Editorial

Dimitris Gouscos

Faculty of Communication and Media Studies,
University of Athens,
1, Sofokleous str. (2nd floor),
GR-10559 Athens, Greece
Email: gouscos@media.uoa.gr

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 current issue of the *International Journal of Electronic Governance* presents our readership with a number of research papers, which altogether provide international coverage on issues related to readiness for, adoption of and citizen engagement in e-government projects and services, as well as on further issues related to infrastructures for e-government, such as the penetration of broadband connectivity.

In *Drivers of E-Government Readiness Indices Modifications*, Mohammed and Ibrahim revisit four sets of established reports concerning e-government readiness indices. As the authors' analysis shows, advancements in ICT technologies constitute a primary driver of updates to these indices, which are constantly evolving in order to accommodate conceptual shifts in the interconnected notions of e-readiness and e-government readiness.

In the following paper, *Measuring E-Government adoption in Abu Dhabi with Technology Acceptance Model (TAM)*, Dahi and Ezziane discuss the factors associated with the intention of citizens to use e-government services in the Emirate of Abu Dhabi, UAE. The authors propose a model encompassing factors such as perceived usefulness, perceived ease of use and trust issues of e-government services, together with subjective norms and computer self-efficacy of citizens. As the results of TAM modelling and regression analysis show, user intentions are largely influenced by trust and subjective norms, as well as additional factors such as website quality, user facilitation and awareness.

Staying in the agenda of citizen engagement with e-government and e-governance service offerings, *ICTs and Governance: Understanding Citizen-Engagement in Implementation of E-Governance in Kenya* by Kariuki presents an evaluation exercise of the effectiveness and efficiency of service offerings by the e-government citizen portal in the country of Kenya. The author applies a qualitative phenomenological descriptive approach with purposive sampling in order to better understand the experiences of individual citizens, and comes up with results showing that accessibility, response time, automation, awareness and records management constitute the main areas of significance

for respondents. At the same time, a number of additional areas are highlighted for improving government-to-citizen interaction, technological innovation, economic development as well as organisational efficiency in government institutions.

In the concluding paper of our current issue, *Broadband Penetration as an Economic Growth Accelerator*, Kyriakidou, Michalakelis and Sphicopoulos take a broader perspective towards technology infrastructures and discuss whether broadband communications can yield comparative advantages in countries. Based on the assumption that income increase is related with broadband penetration, the authors apply a Granger causality test on data from 86 countries worldwide, separately treating developed and developing countries. The results derived from developed countries support the view that high broadband penetration causes positive changes in income. On the contrary, countries with low broadband penetration need to focus their efforts on the provision of economic incentives in order to boost broadband demand, implying that the opposite relationship between broadband penetration and income growth is operating in this case.

The *International Journal of Electronic Governance* will continue with alternating regular and special issues on topics from our subject coverage. Upcoming IJEG special issues, in this respect, include

- *Challenging Government: e-Participation and the Social Web*, guest-edited by Darren Mundy, University of Hull, UK and Tobias Bevc, University of Augsburg, Germany

- *Methodologies, Technologies and Tools enabling e-Government*, guest-edited by Barbara Re, University of Camerino, Italy and Marino Miculan, University of Udine, Italy

- *Electronic Governance and Open Society: Challenges in Eurasia*, guest-edited by Yuri Misnikov, ITMO University, Russia, Christine Leitner, Centre for Economics and Public Administration, UK and Dmitrii Trutnev, ITMO University, Russia

- *Electronic Participation*, guest-edited by Efthimios Tambouris, University of Macedonia, Greece, Konstantinos Tarabanis, University of Macedonia, Greece, Øystein Sæbø, University of Agder, Norway and Panos Panagiotopoulos, Queen Mary University of London, UK

- *Personalisation in e-Government and Smart Cities*, guest-edited by Nikolaos Loutas, PwC, Belgium, Fedelucio Narducci, University of Bari Aldo Moro, Italy, Adegboyega Ojo, Insight@NUI, Ireland, Matteo Palmonari, University of Milano-Bicocca, Italy, Cécile Paris, CSIRO Digital Productivity Flagship, Australia and Giovanni Semeraro, University of Bari Aldo Moro, Italy

- *Citizen Rights in the World of the New Computing Paradigms*, guest-edited by Sokratis Katsikas, University of Piraeus, Greece and Alexander Sideridis, Agricultural University of Athens, Greece.

We invite all our readers and contributors to check the *IJEG* calls for papers page at http://www.inderscience.com/info/ingeneral/cfplist.php?jcode=ijeg for currently open calls for submissions to the special issues above.

Alongside these developments, in our ongoing quest to expand the subject coverage of the *International Journal of Electronic Governance*, and especially so across boundary-spanning interdisciplinary topics, we are constantly looking out for regular

contributions and special issues on emerging topics such as open data and big data, collaborative and co-produced governance and participation, smart local governance, DIY citizenship and many others.

In parallel with this effort, we are trying to provide our readership with a rich coverage of news in brief, with some selected recent stories featured in the corresponding column of IJEG, together with a list of more than 40 pointers to online sources of additional news of interest to the broader Electronic Governance constituency. The same applies to upcoming conferences of interest as well, with more than 15 conferences listed in our Conference Calendar column. At the same time, as of our current issue we are attempting to give to our News in Brief and Conference Calendar columns a more easy-to-use format, trying to provide brief essential information for all the news and conference items listed.

Last but not least, as of the current issue of IJEG we are happy to launch our Book Reviews column, featuring presentations and brief reviews of books that span a broad spectrum of interdisciplinary topics of interest for Electronic Governance researchers and practitioners. In this effort, we would like to welcome Dr. Evika Karamagioli who joins the IJEG team as book reviews columnist, and we are glad to present *Enacting Electronic Government Success – An Integrative Study of Government-wide Websites, Organisational Capabilities and Institutions*, authored by J. Ramon Gil-Garcia, as the book title inaugurating our Book Reviews column.

We gladly invite you to peruse for your interest the research articles, news and briefs, conference calendar and book review of this issue of the *International Journal of Electronic Governance*, and stay close to us for more advancements and updates.