

# The International Requirements Engineering Board (IREB)

Standardization of Terminology,  
Methods, Techniques and  
Documentation

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- Executive Director of Zühlke AG Switzerland
- Member of the International Software Product Management Association (ISPMA) founding
- IEEE and ACM member
- SAQ head of Steering Board Informatics
- SwissICT core team member working group “Lean, Agile, Scrum”
- Member of Swiss Agile Leaders Circle



# Requirements Engineering

Common terminology, techniques and methods



## Why do we need it?

### Different implementation of Requirements Engineering

- At customers, suppliers, partners
- In distributed teams at different locations, offshore, near shore
- In different industrial sectors

### Problems in communication due to

- different languages
- different cultures (ethnological and company specific)

### Agile Development and Requirements Engineering

- Importance of RE discipline massive underestimated
- Sustainable path in organizations relies on requirements
- Professional requirements engineering is even more important in agile environments

Customers, suppliers and development partners talk past each other when defining requirements

### Consequences (incomplete)

- Incomplete Requirements
- Ambiguous Requirements
- Missing common understanding of Requirements
- Different prioritization of Requirements
- Conflicts between project partners
- Time and cost overruns
- Missing, wrong or „gold plated“ functionality

The Standish Group Chaos Report still reports these issues as the main cause of project failures

### Common understanding of terms

- Within distributed teams
- Between customers, suppliers and development teams
- Over language and cultural boundaries

### Elicitation, documentation and administration of Requirements

- Over release cycles
- In the context of agile development
- Within distributed teams

### Know-How Transfer

- Time to be productive for new hires
- Within a teams, a location, an organization, international, ...

### Different skill levels

- Divergent education paths in professional life

### Why not “just” training or coaching ?

#### Training

- Provides the fundament for know-how acquisition
- Is a recognized form of qualification
- Is part of employee motivation

#### Certification

- Provides an international recognized fundament for training
- Motivates companies to invest in training
- Motivates professionals to improve their skills
- Offers a possibility to companies to demonstrate their expertise

# The IREB – Engaged RE professionals

## International Requirements Engineering Board (IREB)

### ■ Members of the board

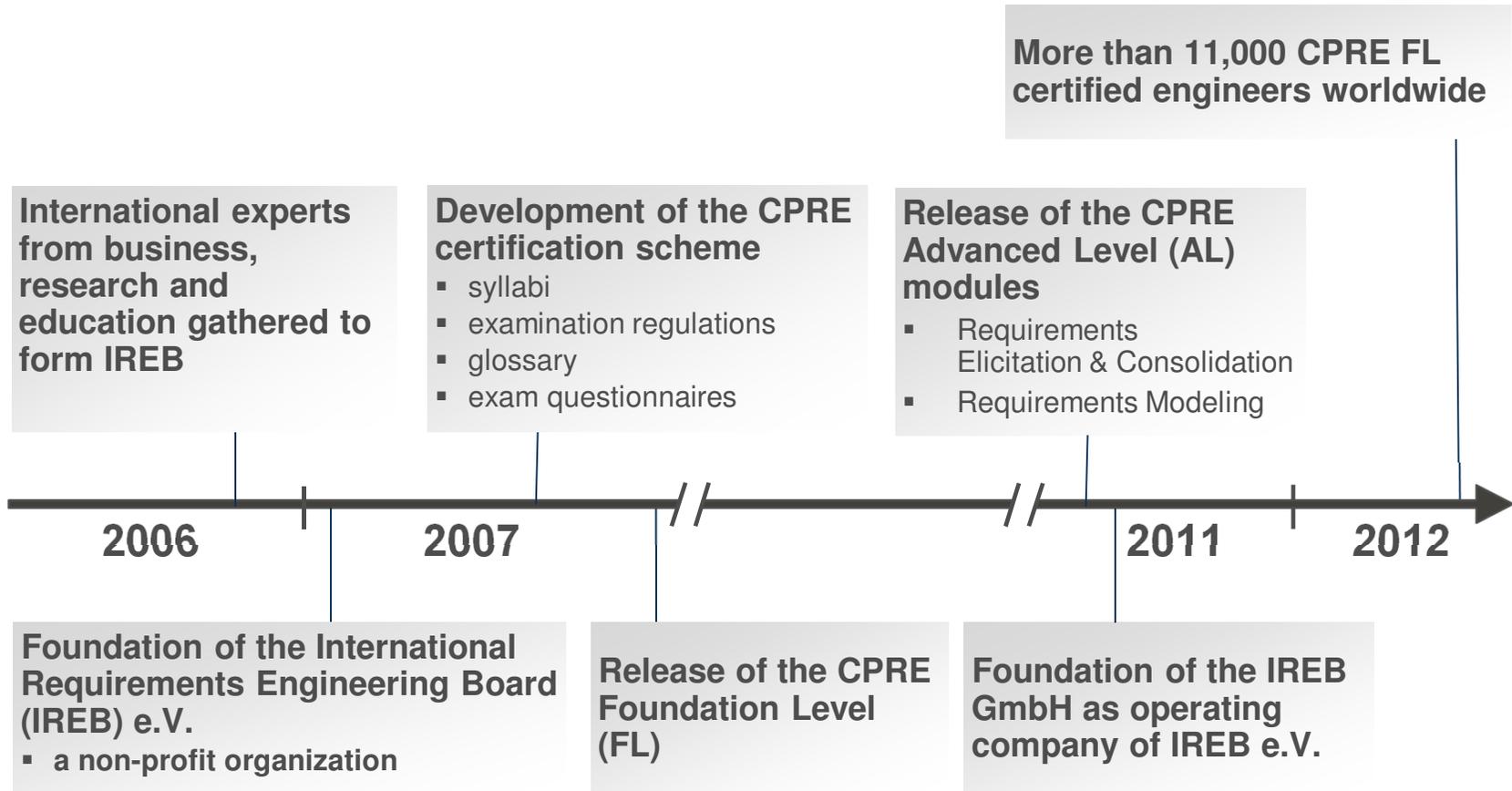
- Personal board members:  
Renown experts from industry,  
research, consulting and  
education
- Supporting Members:  
Committed and professional persons  
in Requirements Engineering



### ■ Activities of the board

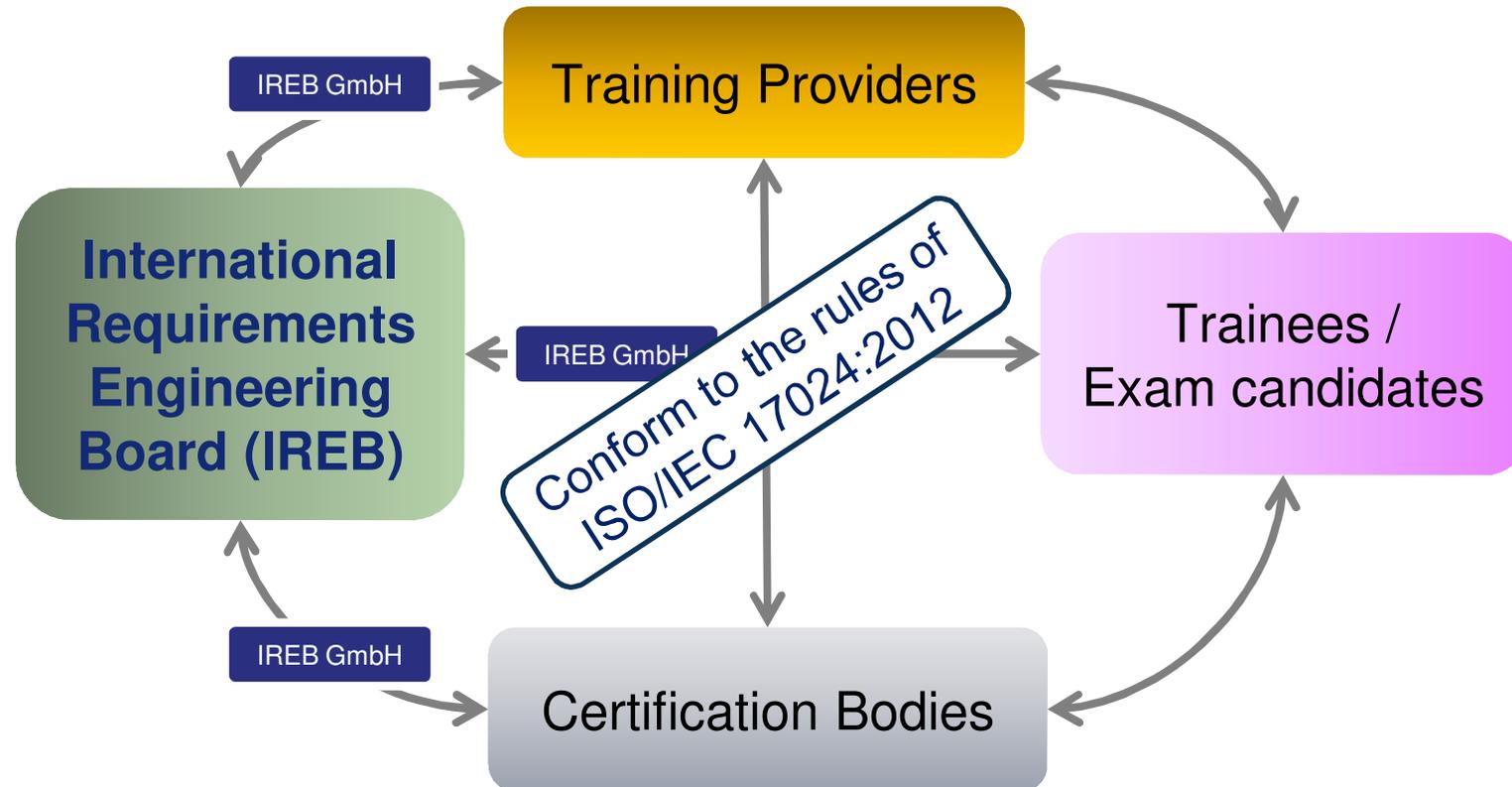
- Elaboration of the curricula, exams and the glossary for the  
„Certified Professional for Requirements Engineering“
- Translations of the artifacts: English, French, German, Polish,  
Spanish, Portuguese (Brazil)
- Publishing of articles, textbooks and references

# The IREB – Development of IREB



# The CPRE

## The principles of the certification



Allocation of tasks to clearly separated and independent organizations ensures fairness and neutrality.

# The CPRE

## Certified Professional for Requirements Engineering

- Personal certificate for requirements engineering
  - not time limited
- Two step certification program
  - Foundation Level 
  - Advanced Level 
- CPRE Foundation Level
  - accessible to everyone, as there are no prerequisites

## The CPRE - Three level certification program

### CPRE Advanced Level

- Mastering and using methods and techniques
- Specialization in one or more modules:
  - Requirements Elicitation and Consolidation
  - Requirements Modeling
  - Requirements Management – in work



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### CPRE Foundation Level

- Fundamental understanding of domain, methodology and available techniques



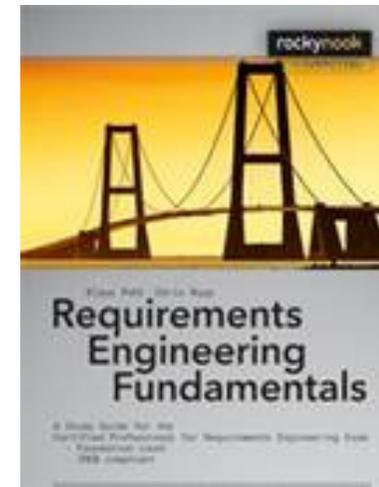
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**Most important education in RE worldwide  
- besides university education!**

## The CPRE - Foundation Level



- Fundamental understanding of RE
- Languages
  - Syllabi and exams currently in English, French, German, Polish, Portuguese (Brazil), Spanish - Chinese in preparation
- No prerequisite
- Companion Book available in
  - English
  - German
  - Portuguese (Brazil)



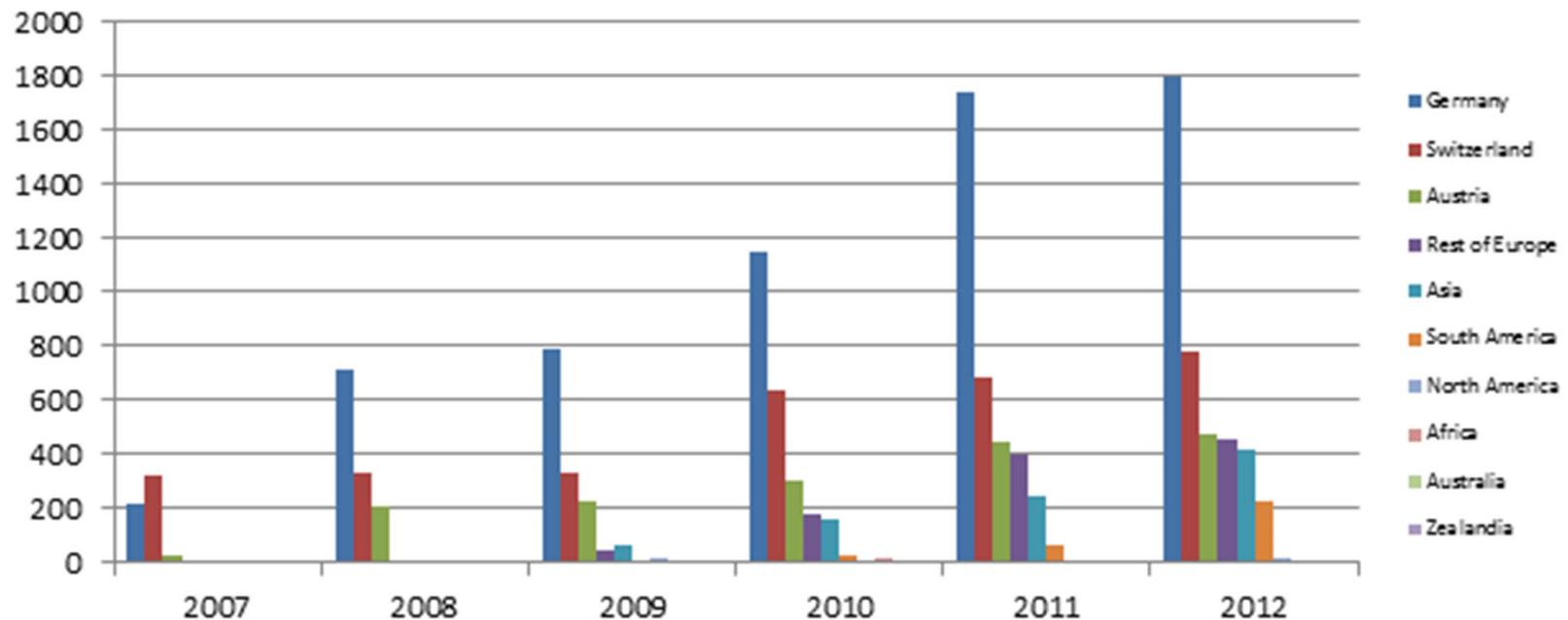
## The CPRE - Advanced Level



- Released Modules
  - Requirements Elicitation & Consolidation, March 1<sup>st</sup>, 2011
  - Requirements Modeling, March 1<sup>st</sup>, 2011
- Module in work
  - Requirements Management, planned for 2013
- Languages
  - Syllabi and exams currently in German and English
- Prerequisite
  - CPRE Foundation Level certificate

# The CPRE - Growth and geographic distribution

## Examinations since inception



- Certifications in 40 countries
- Passing rate of approx. 80 %
- More than 11,000 certificates worldwide

## The CPRE - What makes the CPRE unique?

- **No prerequisites required**
- **Clear learning path guidance**
- **No recertification**
- **International acceptance** –  
more than 11,000 certified in 40 countries
- **IREB as open and fair organization**
  - **contribute** - as part of the “IREB family”  
to further development of the CPRE program
  - **expand** the offer of CPRE trainings
- **Reinvestment of the revenues** of IREB in the  
development and the spread of the CPRE
- **Clear to professionalize applied RE**

## The CPRE - The goals

### Goals of the CPRE

- establish a common terminology in RE
- provide international accepted techniques and methods for RE
- provide an international accepted base for training in RE
- improve the current practice of RE

# Any questions ?

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