Editorial

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Biographical notes: Dimitris Gouscos is an Assistant Professor with the Faculty 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 contents of the first issue of the *International Journal of Electronic Governance* for 2013 reflect the ever-expanding agenda of electronic governance to themes having to do, among others, with online interaction of citizens with electronic public services, e-government and e-politics, as well as with issues of environmental accountability.

In 'Exploring citizens' intention to use e-government services: the role of cultural bias', Anastasopoulou and Kokolakis discuss the problem of citizens' mistrust towards e-government initiatives processing personal data. Based on an empirical study of the Tax Card service currently deployed by the Greek Ministry of Finance, the authors conclude that citizen groups of different cultural types need to be addressed in different ways in order to achieve broad adoption of e-government services.

In the same broader agenda of the penetration that e-government can achieve, Lakka, Stamati, Michalakelis and Martakos, in 'What drives eGovernment growth? An econometric analysis on the impacting factors', propose a model based on institutionalism, endogenous and exogenous growth approaches to identify factors for e-government growth and evaluate their impact through an econometric analysis of country-level data, explicitly focusing on the case of open-source software technology and its implications for e-government.

'Politically un-interactive web: transformations of online politics in Slovenia', by Oblak Črnič and Koren Ošljak, investigates citizens' interaction with online politics. The authors provide a critical evaluation of the obstacles to interactive political communication online, taking stock of the changes that the Slovene online political platform has undergone over time, and arguing that the way in which politicians use online tools and how they appear in online platforms depends upon the strategies designed by the creators of online sites.

The two research papers concluding our current issue of *IJEG* focus on what can be termed "green e-participation", namely the application of e-participation efforts to issues from the environmental agenda. Scheele, in Green web applications in a neo-institutional perspective', discusses the different types of citizen incentives employed by green web applications in Denmark, framing his analysis in a political science context. Research focuses on target group, key concept and data output parameters, which are used for comparing different applications through an institutional theory perspective.

Last but not least, in 'Can information save energy? A three country comparison of words and action in participative local climate protection projects', Aichholzer, Cimander and Kubicek report results of the e2democracy research project, which has aimed at assessing the potential of (e-)participation for fighting climate change in seven cities in Austria, Germany and Spain. The authors' working hypothesis that information about the impact of one's own behaviour as well as the competitive comparison with others encourage behavioural changes leading to CO_2 reduction is partly confirmed, coupled with a number of other findings relevant to informed change of environmental behaviour.

Volume 6 of the *International Journal of Electronic Governance* will continue later on this year with a forthcoming special issue 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, and regular issues from our research submissions. On top of that, a number of forthcoming special issues on topics related to online participation, open public data as well as self-organised social solidarity movements are currently underway, to be announced in the months to come.

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