

Three Decades of Successful Conferences in Quality and Dependability – CCF

Dan G. STOICHIȚOIU*, Ioan C. BACIVAROV**

*SRAC, Bucharest, Romania

**EUROQUALROM – ETTI - University Politehnica of Bucharest, Bucharest, Romania

* **Dr. Dan G. Stoichitoiu** is the President of SRAC and the General Chairman of *CCF conferences*, e-mail: dan.stoichitoiu@srac.ro

** **Prof. dr. Ioan C. Bacivarov** is the Director of EUROQUALROM-ETI, University “Politehnica” of Bucharest, President of ARACIS and the Chairman of the International Scientific Committee of *CCF conferences*, e-mail: bacivaro@euroqual.pub.ro

Abstract

The coordinators of the International Conferences in Quality and Dependability – CCF present the evolution of the CCF conferences, which became an important international forum for the dissemination of recent information and scientific results in quality and dependability (reliability, maintainability, safety/security). They conclude that CCF is now a well-established brand of excellence among the international scientific meetings in the interdisciplinary field of quality and dependability.

Keywords: *Quality, Dependability, Reliability, Maintainability, Security, Conference, International Conference, CCF, Quality Policy, Quality Management, history.*

The year 2017 marks an important anniversary for the community of Romanian specialists in the field of quality and dependability: 30 years since the first important conference on quality and reliability – CCF¹ – was organized in Romania.

As already mentioned, the *Conferences in Quality and Reliability/Dependability* have a long and good tradition among the specialists of the field. That’s why, we consider useful to remember – at this anniversary moment – the main moments that marked the evolution of CCF – from a national scientific meeting to an important international conference in the field.

The first *National Conference on Quality and Reliability – CCF’87*, organised by the Central Reliability Group of MIET, took place at Poiana Brasov, in September 1987. It was then decided that this conference should become a traditional national scientific event in the field. Therefore, the second

edition of the Conference, **CCF’88** took place at the premises of ‘Minerva’, ‘Diana’ and ‘Afrodita’ hotels from Baile Herculane, in 1988.

After the political changes of 1989, SRAC took over this tradition, by organising the third edition of the Conference – **CCF’96** at the Hotel ‘Roman’ from Baile Herculane, in September 1996.

The fourth edition of the conference – **CCF’97** was organised in Sinaia, while the fifth edition – **CCF’98** was organised in Sinaia too, at the ‘Holiday Inn’ hotel. **CCF’99**, the sixth edition of the conference took place at the Hotel ‘Sport’ from Poiana Brasov.

The seventh edition of the conference – **CCF2000** was organised at the Hotel ‘Palace’ from Sinaia in the year 2000; it was a scientific meeting with a wide international participation and, as a consequence, it was decided that the further editions of CCF should be included in the circuit of the international conferences

¹ CCF – is the abbreviation of *Conferinta de Calitate si Fiabilitate (Conference on Quality and Reliability – in Romanian)*

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in quality and dependability and organised every two years. The national journal “**Calitatea – acces la succes**” and the international journal “**Qualite-Forum Scientifique**” were launched during **CCF2000**, in the presence of the Editors-in-Chief of the two publications.

The next **CCF** scientific meetings, namely the eighth edition of the Conference – **CCF2002**, organized at the Casino of Sinaia, as well as the ninth edition – **CCF2004** – organized at Hotel Mara in Sinaia were unanimously considered as important international scientific events in the field of quality and dependability.



The 10th edition of the conference **CCF2006** – organized at the Casino Conference Hall from Sinaia – was an anniversary one. More than 70 papers were presented by specialists in the field from 10 countries: Argentina, Australia, Belgium, France, Great Britain, Greece, Moldavia, the Netherlands, Switzerland and Romania, too. A special session of **CCF2006** marked



the centenary of the *International Electrotechnical Commission (IEC)*.

During the 11th International Conference on

Quality and Dependability – **CCF2008** specialists from 13 countries, including Australia, Belgium, France, Great Britain, Italy, India, Maroc, Moldavia, the Netherlands, Portugal, Switzerland, Tunisia and Romania presented at Sinaia their points of view in more than 60 papers.

The special session “*A homage to Joseph M. Juran (1904-2008)*” organized at the beginning of the conference represented a tribute to the great “Guru” of quality of Romanian origin **Joseph M. Juran**, the “father” of the modern quality management who passed away at the beginning of 2008.

A special session marked the 15th anniversary of the **Romanian Society for Quality Assurance (SRAC)** – the main organiser of **CCF** conferences, too.



More than 50 papers authored by specialists from Australia, Belgium, Czech Republic, France, Great Britain, India, Maroc, the Netherlands, Switzerland, Tunisia and Romania were presented during the 12th International Conference on Quality and Dependability – **CCF2010** organized at the Casino Conference Center from Sinaia.

The participants at **CCF2010** had the special



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opportunity to meet Professor Emeritus **Alessandro Birolini**, a remarkable specialist in the field – considered as a Reliability Guru – who presented an invited conference. During **CCF2010** was launched – *in world premiere* – the 6th edition in English of the monumental book of Prof. Birolini **Reliability Engineering: Theory and Practice** – published by Springer Publishing House and considered by the specialists in the field as a veritable “Bible of Reliability”.

During the 13th International Conference on Quality and Dependability **CCF2012** – organised for the first time in a beautiful area of the *Black Sea*, at *Neptun International Conference Center*, specialists from 13 countries, including Australia, Belgium, France, Great Britain, Italy, India, Maroc, Moldavia, the Netherlands, Portugal, Switzerland, Tunisia and Romania presented their points of view in more than 50 papers.

The special guest of the 13th International Conference on Quality and Dependability – **CCF2012** was Mr. **Gianluca Mule**, Senior Manager of the well-known *European Foundation for Quality Management* – **EFQM** who presented the *EFQM Excellence Model*. The EFQM Excellence Model is the most popular quality tool in Europe, used by more than 30,000 organizations to improve their performances.



During the last day of the conference the evolutions and the perspectives regarding the management, engineering and certification of quality and dependability in Romania and abroad were analysed as a part of the special session **ISO 9000 Forum** – a session that marked the 25th anniversary of this famous international standard. This session celebrated the 20th anniversary of the **Romanian Society for Quality Assurance (SRAC)**, the main organiser of CCF

conferences, too.

During the 14th International Conference on Quality and Dependability **CCF2014** – organised at the Palace hotel from Sinaia, specialists from Belgium, France, Great Britain, India, Israel, the Netherlands, Serbia, Switzerland, Turkey and Romania, too presented about 60 papers.



The first day of the conference brought to the attention of the participants an event with an important international impact: **The EFQM Open Doors Day in Romania**, organized by **SRAC** and **EFQM** and with the participation of *Grundfos Romania* and the *Hungarian Association for Excellence*.

The **CCF2014** conference was organized in a special year for quality: the anniversary of nine decades from the first *control chart* introduced by the quality



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guru **Walter Shewhart** in 1924, which launched the statistical process control and the quality improvement. This moment, considered as the *birthday of the modern quality*, was the point of departure of an interesting CCF debate concerning the evolutions and the future of quality.

The 15th International Conference on Quality and Dependability CCF2016 was organised at the Palace hotel from Sinaia, too; well-known specialists in the field – academics, managers, practitioners and researchers from France, Israel, Serbia, Switzerland, U.S.A., and Romania, presented their points of view, in about 50 papers.

The special guests of the *15th International Conference in Quality and Dependability CCF2016* were important international experts in the field, namely:

- Prof. Emeritus Dr. **Alessandro Birolini** from Polytechnic Institute (ETH) Zurich, Switzerland, the famous European “Guru” in Reliability, author of the best-seller *Reliability Engineering*, a true “Reliability bible” – printed in 10 editions;
- Dr. **Isaac Sheps** – Convener of ISO/TC 176/SC2/WG25 (working group for revision of the ISO 9004);
- Prof. Dr. **Vidosav D. Majstorovic** from University of Belgrad, well-known Serbian expert in quality management;
- Dr. **Steli Loznen**, Israel – Convener of IEC/TC 62/SC 62A/MT29 & WG14.



Special emphasis was given during CCF2016 to the problems of *Quality, Security and Risk Management and Analysis, Dependability Modelling and Evaluation, Environmental Management and Quality Assurance in Education*. A special attention was given to the requirements and implementation of the revised standard **ISO 9001:2015**.

Quality and dependability have become today undeniable strengths contributing to the development of

companies, small businesses or large multinational groups. Their application in different organisations must be the result of research and partnership among industry, academia and business. During the last three decades the CCF conferences contributed to the dialogue between the main actors of the quality and dependability world.



The points of view of well-known specialists in the field from Romania and several other countries presented during the CCF conferences, allowed to establish a realistic image of the national and international evolutions and of the perspectives of these modern fields.

The dynamic political and economic evolutions in Europe during the last decades increased the importance of *quality*, now considered as a strategic tool and a determining factor for the development and enhancement of Europe's global competitiveness.

The international scientific meetings, such as CCF is, could be a contribution to this objective, by reviewing the state of the art, experiences, and new trends in the relevant scientific areas.

Several presentations of the CCF conferences were dedicated to the evolutions in the European quality on the European scene during these last years, as well as to the national evolutions in this field. The **real** integration of Romanian economy in the unified European structures is an impossible endeavour unless the severe

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requirements on quality based on the EU's standards are meet.

Several *organisational, research and educational programs* and initiatives in the **quality and dependability** (esp. safety/security) field were developed in Romania during the last years, and they were analysed in the framework of the **CCF** conferences.

Under the conditions of the actual *world economic crisis*, the debates of the last **CCF** conferences tried to give an answer to the following question: could be the optimal managerial and technical strategies based on quality and dependability an *advantage* for companies in their effort to overcome this economic crisis?

A wide selection of papers presented in the frame of each **CCF conference** was included in the *Proceedings* of the conference, entitled “**Quality and Dependability**”. The collection of these Proceedings is a valuable proof of the scientific and managerial developments in the areas of quality and dependability, at both national and international level.

At this anniversary moment, we would like to thank all the authors who submitted their work, the members of the organising committee, and all those who contributed to the **CCF** conferences with their efforts and support. Special thanks to the members of the *International Scientific Committee of CCF* prestigious personalities in the field, who made up an equilibrated and high-level scientific program for all the **CCF** conferences and reviewed the submitted papers under severe time constraints.

The primary objective of the *International Conferences on Quality and Dependability – CCF* was to provide an international forum for the dissemination of recent information and scientific results in these modern domains.

The **CCF** conferences were organised by the **Romanian Society for Quality Assurance (SRAC)**, under the aegis of several important international organisations in the field, including **EFQM** or **OECD**.

We are proud to mention that several editions of the **CCF** conferences had the scientific endorsement of the *Institute of Electrical and Electronics Engineers –*

IEEE (Romanian section), the world's leading professional association for the advancement of technology, too.

It is interesting to mention that the **CCF** conference was listed as the 3rd longest running conference in the quality and dependability field in the international specialized assessments.



The International Conference in Quality and Dependability – CCF is now a well established **brand** of *excellence* among the international scientific meetings in the inter-disciplinary field of **quality and dependability** (*reliability, maintainability, safety & security*).

We hope that the **CCF conferences** organised in Romania during the last three decades have contributed to the promotion in our country of new ideas and methods in quality and dependability.

Note

We have included in this issue of the journal “*Asigurarea calitatii – Quality Assurance*” extensive versions of papers presented at the **CCF** conferences by three of the most important European specialists in the field of quality, namely: Prof. dr. **Ton van der Wiele** (Erasmus University Rotterdam, the Netherlands), Prof. dr. **Maurice Pillet** (Savoie University, Annecy, France) and Dr. **Michele Cano** (University of West of Scotland, United Kingdom) – **I.C.B.**