Editorial

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Biographical notes: Panagiotis Georgiadis is Associate Professor in the Department of Informatics and Telecommunications of the University of Athens. He has been a regular member of the Senate of University of Athens (1992–1994), Director of the Computer Systems & Applications Division of the Department of Informatics (1994–1996) and Secretary General for Information Systems by the Greek Ministry of Finance (1997–2002). He lectures on Information Systems, Web Applications and E-Government topics. His research interests include distributed systems, IT management and e-government. He has authored more than 50 articles and contributed in a number of research projects.

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Continuous advancements of digital communication and digital content technologies have tremendously influenced the way that organisations of all types, from institutionally established public and private bodies to loosely structured social groups, operate and transact. Following the disembodiment of interpersonal communication, the role of physical presence as a prerequisite to collaboration and trust is more and more replaced by our virtual interaction. The Internet, the web and a multitude of other technologies offer the grounds not simply for remote information sharing but, most importantly, for the subsequent emergence of novel organisational forms and social structures.

In the course of this evolutionary process, the concept of electronic governance is no longer restricted to the electronic implementation and re-engineering of relations between citizens and the states. Departing from traditional e-government projects, e-democracy and e-deliberation initiatives, electronic governance also manifests itself in a much broader domain encompassing the formation, operation and evolution of structures such as open source and open content projects, distributed and peer-to-peer collaborative

work, virtual organisations, social media, digital social networks and online communities. It is our belief, therefore, that electronic governance deserves treatment as a concept and a process inter-disciplinary in its own right, that cuts across traditional research dichotomies and application boundaries.

The *International Journal of Electronic Governance* has been conceived in an endeavour not only to study the multiple dimensions of e-government and e-democracy, but also to liaise these important fields of research with the manifestations of electronic governance in many other domains and investigate the emergence of theories and best practice that treat the unifying concept of electronic governance from a number of multi-disciplinary standpoints. Apart from the journal's boundary-crossing subject coverage this objective is also reflected in the IJEG Editorial Board, comprising more than 20 prominent members from a broad scientific spectrum of disciplines.

The inaugural call for papers of IJEG, published in Spring 2006 and calling for contributions along the overall scope of interest of the journal, has encountered a satisfactory response. In line with the journal's standards, all manuscripts received have been subject to a double blind review and revision process before the final publication decision. The research department of the journal's inaugural issue contains six articles on a number of topics from the journal's subject coverage:

- 'A methodology for the redesign of the electoral process to an e-electoral process', by Xenakis and Macintosh, suggests a methodology for the redesign of electoral and voting processes based on e-participation technologies

- 'The e-Government digital credentials', by Corradini, Paganelli and Polzonetti, discusses the issues of identity management in e-government applications and proposes a new approach to the development of digital credentials

- 'E-government in a developing country: citizen-centric approach for success', by Akther, Onishi and Kidokoro, investigates high technology intervention vs. active citizen participation as two driving factors for the success of e-government projects in developing countries

- 'Invigorating website management through XML: an e-government case from New York state', by Gil-Garcia, Costello, Pardo and Werthmuller reports on how government websites and Internet-based communication can benefit from efficient content management

- 'Collaborative technology: providing agility in response to extreme events', by Jefferson and Harrald, provides an overview of a research project on agile emergency response to extreme natural events that call for co-ordinated collaborative disaster management

- 'New internet-based systems for management of sponsored research and conferences: a contribution towards e-governance in India', by Sridharan and Kohli, presents results of an effort towards web-based management of research proposaling.

In the second part of this issue, some additional sections can be found on news and briefs, as well as a calendar of interesting conferences organised in the months to come. As the journal will further develop, it is our intention to enrich supplementary columns with continued news from the electronic governance constituency, as well as with briefs about interesting developments, book reviews and conference reports. The research department

of the journal will also include short-refereed contributions in the form of technical notes, whereas special journal issues are planned focusing on specific topics of interest.

Closing this introductory note, we would like to express our warm thanks to Inderscience Publishers for giving us the opportunity to launch the *International Journal of Electronic Governance*. Their continued encouragement, coupled with the professional support of all IEL staff, are invaluable in our effort to publish this issue and further develop this journal. And we would also like to extend our thanks to members of the IJEG Editorial Board, whose participation and input are instrumental for shaping the inter-disciplinary profile of IJEG, as well as to all of this issue's authors and contributors and especially the article reviewers, whose feedback is essential for keeping up with the high quality standards of this publication.

We invite you to browse the contents of the IJEG inaugural issue and sincerely hope that you will find what follows worth of your interest in this journal.