8th FAST Sprint Meeting: Event Guide

11-12.5.26 Turku-Stockholm

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 8th FAST meeting that takes place in Turku on May 11 and 12, 2026. This meeting marks the beginning of the 8th sprint for the researchers starting in August 2024 and the beginning of the 6th 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 1st year retrospective	3	Plan first research article 6m retrospective
# 6 Tampere 4-5.11.2025	6	Draft / full article / plan next article	4	Draft / full article / plan next article
# 7 Joensuu 3-4.2.2026	7	Draft / full article / plan next article	5	Draft / full article / plan next article

# 8 Turku-Stockholm 11-12.5.2026	8	Full article / article collaboration plan	6	Full article / article collaboration plan

Meeting Overview

The 8th FAST Meeting is intended for all doctoral researchers and supervisors. The program consists of three main parts: **plenary sessions in Turku**, **social programme in Turku**, and **the cruise Turku-Stockholm-Turku**. You may want to bring your luggage with you for the day.

Monday 11.5

In Agora, Vesilinnantie 3, 20500 Turku. The university campus map can be found here. The floor map is shown in section Maps.

11:00 – 13:00 Registration and pre-event lunch, location: aula in front of restaurant Galilei (registration) and restaurant Galilei (lunch: free seating, get your lunch ticket during registration).
13:00 – 14:50 Session 1, location: auditorium XXII. Chair: Ivan Porres.

13.00 – 13.20 Opening:

13.00 – 13.15 Welcome from University of Turku. Jaakko Järvi, Dean of Faculty of Technology.
Welcome from Åbo Akademi. Patrik Henelius, Vicerector of Research.

13.15 – 13.20 Program overview. Ivan Porres, ÅA.

13.20 – 13.50 Keynote. Johannes Holvitie, COO at Oiva Health, Docent at UTU.

13.50 – 14.50 Discussion Panel. Facilitator: Ivan Porres. Participants:
Pontus Boström, Head of AI at Groke Technologies
Johannes Holvitie, COO at Oiva Health, Docent at UTU
Mika Karaila, Research Director at Valmet Automation
Kenneth Widell, General Manager, Research Coordination & Funding at Wärtsilä
Leif Åstrand, VP of Research at Vaadin

14:50 – 15:15 Coffee break, location: aula in front of restaurant Galilei.
15:15 – 17:00 Session 2 and Steering Group Meeting (in parallel).

15.15 – 17.00 Let's Write a Paper Together*. Main location: auditorium XXII. Facilitator: Tuomas Mäkilä.

15.15 – 15.25 Instructions.

15.25 – 17.00 Discussions in premade groups*. Aulas in Agora and Natura, ground floor.

15.20 – 16.20 Steering Group Meeting. Location: Turing, Agora floor 3. Chair: Ivan Porres.

15.30 – 17.00 Parallel Session 2 for Supervisors, location: Auditorium XXII.

15.30 – 17.00 Dragos Truscan and Sebastien Lafond (ÅA): Towards a FAST AI Syllabus.

* See section *Preparing for "Let's Write a Paper Together"* activity for more details.

Social programme on Monday 11.5

17:15 Bus from Agora to Forum Marinum (Linnankatu 72, 20100 Turku)
The bus leaves from Vattenborgsvägen 5, close to Agora´s main entrance.

Activities in Forum Marinum:

17:30 – 19:30 Snacks in Göran restaurant & visit the Forum Marinum museum. You can choose when you want to visit the museum during this time.
19:30 – 20:00 Walk from Forum Marinum to the Viking Line terminal (Ensimmäinen linja 6, 20100 Turku). The terminal is 900m from Forum Marinum. Contact the organizers if you need assistance.

Cruise Monday 11.5 – Tuesday 12.5

Cruise Turku-Stockholm-Turku on M/S Viking Grace.
Schedule: Turku-Stockholm 11.5. kl. 20.55-06.30 & Stockholm-Turku 12.5. kl. 07.45-19.50

Note: We remain in the same ship for the whole cruise, do not disembark in Mariehamn nor Stockholm.

Note 2: The following times are according to the Finnish timezone. Be aware that your mobile phone may switch automatically to Swedish time (-1 hour).

Monday 11.5 20:25-

Around 20:00 Arrival to the Viking Line terminal (Ensimmäinen linja 6, 20100 Turku). **All travellers must be ready for boarding LATEST at 20:25**

20:55 Departure from Turku.
From 20:55 Buffet dinner.
After the dinner: night entertainment, according to the program of the cruise.

Tuesday 12.5 - 19:50

08:45 – 10.00 Buffet breakfast. You can choose when to eat.
10:00 – 14:00 Plenary session* location: Flamenco. Chair: Tuomas Mäkilä.
10:00 – 12:00 Session 1.
10.00 – 10.30 Where not to Publish. Jaakko Järvi, UTU.
10.30 – 12.00 Conference and idea abstracts presentations (part I).

Conference presentations:

1. Ali Mehraj, Metadata Card-based Analysis of Software Systems for Regulatory Compliance Check (Tampere, Jyväskylä)
2. Asif Khan, Vibe Coding in Software Development, Benefits, Tensions, and Mitigation Practices: A State of Practice Survey (LUT)
3. Lucas Rocha, Decision-making and Team Autonomy in Large-Scale Agile Software Development: An Analysis of Scaling Frameworks (Aalto)
4. Taija Kolehmainen, Modeling Government Business Ecosystems with Ecosystem Governance Compass (Jyväskylä)

The order of abstract presentations will be decided on site.

12:00 – 12:30 Coffee break, location: the hall nearby Flamenco.

12:30 – 14:00 Session 2.

Conference and idea abstracts presentations (part II).

Conference presentations:

1. Ke Ping, AnoMod: A Dataset for Anomaly Detection and Root Cause Analysis in Microservice Systems (Helsinki)
2. Alina Torbunova and Juuso Rytilahti, Integration of Security Concepts in Introductory Programming Courses (Åbo, Turku)
3. Chamari Dasanayake, Generative AI in Software Testing: A Questionnaire Survey Study of Benefits, Challenges, Opportunities, and Risks (Oulu)
4. Katja Karhu, To Vibe Research or Not to Vibe Research? Generative AI in Qualitative Research (LUT)

The order of abstract presentations will be decided on site.

14:00 – 15:00 Free time, group discussions continue.

15:00 Buffet dinner.

After dinner: Informal meetings / free time / community events.

19:50 Arrival to Turku and end of the meeting.

***There is homework before this session!** See section *"Preparing for Mini Conference: Submit your contribution"* for more details.

Preparing for Mini Conference: Submit your contribution

Doctoral researchers submit articles for presentation in the mini conference held during the plenary session on 12.5. **Deadline: 19.4.2026**. **Note**: the **deadline is hard** and **cannot be extended**. **Information about where to submit your paper is shared by e-mail.**

We aim for high quality works that are (almost) ready. We ***encourage*** every university to send at least one article. We do not have strict requirements regarding the number of pages or the template format. The final program is decided by the local organizers and will be announced later. We will share details regarding presentations with the authors of the selected works later.

Preparing for “Let’s Write a Paper Together” activity

The goal of this group activity is to prepare the abstract of a paper that *could* be written together by the group members. Each group is composed by up to 5 doctoral researchers. We have prearranged groups. You can change your group, but we recommend that you stick to your original group.

Each group:

- prepares a proposal for a research article and presents the title and abstract in the plenary session on Tuesday 12. 5 (3 minute flash presentation). Upload your presentation to the online google slides folder provided by organizers.

Goals

- learn how to explain your research ideas to others
- learn how to collaborate with others (that may work on something different, or be in other universities
- learn how to lead a group, be part of a group, self organize a group
- practice formulating a research question and scoping a research project
- expand your contact network
- maybe, you get an extra paper

After the meeting, we encourage the group to actually conduct the suggested research, write the paper, and present it in the 9th FAST meeting in Oulu. This is optional, always check your work plans with your supervisor.

You can change group after the meeting.

The work groups are as follows:

Group	Group theme	First name	Second name	University
1	Generative AI applications across the software lifecycle	Viktoriia	Olshanskaia	LUT University
1	Generative AI applications across the software lifecycle	Bingxiang	Chen	Tampere University
1	Generative AI applications across the software lifecycle	Mahade	Hasan	Tampere University
1	Generative AI applications across the software lifecycle	Samuli	Määttä	University of Oulu

1	Generative AI applications across the software lifecycle	Juuso	Rytilahti	University of Turku
2	Agile & large-scale software development	Valtteri	Ingervo	Aalto University
2	Agile & large-scale software development	Lucas	Rocha	Aalto University
2	Agile & large-scale software development	Fateme	Broomandi	LUT University
2	Agile & large-scale software development	Sanni	Marjanen	University of Jyväskylä
2	Agile & large-scale software development	Chamari	Dasanayake	University of Oulu
3	Data-driven quality and reliability in software systems	Imanda	Ramanayake	Tampere University
3	Data-driven quality and reliability in software systems	Jesse	Nyyssölä	University of Helsinki
3	Data-driven quality and reliability in software systems	Mikel	Robredo	University of Oulu
3	Data-driven quality and reliability in software systems	Ali	Kaya	Åbo Akademi University
3	Data-driven quality and reliability in software systems	Tomi	Suomi	University of Jyväskylä
4	Software testing & QA with AI	Katja	Karhu	LUT University
4	Software testing & QA with AI	Vihtori	Mäntylä	Aalto University
4	Software testing & QA with AI	Nana	Reinikainen	University of Helsinki
4	Software testing & QA with AI	Hamza Bin	Mazhar	University of Helsinki
4	Software testing & QA with AI	Elena	Ovsiannikova	Åbo Akademi University

5	Requirements engineering, architecture & modeling	Ali	Mehraj	Tampere University
5	Requirements engineering, architecture & modeling	Kabita	Adhikari	University of Helsinki
5	Requirements engineering, architecture & modeling	Mateen	Abbasi	University of Jyväskylä
5	Requirements engineering, architecture & modeling	Taija	Kolehmainen	University of Jyväskylä
5	Requirements engineering, architecture & modeling	Oshani	Weerakoon	University of Turku
6	Explainable and human-aware intelligent systems	Maryum	Hamdani	University of Eastern Finland
6	Explainable and human-aware intelligent systems	Ke	Ping	University of Helsinki
6	Explainable and human-aware intelligent systems	Prabhash	Rathnayake	University of Oulu
6	Explainable and human-aware intelligent systems	Prashani	Jayasingha Arachchige	Åbo Akademi University
6	Explainable and human-aware intelligent systems	Raisul	Kibria	Åbo Akademi University
7	Security, privacy & trustworthy systems	Eerika	Peltonen	LUT University
7	Security, privacy & trustworthy systems	Ying	Song	University of Helsinki
7	Security, privacy & trustworthy systems	Iddamalgoda	Ranatunga	University of Oulu
7	Security, privacy & trustworthy systems	Sammani	Rajapaksha	University of Turku
7	Security, privacy & trustworthy systems	Alina	Torbunova	Åbo Akademi University
8	AI for sensitive and specialized domains	Nan	Yang	LUT University

8	AI for sensitive and specialized domains	Hesham	Ahmed	University of Eastern Finland
8	AI for sensitive and specialized domains	Sameera	Gamage	University of Oulu
8	AI for sensitive and specialized domains	Panu	Puhtila	University of Turku
8	AI for sensitive and specialized domains	Lamin	Jatta	Åbo Akademi University
9	Edge, IoT & distributed intelligence	Korawit	Rupanya	Aalto University
9	Edge, IoT & distributed intelligence	Ari	Kukkaro	Tampere University
9	Edge, IoT & distributed intelligence	Aleksi	Vuorinen	University of Oulu
9	Edge, IoT & distributed intelligence	Kirill	Golubev	University of Turku
9	Edge, IoT & distributed intelligence	Tigabu Yaya	Gishene	Åbo Akademi University
10	Programming languages, systems & emerging paradigms	Shahbaz	Siddeeq	Tampere University
10	Programming languages, systems & emerging paradigms	Maryam	Tavassoli	University of Oulu
10	Programming languages, systems & emerging paradigms	Kavishwa	Wendakoon	University of Oulu
10	Programming languages, systems & emerging paradigms	Yan	Passeniouk	University of Turku
10	Programming languages, systems & emerging paradigms	Krishna Harsha	Kovelakuntla Huthasana	Åbo Akademi University
11	Responsible and sustainable software engineering	Tamara	Ahmed	LUT University
11	Responsible and sustainable software engineering	Asif	Khan	LUT University

11	Responsible and sustainable software engineering	Ruoyu	Su	University of Oulu
11	Responsible and sustainable software engineering	Qaiser	Khan	University of Oulu

Practical Information

Arriving to Turku

- The most convenient way to travel to Turku is by train. There are three train stations in Turku (City Center, Kupitta and Harbour). All trains stop in the City Center station, but the Kupittaa station can be convenient if you travel via the Helsinki track on Monday morning (or you stay at the Sokos Hotel Kupittaa), while the Harbour station can be a good choice for your return trip on Tuesday evening. You can find schedules and book tickets at the VR website.
- You can also travel to Turku by bus. You can find schedules and book tickets at the Matkahuolto website.

In Turku

In Turku, you can easily get around on foot, bus, or taxi. Additionally, if you want to explore the city in your free time, you can rent a bike or a car. You can find more information here.

Bus

The public transport is provided by Föli, you can find more information here.

Taxi

There are various taxi services, including the following:

- Raumair
- Taxidata
- Menevä

Accomodation

These two hotels are close by to the Agora building where the meetings starts:

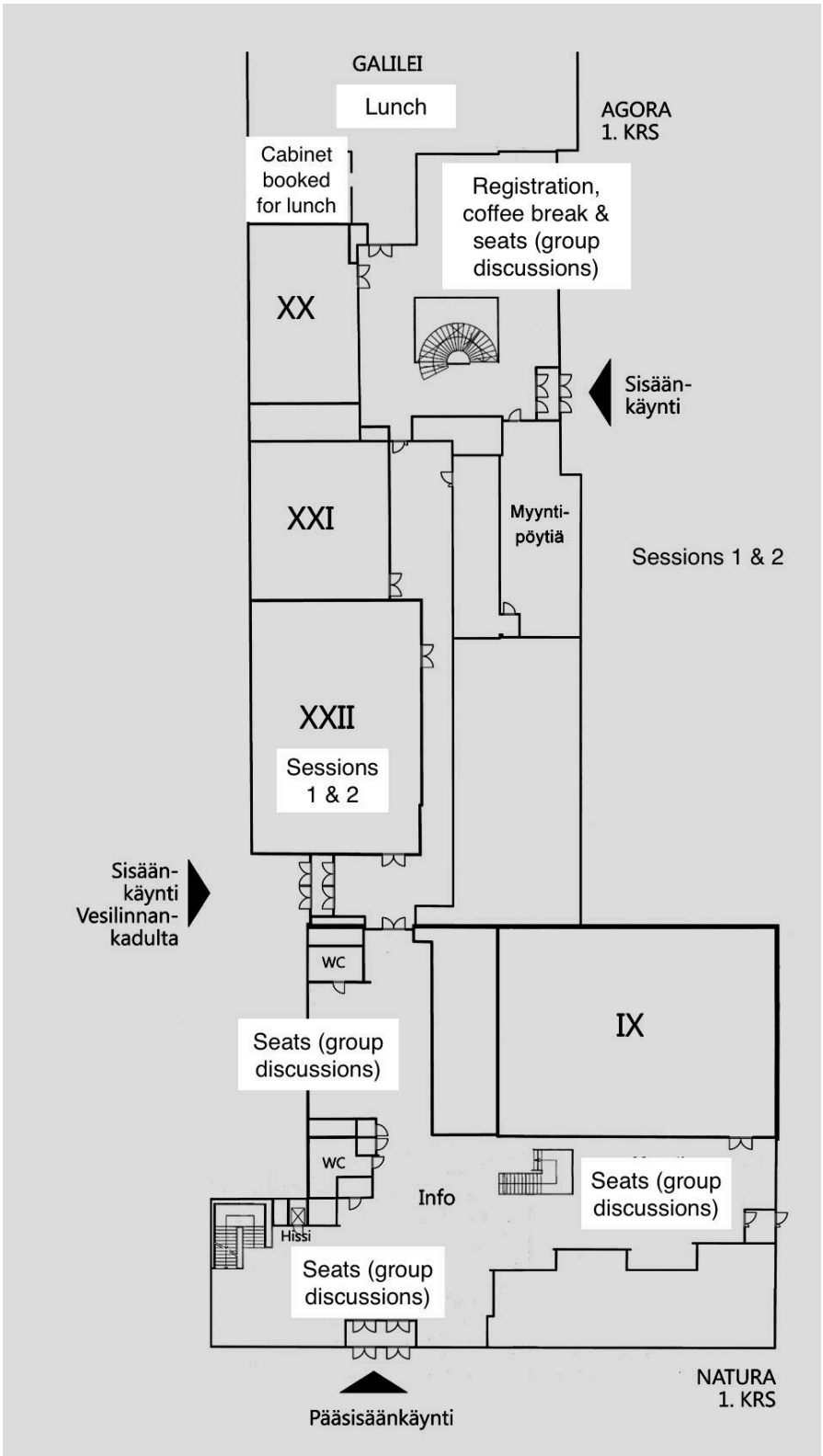
- Original Sokos Hotel Kupittaa This is next to Kuppittaa train station, a good choice if you arrive late at night by train via the Helsinki track.
- Holiday Club Turun Caribia, a spa hotel.

The following hotels are in the city center. They are closer to the City Center train station. Also, most restaurants are located around the center. It takes 20 minutes to walk from the center to Agora, or 10 minutes by bus.

- Scandic Julia
- Original Sokos Hotel Wiklund
- Omena Hotel Turku Kauppiaskatu
- Scandic Hamburger Börs
- Bob W Turku City Centre

Note that you do not need a hotel for the night of Monday 11.5.

Maps


GALILEI
Lunch
AGORA
1. KRS
Cabinet booked for lunch
Registration, coffee break & seats (group discussions)
XX
Sisään-käynti
XXI
Myynti-pöytiä
Sessions 1 & 2
XXII
Sessions 1 & 2
Sisään-käynti Vesilinnan-kadulta
WC
IX
Seats (group discussions)
WC
Info
Seats (group discussions)
Hissi
Seats (group discussions)
NATURA
1. KRS
Pääsisäänkäynti

Preparations for the cruise

We take care of the cruise reservation. Each participant receives a personal cabin at the ship. Please note that you need a valid passport or ID card that allows you to travel between Finland and Sweden in order to board the ship.You can find more information about travel documents here.

Leaving Turku

There are several train and bus connections that leave conveniently from the Turku harbour shortly after the arrival of the ship.