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# Electronic Participation

10th IFIP WG 8.5 International Conference, ePart 2018  
Krems, Austria, September 3–5, 2018  
Proceedings

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# Preface

Welcome to the proceedings of EGOV-CeDEM-ePart 2018!

This year marks a milestone for the International Federation for Information Processing (IFIP) Working Group 8.5. The 2018 edition of the EGOV-CeDEM-ePart 2018 Conference represents the merge of the IFIP WG 8.5 Electronic Government (EGOV), the IFIP WG 8.5 IFIP Electronic Participation (ePart), and the Conference for E-Democracy and Open Government (CeDEM).

Held in picturesque Austria, and hosted by the Danube University Krems, the merger of the conferences heralds the creation of a unique platform where scholars and practitioners from around the world can come together to interact and deliberate on cutting-edge interdisciplinary, multi-methodological research within the domains of e-government and open government, e-democracy and e-participation, smart governance, artificial intelligence, data analytics and automated decision-making, digital collaboration and social media, policy modeling and policy informatics, social innovation, and open data, linked data and the semantic web. The papers submitted to this year's conference presents state-of-the-art research findings covering completed research, ongoing research projects, practitioner issues and perspectives, and critical viewpoints and reflections. The PhD colloquium consists of innovative student papers on topics addressed by the conference, giving young researchers the opportunity to both have their own research evaluated and to meet and engage with their peers and senior researchers.

This volume of the IFIP EGOV-CeDEM-ePart proceedings contains 12 full papers accepted to the "General e-Democracy & e-Participation" track, the "Digital Collaboration and Social Media" track, the "Policy Modeling and Policy Informatics" track, and the "Social Innovation" track.

E-democracy and e-participation might have matured as research domains, but the papers showcased at the conference present the very latest ideas and most innovative developments in these ever-expanding disciplines. For some authors, the focus is on the improvement of e-participation practice. Leif Sundberg develops a method for evaluating e-participation based on multi-criteria decision analysis. Andrei Chugunov and Yury Kabanov advance a framework, tested on 85 Russian regional e-participation portals, that considers institutional design and is compatible with large- and small-N analysis. Similarly, Dmitrii Trutnev and Lyudmila Vidiasova investigate the methods available for assessing the effectiveness of public information systems to create public values.

Other authors focus on the creation of opportunities for increased e-participation via the harnessing of digital media platforms. In a mixed-method study of all posts made on Israeli MPs' Facebook pages during the 2014 Israel-Gaza war, Nili Steinfeld and

Azi Lev-On explore how social media channels function as vehicles of e-participation during emergencies. Bert Groot and colleagues examine, through a review of the extant literature, the potential of urban media to reshape the role of citizens in urban planning. Lessons learned are contrasted with findings from expert interviews.

Further authors comment on developments in e-participation and e-democracy through case studies. Marius Rohde Johannessen looks critically at the emergence of social media as an important part of the Norwegian parliamentary election landscape – and the implications for democracy and the public sphere. The current status of e-participation in Kampala, Uganda, is elaborated upon by Norbert Kersting and Andrew Matsiko. The authors study the rise of localized online participatory instruments and their efficacy in creating spaces for bottom-up participation. The spotlight is also turned on Mexico City, where Rebecca Rumbul and colleagues explore the application of digital technologies to combat vulnerabilities in processes of participatory budgeting.

Elsewhere at the conference, the focus is on social media and – more broadly – the nature of digital collaborations within public organizations and across governance networks. Within this context, Sara Hofmann and colleagues critically examine the role that the public sector might play in the modern-day sharing economy based on collaborative consumption. Their review focuses on the main stakeholder groups that the public sector has to interact with in collaborative consumption applications, namely, the customers, service providers, and platform providers.

Papers in the “Policy Modeling and Policy Informatics” track concentrate on how public policy making might be supported through the application of innovative ICT and by involving relevant stakeholders. Jasmine Riedl critically describes the creation of a comprehensive database containing the time-strategic actions of political actors to facilitate the analysis of the temporal dynamics of the German legislative process. In their paper, Aggeliki Androutsopoulou, Yannis Charalabidis, and Euripidis Loukis develop a maturity model to explain how crowd-sourcing through social media can be harnessed by government to support policy-making, based on an assessment of different existing approaches and methods.

Social innovation is not a new concept, but recently it has been gaining ground in policy and academic circles. An increasingly favorable environment for development and experimentation – a direct consequence of technological and organizational innovation – it is seen as able to address critical societal challenges such as unemployment, disparities in access to healthcare, and mass migration. Here, Gianluca Misuraca, Giulio Pasi, and Gianluigi Viscusi seek to broaden our understanding of the social implications surrounding digital transformation through an analysis in their paper of four case studies that focus on the role played by social innovation in the fostering of resilience within societies.

The ideas and concepts advanced in these proceedings push the boundaries of conventional wisdom and scholarship, and we anticipate that the volume will be an interesting and thought-provoking read. In conclusion, the editors and track chairs would like to thank the authors for their submissions to the proceedings; but also all those individuals who contributed their time and effort towards making this conference

a resounding success – the members of the Program Committee, the reviewers, the conference participants, the organizing team, and the local hosts at the Danube University Krems.

September 2018

Noella Edelmann  
Peter Parycek  
Gianluca Misuraca  
Panos Panagiotopoulos  
Yannis Charalabidis  
Shefali Virkar

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