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# Electronic Participation

5th IFIP WG 8.5 International Conference, ePart 2013  
Koblenz, Germany, September 17-19, 2013  
Proceedings



Springer

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# Preface

The annual international IFIP electronic participation conference (ePart) aims to bring together researchers of distinct disciplines in order to present and discuss advances of eParticipation research. As the field of eParticipation is multidisciplinary in nature, ePart provides an excellent opportunity for researchers and practitioners with different disciplinary backgrounds to share and discuss current research on foundations, theories, methods, tools, and innovative applications of eParticipation. ePart also provides a fruitful ground to nurture and plan future cooperation.

The conference also provides an excellent platform for those who wish to learn about or update themselves on research advances in eParticipation, understand how other groups are applying advanced tools and techniques, and exchange ideas with leading international experts in the field. The 5th ePart was organized by members of IFIP Working Group 8.5 and it was supported by a multidisciplinary Program Committee from all over the globe.

As in previous years, ePart was co-located with IFIP EGOV 2013, the IFIP conference on electronic government. Co-location of both conferences intentionally allows for exchange and cross-fertilization between the two domains of study, and hence the chairs of both conferences are committed to continuing the co-location of IFIP ePart and IFIP EGOV. In 2013, ePart was also co-located with Informatik 2013, which is the German Computer Society's major annual conference. This way, German-speaking computer science and related information governance scholars were welcome to network with e-government and e-participation researchers and practitioners. Both conferences are supported by IFIP WG 8.5 (International Federation for Information Processing Working Group 8.5 on Information Systems in Public Administration).

The scope of ePart 2013 covered the whole range of research in eParticipation. Its principal aim was to review research advances in both social and technological scientific domains, seeking to demonstrate new theories, concepts, methods, and styles of eParticipation with the support of innovative ICT. The IFIP ePart 2013 Call for Papers attracted a wide range of topics with 30 paper submissions. In all, 13 papers were accepted for Springer's LNCS proceedings. These papers have been clustered under the following headings:

- Research Directions
- Social Media and eParticipation
- Online Deliberation

All ePart papers were blindly peer reviewed by at least three reviewers from the ePart 2013 Program Committee with the assistance of additional reviewers. We would like to acknowledge their professionalism and rigor, which resulted in these high-quality papers. Papers submitted to the ongoing research, poster abstracts, as well as workshop and panel abstracts were published in a complementary

proceedings volume of *GI Lecture Notes in Informatics*. The proceedings cover contributions from both conferences, IFIP EGOV and IFIP ePart.

For the second time and per recommendation of the Paper Awards Committee, led by Committee Chair Prof. Olivier Glassey of IDHEAP, Lausanne, Switzerland, the IFIP ePart 2013 Organizing Committee granted an outstanding paper award. The winners were awarded in the ceremony at the conference dinner, which has become a highlight of each ePart conference. The name of the winner is announced on the conference website: <http://www.epart-conference.org/>

Many people make large events like this conference happen. We thank the 48 members of the ePart 2013 Program Committee and the additional reviewers for their great efforts in reviewing the submitted papers. Roman Weber of the University of Koblenz-Landau (Germany) supported us in the administrative management and in compiling the proceedings of ePart 2013. Particular thanks go also to the conference organization of Informatik 2013 — colleagues and staff of the University of Koblenz-Landau, who organized the conference system, the room management, the catering and the social events for the whole conference cluster.

The host of IFIP ePart 2013 was the University of Koblenz-Landau in Koblenz, Germany. The Faculty of Computer Science has over 20 professors and consists of four institutes, each with four to six research groups. The faculty researches and teaches various strands of core and applied computer science, including e-government. In the winter term of 2012–2013, the faculty introduced a new Master of Science program in e-government, a unique curriculum in Germany to be offered at a technical faculty. E-government is one of the four key research priorities of the faculty. Research and teaching cover investigations in strategic, analytical, managerial, conceptual, and technical aspects of introducing ICT in the public sector (administration and politics). Interdisciplinarity in design and analysis of study aspects is a central paradigm, particularly in the e-government research group, which is chaired by Maria A. Wimmer.

ePart 2013 took place in the lovely city of Koblenz. Koblenz is situated in the northern end of the famous world cultural heritage area of Upper Middle-Rhine Valley. The city has taken its name from the Roman word “confluentes,” which stands for the intersection of the Rhine and Mosel rivers. Koblenz claims to have the only “real” German Corner — the Deutsches Eck. Since the German horticultural show in 2011, Koblenz has become a lovely city with an exciting lifestyle, culinary heritage, and culture. The city’s long history with changing Roman and French occupation has created a rich cultural setting with numerous sites of interest in Koblenz and its surroundings. We are pleased to have had the pleasure of holding ePart 2013 in such a special place.

September 2013

Maria A. Wimmer  
Efthimios Tambouris  
Ann Macintosh

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