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## Editorial

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**Biographical notes:** Kostas Ergazakis is an Electrical and Computer Engineer, NTUA and also holds a PhD in Knowledge Management and Decision Support Systems. He has a long professional experience as a Consultant/Project Manager for projects funded by EU and Greek National Bodies in different fields: formulation of digital/knowledge cities strategies, e-participation, e-organisation techniques, monitoring and evaluation, design and development of management information systems, business development activities. He has published extensively in scientific journals and presented his research outcomes in international conferences. He is an Associate Editor of the *International Journal of Knowledge Based Development*.

Kostas Metaxiotis is an Assistant Professor at the University of Piraeus. Since 2004, he has been undertaking a Senior Advisor role at the Secretary for the Information Society, Greek Ministry of Economy and Finance. He has extensive experience in the fields of knowledge management, artificial intelligence, enterprise information systems, and e-government. Since 1996, he has been participating in numerous European Commission-funded projects as Senior Information and Communication Technology Consultant and Manager. He is an Associate Editor of the *International Journal of Knowledge Based Development*, an annual special issue Co-Editor of the *Journal of Knowledge Management*, and the Chair of the 'World Capital Institute Publication Program'.

Francisco Javier Carrillo is an International Consultant and a Professor of Knowledge Management at Tecnológico de Monterrey, where he founded the Center for Knowledge Systems in 1992. He developed the capital systems model which has been applied in consultancy projects in several countries and is basis of an extensive knowledge management graduate curriculum. He is the President of the World Capital Institute as well as of Mexico's ADIAT Knowledge Management Commission, founding member of the New Club of Paris, and seats on the editorial boards of several international journals and knowledge management-related professional organisations. He is an Associate Editor of the *International Journal of Knowledge Based Development*, and an annual special issue Co-Editor of the *Journal of Knowledge Management*.

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Smart growth and knowledge-based development (KBD) is currently at the heart of major organisations development approaches. For example, the European Innovation Partnership for Smart Cities and Communities combines Information and Communication Technologies (ICT), energy management and transport management to develop innovative solutions to the major challenges (environmental, societal, health, etc.) that European cities face today.

The European Innovation Partnership (EIP, 2013) for smart cities and communities consists of the high level group and the smart cities stakeholder platform. These entities have the responsibility to develop the strategic implementation plan (SIP), which has as target to define ways to put into practice concepts related to smart cities and smart growth. The SIP also considers how the EC can support related measures and action plans during the next Research Framework Programme – Horizon 2020 (Horizon 2020, 2013).

The smart cities stakeholder platform is the collaborative, networking and knowledge sharing tool of smart cities and communities. This platform helps to collect and analyse input from all stakeholders in order to give advice to the high level group to feed into the SIP and provide detailed feedback to stakeholders who can use it to create their own activities and projects.

In this framework, it is clear that many cities follow synergetic and collaborative approaches so as to develop their KBD/smart growth strategic approaches, aiming to include as many and as diverse as possible groups of stakeholders, i.e.: citizens and communities, companies, organisations, creative persons, etc.

In this respect, the first paper of this issue 'Creating a knowledge-based region through policy integration and joint governance: the case of Kobe City in Kansai, Japan', by K. Martinus explores the knowledge-based development of Kobe, Kansai which, after an earthquake destruction adopted new planning methods aiming to increase the integration of community, industry and leisure through a joint national knowledge-based development vision and bottom-up neighbourhood planning approach. This paper documents Kobe's changing governance approaches shaping the interplay between national, regional and local policy as well as perspectives of key regional stakeholders involved in policy implementation.

The second paper 'Managing creative industries in the context of knowledge-based urban development', by M.R. Cabrita, V. Cruz-Machado and C. Cabrita, focuses on knowledge and creativity as powerful engines driving economic growth and economic development. Arts and cultural-related industries, also known as 'creative industries', represent a form of capital that provides direct national economic benefits. The main

purpose of this paper is to explore the 'creative industry' concept to relate it to the ongoing process of creating knowledge-based urban developments.

The third paper by H.M. Abdelsalam, M. Sadek and S. Gamal, 'Potential knowledge process outsourcing (KPO) of Egyptian oil and gas engineering services industry', deals with the outsource functions and operations of companies. KPO is a fast growing market and as the business process outsourcing (BPO) is being introduced to Egypt. Thus, the main purpose of the paper is to determine the main factors that would affect Egypt's eligibility of being a KPO vendor in the oil and gas engineering services. Thus, the authors conducted a survey in a sample of engineers in the oil and gas sector with the aim to identify those factors.

The fourth paper 'Knowledge sharing and knowledge management modelling in public sector accounting organisation: case evidence from Malaysia', by K. Salleh, aims to investigate how a particular group of professionals working in a public sector accounting organisation perceived the importance of KM implementation factors in their organisation, using survey techniques. The paper presents the knowledge sharing model and KM model that interconnects KM enablers, knowledge sharing process and organisational performance for the KM implementation success in the respective organisation.

The final paper by I. Stulec and K. Petljak, 'The research on buying behaviour among group buyers: the case of Croatia', conducts a primary research among social network fans of group buying websites. The purpose of the research was to profile group buyers in Croatia regarding their demographic and behavioural characteristics and to identify factors customers take into consideration when deciding whether to make a purchase and which group buying websites to use. Research findings imply that customers' demographic characteristics significantly affect their group buying behaviour and that some factors have detrimental effect on adopting of online group buying.

## References

- European Innovation Partnership (EIP) (2013) *Smart Cities and Communities* [online] [http://ec.europa.eu/eip/smartcities/about-partnership/how-does-it-work/index\\_en.htm](http://ec.europa.eu/eip/smartcities/about-partnership/how-does-it-work/index_en.htm) (accessed 2/12/2013).
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