



critically discusses the technocratic values underlying the government as a platform concept, taking stock of the Russian case.

In a similar spirit, trying to shed more light on the human factors that affect the quality and impact of e-government projects, Magboul et al. follow up in the next paper, 'Antecedents and outcome of electronic government implementation in a service sector context', to assess e-government implementation in public agencies in Sudan. The authors set out to investigate the effect of antecedents such as government support, IT infrastructure, training, trust, ease of use and performance expectancy on e-government implementation, as well as the effect of the latter to actual improvements in service quality.

The paper that follows, 'Adoption of social networks as Web 2.0 citizen engagement tool in the local e-government context', by Rexhepi et al. moves on to a broader view of citizen involvement in public sector e-government projects. This paper explores e-participation implementation through the usage of Web 2.0 tools in the context of local governments in Kosovo, specifically looking at usage patterns of communication platforms, and potential relationships between local governments' online activity and citizen engagement.

In the wider domain of e-government as a communication enabler, and especially so in times of crises, our concluding paper, 'Government to government (G2G) framework to strengthen communication among government agencies during disasters: learnings from 2015, Gorkha earthquake, Nepal', by Rai et al. looks at the Government of Nepal's response to a major earthquake that hit the country in 2015. As the authors report, the government lacked a common digital platform for crisis communication among agencies, due to ICT-related weaknesses, which unsurprisingly resulted to lack of coordination, and delayed relief support, reconstruction, as well as rehabilitation during the post-disaster phase. The authors proposed a multi-channel government-to-government crisis communication platform and effected a structured interview-based survey with government officials to identify perceptions of performance expectancy, transparency and other factors that can drive implementation.

During the months that follow, IJEG will continue with alternating regular and special issues, with respective calls for papers to be announced. In this respect, we are glad to announce a forthcoming special issue on *Safeguarding Democracy and Human Rights in the Digital Age*, guest edited by Professor Sokratis Katsikas, NTNU, Norway, and Dr. Vasilis Zorkadis, Hellenic Data Protection Authority, Greece.

At the same time, we invite all of our readers and contributors to check our call for papers page at <http://www.inderscience.com/info/ingeneral/cfplist.php?jcode=ijeg> for upcoming calls for submissions to IJEG.

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 public value innovation, and so much so innovation for the sustainable development goals agenda, be it through digital government, open government, public participation, social solidarity, humanitarian technology and innovation, we are constantly looking out for regular contributions and special issues on emerging topics. Research submissions touching upon the open response to an open recovery of governments worldwide from the Covid-19 pandemic, as well as to their adaptations to the Covid-19 shock, are especially welcome in this respect. 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 authors for their research contributions, we welcome you to read on and peruse the research articles, news in brief and conference calendar that follow.