
Editorial

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Biographical notes: Panagiotis Georgiadis is a 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 papers 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. His research interests include digital communication, electronic governance, social media and digital games.

We are glad to present this fourth issue of Volume 3 of *International Journal of Electronic Governance*, an endeavour that four years now, since the inaugural issue of IJEG back in 2007, has attempted to bring forward the multidisciplinary and international agenda of electronic governance (e-governance) in a broader context.

In the four papers of this issue's research department, a number of research issues and application practices pertinent to e-governance are explored.

Almahamid and McAdams, in *Determinants of User Continuance Intention to Use E-government*, empirically explore factors such as perceived usefulness, ease of use, quality and others that can determine the continuing intention to use e-government services, also discussing the limitations and practical implications of this research.

In *The Debate on Social Networking and the Usability of SNSs in E-governance*, Souri, Karamagioli and Koulolias discuss the usability of social networking sites for

e-governance and attempt to scrutinise their role in e-participation applications, as a potential solution to alleviate problems of citizen engagement.

Criado and Martínez-Fuentes, in *Mayors' Usage of Blogs in Local Election Campaign: The Spanish Case Study*, focus on blogging practices developed during the 2007 local elections in large Spanish cities to empirically discuss the ways and extent in which political candidates use blogs for campaigning, drawing some interesting findings on the perceived importance of blogging-based electioneering vs. traditional support by political parties.

Last but not least, in a short paper on '*e-Grama*': *A Tool for Capacity Building and Bridging the Digital Divide in Rural India*, Das and Patra describe a project experience in Indian province that is helping as a tool to bridge the digital divide in rural areas, through the active role of young volunteers and NGOs and a public-private-people partnership model.

The contents of the current issue are completed with our usual conference calendar and news and briefs columns, listing an increasing number of events and developments of interest to the IJEG readership.

Volume 4 of *International Journal of Electronic Governance* will be inaugurated in Spring 2011, with a very interesting series of papers from the special issue on *(Re)creating public sphere, civic culture and civic engagement: public service media vs. online social networks*, guest-edited by Prof. Petros Iosifidis, City University London, and Prof. Michael Meimaris, University of Athens.

At the same time, we have the pleasure to announce the call for papers for a new special issue on the interdisciplinary theme of *E-Deliberation 2.0*, for which Dr. Dimitra Milioni, Cyprus University of Technology, and Dr. Vasiliki Triga, Federal Institute of Technology Zurich, contribute as guest editors. This special issue, whose deadline for submissions is 30 June 2011, is scheduled for publication in Winter 2011. The call for papers can be found on the Inderscience website (<http://www.inderscience.com/callPapers.php>) as well as on the IJEG home page (<http://www.inderscience.com/ijeg>).

These developments, together with a continued interest of submissions from a number of countries and scientific communities, are of substantial importance in our effort to open up the agenda of electronic governance at the crossroads of ICT, social sciences and a number of other disciplines.

Leaving the floor to the research papers of this issue, we would like to take this opportunity to sincerely thank all the contributors of this third volume of IJEG in 2010, authors and guest editors alike, as well as all the production staff of our publishers for their continued and professional support. And, we would also like to warmly acknowledge the contribution of our editorial board members and that of some 400 reviewers currently registered in our database, whose help in maintaining the journal's development and quality standards cannot be overstated.

With our warmest wishes for a very happy and creative 2011, we invite you to peruse the contents of this issue.