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## Editorial

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**Biographical notes:** 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.

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Opening the first issue of this volume of the *International Journal of Electronic Governance*, now in its 6th year of publication, and for the first time addressing the *IJEG* readership as editor of the journal, I feel the need to make a much-owed reference to the founding editor of *IJEG*, Prof. Panagiotis Georgiadis.

Under Prof. Georgiadis' editorship for the past 5 years, the *International Journal of Electronic Governance* has been established and developed into an outlet for publishing state-of-the-art work on the multi-faceted domain of electronic governance research and practice all over the world. With the contribution of our editorial board, the *IJEG* authors and reviewers, the Inderscience Publishers production team as well as our local editorial assistance team, and of course with your own support as our final audience and evaluators of this journal's quality and interest, *IJEG* has made a robust start.

Much has been done all these years to maintain the quality standards of the journal and rigorous processes for review and publication of articles, and all those involved in this effort are to be sincerely thanked for their contribution and support. The journal's current stage of development represents an asset that we need to live up to, and advance even further. To this end, a collective and collaborative effort is necessary, and in the months to come a number of steps towards this direction are planned.

In this special issue on '*Deliberation in the Participatory Web: Prospects and Challenges*', guest edited by Dr. Dimitra Milioni and Dr. Vasiliki Triga, Cyprus University of Technology, we have the pleasure to publish a series of very interesting research articles on the theory and practice, as well as the perspectives and challenges, of public deliberation efforts building on the communication capabilities of the internet and other digital media. The introduction of our guest editors that follows succinctly brings forward a number of critical issues and open discussions in this field, whose importance under the current conditions of globalised crises is even more to be stressed.

Volume 5 of the journal will continue, during this year, with alternating regular and special issues on a number of topics from our subject coverage, including a forthcoming special issue on '*Voting Advice Applications and State of the Art: Theory, Practice, and*

*Comparative Insights*', guest edited by Prof. Theodoros Chadjipantelis, Aristotle University of Thessaloniki, Dr. Uwe Serdült, University of Zurich and Dr. Vasiliki Triga, Cyprus University of Technology.

At the same time, the call for papers for a new special issue of *IJEG* on '*Security and Privacy of E-Government Applications and Services*', guest-edited by Dr. Konstantinos Papapanagiotou, Open Web Application Security Project (OWASP), and Dr. Vasileios Vlachos, Technological Educational Institution (TEI) of Larissa, Greece, has been announced. This special issue, for which the call for papers can be found on the *IJEG* home page (<http://www.inderscience.com/ijeg>) with a deadline for submissions by 30 October 2012, is scheduled for publication in 2013.

Leaving the floor to our guest editors for their Introduction, please be invited to peruse the research articles of this special issue and stay close to *IJEG* for more to come.