Editorial

Panagiotis Georgiadis

Department of Informatics and Telecommunications,
University of Athens, Greece
E-mail: georgiad@di.uoa.gr

Dimitris Gouscos

Department of Communication and Mass Media Studies,
University of Athens, Greece
E-mail: gouscos@media.uoa.gr

Biographical notes: Panagiotis Georgiadis is 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.

Dimitris Gouscos is a Lecturer with the Department of Communication and Media Studies of the University of Athens and a research fellow of the Laboratory of New Technologies in Communication, Education and the Mass Media. He has authored more than 25 articles and contributed in a number of R&D projects. His research interests include electronic governance, digital communication, social media and digital games.

This second issue of the *International Journal of Electronic Governance* presents research work that further explores the subjects covered by the journal. What is more, publication of this issue coincides with a number of further developments of IJEG (establishment of a new section for the journal's research department, affiliation with the ICEG international conference, organisation of forthcoming special issues) detailed in the following.

The research department of the current issue contains seven papers on a number of topics from the journal's scope of coverage:

- 'Electronic Public Service (EPS) and its implementation in Chinese local governments', by Hu et al., develops an analysis framework to discuss electronic public service offerings and studies the implementation of such offerings by Chinese local government.

- 'Understanding and scoping life events', by Tambouris and Tarabanis, aims to create a common understanding of the life-event concept by proposing a suitable definition as well as a modelling framework for life events based on a simple, systemic model for public services.

- 'New multi-channel voting scheme: towards remote e-voting over the internet', by Morales-Rocha et al., proposes a Multi-Channel voting scheme for governmental elections, where every eligible voter has the possibility to choose his or her method to vote, from traditional presence-based voting to location-independent e-voting.

- 'Early Indian initiatives in e-democracy', by Gowda discusses how recent advances in e-participation have helped to redress the imbalance of e-governance initiatives focusing more on improving government service delivery rather than on deepening democracy, using e-democracy initiatives in India as a study case.

- 'Towards a model of users' acceptance of e-government: a study of Indian central excise e-filing system', by Sahu and Gupta identifies variables affecting the acceptance of e-government and the intention to use e-services, resulting in a model validated against user questionnaires.

- 'Moving beyond the technological neutrality myth: ICTs and power in public administration', by Zimmermann et al., applies a multi-level governance approach to the problem of assessing the impact of ICTs on the perceived power relationships of public administrations and their stakeholders.

In the *Technical Papers* section of this department, 'Online debate and transposition of the European Copyright Directive into French law', by Vidal provides an account of the active electronic discussion that has taken place on the occasion of introducing the European Copyright Directive into the French national legislature. It must be noted that the IJEG *Technical Papers* constitutes a new section of the journal's research department. The mission of this part of the journal is to accommodate refereed short papers that cover specific issues of interest, thus serving as an outlet for focused research work that still brings insight to important issues of the electronic governance agenda.

The second part of the current issue features two more departments: the IJEG *News and Briefs* provide coverage of the UN Global E-government Readiness Report 2008 – From E-Government to Connected Governance, about to be published; the European eGovernment Awards 2007, which have been presented in September 2007; and the research network 'Electronic Democracy' (DEL), jointly run by two research groups of CNRS, France. The IJEG *Conference Calendar* that follows lists a number of conferences and other international events of interest to the journal's readership, currently open for attendance or submissions.

From our continuous effort for further developing the *International Journal of Electronic Governance*, we are glad to announce the affiliation of IJEG to the *International Conference on E-Governance* (ICEG, http://www.iceg.net/2008/), an important yearly forum for discussing research findings, strategies, policies, and technologies in the field of e-governance. Once a year, starting from 2008, IJEG will invite the authors of the best papers presented in ICEG to share with our own audience results of their on-going research. With the objective to better liaise the *International Journal of Electronic Governance* with the academic and research community, our intention is to further pursue this direction into a developed policy for affiliating IJEG to

high-quality scientific events worldwide focused on topics from the journal's subject coverage.

Concluding this editorial, we would like to bring to your attention the special issues of IJEG to be published during the months to come. Our forthcoming special issues include themes such as One-Stop Government, guest-edited by Dr. Efthimios Tambouris and Professor Konstantinos Tarabanis; eParticipation Systems and Services in Converging Regions, guest-edited by Dr. Yannis Charalabidis, Professor Maria Wimmer and Mr. Gianluca Misuraca; and Delivering Electronic Government, guest-edited by Dr. G.P. Sahu. And, last but not least, we would like to draw your attention to a special issue on *Users and Uses of Electronic Governance*, guest edited by Dr. Stéphanie Wojcik and Mr. Giles Moss and planned for publication in early 2009. The call for papers for this issue, which can be found at the final pages of the volume at hand, is currently open for submissions until the deadline of June 30, 2008.