration.

FAST is dedicated to providing an inclusive harassment-free experience for participants at our events and in official communications channels, including social media. For this reason, we require that all the participants behave professionally and to help create a safe and welcoming environment for all attendees.

Our complete code of conduct is available here:

<https://www.softwareengineering.fi/meetings/code-of-conduct/>

Anyone witnessing or subject to unacceptable behavior can contact the meeting organization by sending an email to [contact@softwareengineering.fi](mailto:contact@softwareengineering.fi) . It is possible to use an anonymous sender for this, such as <https://anonymousemail.me/>

If you feel that you or someone around you is in immediate danger, please dial 112 on your phone (police, fire, ambulance).

## Study Credits

We recommend that doctoral researchers who participate actively in a FAST meeting are granted 1 ECTS towards their doctoral degree.

The contents of the FAST meetings varies from event to event, but they usually include research, education and interactive tasks such as preparing presentations or reports about own research before the meeting (research poster,, research plan, registered report, draft of papers etc.), reviewing reports from other participants, attending keynotes and lectures on research projects and research methods, and presenting own research plans and results.

We strive that the effort required for one FAST meeting amounts to 27 working hours.

## How to register your study credits

The process to register your study credits varies from university to university, please contact your supervisor for this. You may need to provide evidence of your active participation, for example by including the meeting program and your reports or presentations in your request. Also, it may be simpler to register the attendance to several meetings at once, for example by registering the study credits for 4 meetings at the end of the year or all the meetings towards the end of your research studies.