Editorial note

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Biographical note: 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.

As the scientific domain of electronic governance expands to cover more and more topics and areas of public services, public participation and activism as well as public management and decision-making, its multi-faceted nature at the crossroads of ICT, social sciences and other disciplines becomes more and more apparent.

In line with this observation, the second issue of the International Journal of Electronic Governance for 2012 contains a number of articles on e-governance research that span a broad coverage of topics and geography.

Svensson, in *Deliberation or What? A Study of Activist Participation on Social Networking Sites*, addresses social networking sites (SNSs) and their promise of deliberation. Based on a case study of middle class activists in southern Stockholm, the question this paper seeks to discuss is whether the activists used SNSs for deliberative or broader purposes, with a view to discussing contemporary practices of activist political participation online in light of late modern theories of reflexivity, identity negotiation and maintenance.

In the next article, *The Participatory Web as Space for 'Mediated' & 'Transnational' Citizenships: UK asylum seekers/refugees' 'deterritorialisation' of identity, political participation & claims making*, Khan draws from an empirical study conducted among asylum seekers/refugees residing in Scotland, UK to demonstrate that the participatory web can provide spaces for migrants' mediated and transnational citizenships, formed through online deliberation, political mobilisation, networking and claims making for social, cultural and political recognition and human rights.

The two following articles report on more technical issues of the e-government agenda. In *An assessment of Jordan's e-government maturity: A user-centric perspective* Al-Hujran discusses Jordan's efforts to provide e-government services to the public, performing a qualitative analysis of the current sophistication levels of Jordanian e-government services in order to establish an understanding of how to offer efficient and effective e-government and e-democracy services, tailored to a citizen-centric approach. In the domain of document automation and legal informatics, on the other hand, Huy and Wuwongse, in *Application of the Open Document Format for legal normative documents in the National Assembly of Vietnam*, suggest a new application model of

Open Document Format (ODF) and RDF/XML metadata for representing legal normative documents in the National Assembly of the Socialist Republic of Vietnam.

Last but not least, in the concluding research article of this issue, *Citizen Engagement with Information Aggregation Markets*, Bothos, Apostolou and Mentzas explore the use of Information Aggregation Markets for citizen engagement, discussing how these markets can be used to aggregate citizens' opinions and views on policy issues and reporting on two real life cases where IAMs have been deployed to assist the decision making processes of public organisations.

Volume 5 of the journal will continue, at the fall of 2012, with a forthcoming double 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) is scheduled for publication in 2013.

Please be invited to peruse the research articles as well as the news and briefs and conference calendar of this issue of IJEG, and stay close to us for more to come.