
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 an Assistant Professor 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 the Volume 4 Number 3 issue of the *International Journal of Electronic Governance*, featuring a number of research papers that cover a broad spectrum of subjects within the journal's topical coverage.

In 'A cross-national comparison of e-government success measures: a theory-based empirical research', Gemoets, Mahmood, Adenso-Diaz and Gonzalez investigate and compare citizen experience with e-government in the USA and Spain, by developing and testing a causal model of factors based on the DeLone and McLean theory of information systems success. E-government systems quality is concluded to constitute an important factor for motivating citizens to use e-government services more frequently, with the perceived aspects of this notion of quality, however, not being unanimously identified by all citizens.

Karantjias, Stamati and Polemi, in 'Migration-aware policy-making in decentralised and dynamic social and collaborative environments', take the case of policies for migration of employment, an issue that has multiple interconnections with many other policy domains and calls by definition for collaborative decision making and harmonisation, as a testbed for discussing the potential of current Web-2.0-enabled IC technologies for collaboration. The authors propose a pilot ICT-based approach for collaborative development of policies and decision support for employment migration.

Cerrillo-i-Martínez attacks a different subject related to the potential of Web 2.0 technologies for e-Government, departing from the observation that although diffusion of public sector information is the major objective of many e-government services today, and this will be even more the case with the advent of Web 2.0 technologies that enhance the means and actors via whom information can be disseminated, this diffusion is still performed in a weakly regulated manner, with little guarantees for transparency and availability. In 'How can law improve the use of web 2.0 in public sector information diffusion?' the author discusses a number of provisions based on legal terms and citizen contribution that can better regulate the diffusion and quality of public information.

In the two short papers that complete the articles of this issue, two national case studies are presented for implementation, adoption and performance of e-government services. In 'Portals adoption and implementation challenges in the public sector: Oman case study', Al-Badi, Al Majeeni and Mayhew discuss the issues that have arisen for successful implementation of portals by government agencies in the Sultanate of Oman, as well as the obstacles and impact of their adoption, both on the citizens' and the agencies' side. Suri and Sushil, on the other hand, in 'Multi-perspective analysis of e-governance performance: a study of select agriculture related projects in India', study a number of selected agriculture-related e-government projects in India to analyse their performance from the perspectives of different key stakeholders and propose a conceptual framework of reference.

As these research contributions show, e-government still remains a research and practice domain of an extremely interdisciplinary nature, where there are no simple notions of 'correct' and 'incorrect', whereas success and failure are determined rather in terms of results and perspectives, than at the level of intentions and objectives. With this challenge in mind, we invite you to browse the research articles of this issue, as well as the news and briefs and conference calendar contributed by our editorial team.

Last but not least, and with our sincere thanks to all contributors, let us bring to your attention the calls for papers currently open for forthcoming special issues of the *International Journal of Electronic Governance*:

- Special issue on *Green e-participation*, guest-edited by Prof. Stephen Coleman, University of Leeds, and Prof. Andreas Papandreou, University of Athens (extended submission deadline: October 30, 2011);
- Special issue on *Voting Advice Applications and State of the Art: Theory, practice, and comparative insights*, Guest-edited by Prof. Theodore Chadjipantelis, Aristotle University of Thessaloniki, Dr. Uwe Serdült, University of Zurich, and Dr. Vasiliki Triga, Cyprus University of Technology (deadline for submissions: December 30, 2011).

These calls for papers, together with all details for prospective authors, 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>).