

AGILE FINLAND WANTS TO BRING PRODUCTIVITY IMPROVEMENTS TO FINNISH SOFTWARE COMPANIES

HELSINKI, SEPTEMBER 1st, 2008-- Agile Finland ry organizes the first Scandinavian Agile Conference 2008 in Helsinki on October 29th (www.scan-agile.org) with the goal of bringing productivity improvements to Finnish software companies. It is a clear trend that software companies are adopting Agile Software development. Pekka Abrahamsson, Research Professor at VTT, Finland and the General Chair for the Scan-Agile '08 notes: *"Every week I get contacts and encouraging initiatives from a range of companies, Finnish and non-Finnish, wanting to know more about adopting Agile Software development"*.

The conference will unite IT industry professionals and experts who will examine how this new trend can help software industry in Finland. Vasco Duarte, Organizing Chair for Scan-Agile Conference, explains: *"Just like in the 90's when the car industry woke up and discovered they could not continue to build cars like they did before, so is the software industry today waking up and understanding that software cannot be developed like we did before the dot com bubble busted. We need to be able to react faster to customer needs, to be more agile."*

Agile Finland ry is a non-profit organization by individual software professionals that are urging their own companies to improve the way they develop software. *"It is imperative that we improve our productivity resulting in more software jobs being created in the Nordic region"* states Vasco Duarte.

Agile software development has proved it's effectiveness all over the world, and in the Scan-Agile we will hear success stories, experiences and challenges from several companies. F-Secure's CTO Pirkka Palomäki, will present the case study of F-Secure's agile adoption who recently quoted: *"It was clear that the old ways of developing software were no longer adequate for our dynamic and demanding market"*.

Companies like F-Secure and others have seen the benefits that Agile software development brings. Prof. Abrahamsson observes that *"Many companies have experienced numerous benefits from the expected productivity and quality improvements to higher morale among personnel."* Other companies from Finland in the leading edge of agile software development are Nokia Siemens Networks, Nokia, Elektrobit, On2 and Reaktor Innovations. These companies are currently developing solutions for scaling up agile solutions to global development settings in a three-year FLEXI research project, which is lead by Finnish partners. FLEXI is partially funded by Tekes in Finland.

Finally, a message from the chairperson of the Agile Finland ry, Lasse Ziegler: *"Scan-Agile is only one of the activities we organize regularly for our member and the software development community in general. Twice a year we organize our Agile Seminars to which we invite world-class speakers. We want to bring and continuously sustain the Agile software development message to the Finnish software industry"*.

To participate in the conference, you are requested to visit www.scan-agile.org and complete the registration process.

Contact information

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To know more about Agile Finland visit www.agilefinland.com

About the Scandinavian Agile Conference 2008

Executing its mission, the Agile Finland ry organizes an annual conference to bring top-notch speakers in the Agile community to Finland. The conference will take place in the Marina Congress Center on October 29th 2008 and registration is now open at: www.scan-agile.org.

Scan-Agile provides excellent networking opportunities to participants and sponsors.

The target audience for this event includes decision makers in the IT industry as well as practitioners (CTO, Directors, Department managers, Team leaders). The Awareness track will focus on case studies to cater for the decision makers. The Open Space and Practitioner tracks will also focus on practitioners.

For more information visit www.scan-agile.org

About Agile Finland

Agile Finland ry is an association that wants to foster agile software development methods and improve the knowledge of agile methods in it's members and in Finland as a whole.

Agile Finland ry is composed of individual members as well as corporate members.

Agile Finland ry organizes events for it's members and the software industry in general, such as regular meetings, seminars, conferences, coding dojos, etc.

For more information visit www.agilefinland.com