
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.

It is a pleasure to introduce our readers to this opening issue of our first volume for 2018, featuring the special issue on *Participatory Urban Planning and Governance*, guest-edited by Anastasia Stratigea, National Technical University of Athens, Greece and Beniamino Murgante, University of Basilicata, Italy.

IJEG will continue during 2019 with alternating regular and special issues on topics from the journal's subject coverage. In this respect, our forthcoming special issues include *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; and others, to be announced.

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 that reach out to bridge electronic governance with open government, public participation, social solidarity, humanitarian technology and innovation, we are constantly looking out for regular contributions and special issues on emerging topics. And we continue to provide our readership with a coverage of news and upcoming conferences of interest to the broader electronic governance constituency, in our news in brief and conference calendar columns, respectively.

Leaving the floor to our guest editors for their own introduction to the special issue, we gladly welcome you to read on and peruse the research papers, news in brief and conference calendar that follow.