Editorial Note

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Biographical notes: Dimitris Gouscos is an Assistant Professor in the Department of Communication and Media Studies at the National and Kapodistrian University of Athens and a Research Fellow at 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.

We gladly introduce this opening issue of Vol. 10 of the *International Journal of Electronic Governance*, which accommodates a number of research papers on important aspects of electronic government and electronic governance implementations in a number of non-western countries around the world.

In this respect, the first set of research papers focuses on traditional issues with e-government and e-governance implementation factors and benefits. Amegavi et al. in 'The dynamics of e-government enactment in a developing country public sector organisation: evidence from Ghana', investigate how organisational level factors shape e-government implementation in public organisations in a developing country. Using qualitative research, the authors identify financial and human resource, leadership, ICT literacy and infrastructure shortcoming as the major factors against effective implementation of e-government projects. At the same time, in 'Citizens' perceptions on benefits of e-governance services', Gupta et al. discuss a framework for categorising the benefits of e-governance services in the country of India. The authors propose economic, quality of service, quality of governance and personal development benefits as four major dimensions and have performed a perceptions survey among more than 500 users of New Delhi Municipal Council e-services. As the findings of this study indicate, e-governance services are considered more beneficial in terms of economic aspects, followed by benefits in terms of QoS and QoG.

This discussion is followed by a turn from perceived benefits to issues of inclusion and participation. In 'Electronic governance platform: towards overcoming the challenges of non-inclusion of citizens in public policy formulation and implementation in Nigeria', Gberevbie et al. examine the potential of electronic governance platforms to facilitate the inclusion of citizens in policy-making processes. As the authors conclude, following a study of 20 state websites in Nigeria, low-level literacy rates and lack of infrastructures comprise two factors that drastically impede this potential from bearing fruit. One more research paper, concluding our current issue, is moving the discussion further in the

public and political participation agenda. Pang, in Mobile communication and political participation: Unravelling the effects of mobile phones on political expression and offline participation among young people, discusses how mobile devices have expanded individuals' access to political information, with different patterns of mobile phone use affecting the levels of political expression and participation. Working in the context of China, the author identifies evidence that reading news and tweeting via mobile phones are positively associated with political expression, whereas mobile-based political expression has effects on offline political participation.

In the months to come, IJEG will continue with alternating regular and special issues on topics from the journal's subject coverage. In this respect, our forthcoming special issues feature

- *Empowering Citizenship in the Hybrid City*, guest-edited by Dimitris Charitos, University of Athens, Greece, Martijn de Waal, University of Amsterdam, Netherlands and Penny Travlou, University of Edinburgh, UK

- *Privacy-Preserving, Secure, Intelligent eGovernment Services*, guest-edited by Sokratis Katsikas, Norwegian University of Science and Technology, Norway & University of Piraeus, Greece and Vasileios Zorkadis, Hellenic Data Protection Authority, Greece

- *Potential of Participatory Urban Planning and Governance*, guest-edited by Anastasia Stratigea, National Technical University of Athens, Greece and Beniamino Murgante, University of Basilicata, Italy.

We invite all our readers and contributors to check the IJEG call 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 and upcoming ones.

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. At the same time, in the effort to provide our readership with a rich coverage of news and upcoming conferences of interest to the broader electronic governance constituency, we are providing a number of links to selected electronic governance-related recent developments and forthcoming conferences in our news in brief and conference calendar columns, respectively.

Last but not least, in the current issue of IJEG, we are happy to continue with our book reviews column, featuring review presentations of books that span a broad spectrum of interdisciplinary topics of interest for electronic governance researchers and practitioners. In this respect, we are glad to present the review of one more title: *Public Access ICT across Cultures – Diversifying Participation in the Network Society* by Francisco J. Proenza (Editor), published by MIT Press (2015), providing a comprehensive account of international studies for the ways in which telecentres, cybercafés and other similar structures in many countries around the world enable low-income and non-privileged populations gain access to digital resources and build their own online social networks.

Leaving the floor to our authors and columnists, we gladly invite you to read on and peruse the research papers, news in brief, conference calendar and book reviews that follow.