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E-Government: Towards Electronic Democracy

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Preface

The TCGOV 2005 international conference on e-government was held at the Free University of Bozen-Bolzano during March 2–4, 2005. The conference was initiated by the working group “Towards Electronic Democracy” (TED) of the European Science Foundation and was jointly organized by the Free University of Bozen-Bolzano, the Municipality of Bozen-Bolzano, the TED Working Group, and the IFIP Working Group 8.5.

The conference addressed a large spectrum of issues that are relevant and have to be investigated for a successful transition from the traditional form of government to a new form known as e-government. The main focus was on the following topics:

- improving citizen participation and policy making (e-democracy)
- government application integration
- semantic Web technologies for e-government
- security aspects for e-government services

Two sessions were dedicated to e-democracy, an emerging area within e-government that seeks to enhance democratic processes and provide increased opportunities for individuals and communities to be involved in governmental decisions. The contributions of these two sessions cover more fundamental results and insights as well as experiences from different countries.

Another focus was on government application integration and the use of Semantic Web technologies, which are important technical aspects on the agenda of e-government research. Different architectures for the integration and orchestration of distributed services and processes were presented along with two case studies. Three papers about Semantic Web technologies discussed the use of ontologies in e-government.

An important aspect across e-government and e-democracy is security. The proceedings include three contributions that present new approaches to deal with security issues in the context of e-polling, e-voting, and interorganizational workflows, respectively.

The program was completed with contributions on decision-support systems on the Web, managerial and financial aspects of e-government projects, political and societal implications, and e-procurement.

The technical program included three keynote presentations, given by leading researchers and experts from the field: Prof. Roland Traunmüller from the University of Linz, Prof. David Basin from the ETH Zurich, and Dr. Athanassios Chrissafis from the European Commission, DG Information Society, Unit E-Government.

A total of 92 scientific papers from 26 different countries were submitted to TCGOV 2005. Each submission was evaluated by at least two reviewers, mainly members of the Program Committee. The reviewing process was very selective,

and only 28 contributions were accepted as full papers for presentation at the conference and publication in this volume.

Many people and institutions were involved in the joint organization of the conference. We express our thanks to all of them for their support and the smooth collaboration during the preparation of the conference. We are particularly grateful to the members of the Program Committee who selected the best papers that are collected in these proceedings. We greatly appreciate the mentorship given by the TED Working Group and the technical and logistic support provided by the Free University of Bozen-Bolzano.

January 2005

Michael Böhlen
Johann Gamper
Wolfgang Polasek
Maria Wimmer

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TCGOV 2005 was jointly organized by the TED Working Group of the European Science Foundation, the Free University of Bozen-Bolzano, the Municipality of Bozen-Bolzano, and the IFIP Working Group 8.5.

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