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into practitioners' perceptions and attitudes towards inconsistency management, which reveals that their decision making regarding inconsistency is often not grounded in the knowledge modern RE fundamentals have to offer. We propose possible explanations for this phenomenon, and discuss possible future solutions to bridge the gap between RE theory and practice in the context of inconsistency management.
Index Terms— Inconsistency management, Requirement engineering, Empirical study
I. Introduction

Handling inconsistencies is a key challenge in requirements engineering (RE) for a computer-based system (CBS). Inconsistency in RE is typically described in the literature as a situation in which the requirements specification documents for a CBS contain conflicting or contradictory descriptions of the expected behavior of the CBS or of its domain. Such conflicting descriptions may come as a result of, for example, conflicting goals between different stakeholders, and changes introduced during the evolution of the requirements (Nuseibeh et al., 2000, Nuseibeh et al., 2001). As such, these kinds of inconsistencies are more general than strict logical inconsistencies. Hereinafter, "inconsistency" is the RE kind, unless it is preceded by "logical". Traditionally, handling inconsistencies meant eliminating them all, with the underlying