
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 and 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 papers and contributed in a number of research projects.

Dimitris Gouscos is 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. His research interests include digital communication, electronic governance, social media and digital games.

The special issue of the *International Journal of Electronic Governance* on E-participation Systems and Services in Converging Regions, guest-edited by Dr. Yannis Charalabidis, Professor Maria Wimmer and Gianluca Misuraca, continues the development of IJEG with special issues focusing on specific topics of interest to our readership. Deployment of e-participation systems and services, in particular, and so much so the contribution of these projects as a catalyst for the advancement of electronic governance in converging regions, is one such topic of major importance world-wide. Our guest editors' introduction, as well as the research papers of this special issue reporting on projects and initiatives from EU and USA to Africa, provide valuable insight into these developments.

On the occasion of this issue, which completes the first volume of the *International Journal of Electronic Governance*, we would like to acknowledge the help and support of all our contributors. Our more than 20 members of the IJEG Editorial Board, the guest editors of the special issues published in this first volume or scheduled for publication, the anonymous reviewers and the authors of the 23 research papers already

published, the authors and reviewers of the numerous manuscripts currently under review in the journal's submission queue, our issues' columnists, have all played an instrumental role to the development and quality of this journal. The substantial importance of their contribution, the support from our publishers and of course the interest by you, our readers, cannot be overstressed.

Last but not least, we would like to extend a warm welcome to Professor Petros Iosifidis, from City University, UK, and Professor Andreas Papandreou, from the University of Athens, Greece, whom we are glad to announce as members of the IJEG Editorial Board. With our sincere thanks to both of them, and also welcoming aboard Mrs. Eleni Staiou, who has kindly undertaken to serve as IJEG Editorial Assistant, we would like to invite you to browse the contents of the IJEG special issue on e-participation as well as our forthcoming issues.