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Electronic Participation

4th IFIP WG 8.5 International Conference, ePart 2012
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Proceedings



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Preface

The International Conference on eParticipation (ePart) aims to bring together researchers of distinct disciplines in order to present and discuss advances in eParticipation research. As the field of eParticipation is multidisciplinary in nature, ePart provides an excellent opportunity for researchers coming from different disciplines to disseminate and share methods, tools, and approaches as well as to plan future cooperation.

ePart is currently in its fourth year. The conference is organized annually along with the International Conference on Electronic Government (EGOV) now in its 11th year. Both conferences are supported by IFIP WG 8.5 (International Federation for Information Processing Working Group 8.5 on Information Systems in Public Administration).

This volume includes research work organized in the five groups following:

- Keynote Speech
- Reviews
- Policy Consultations
- Case Studies
- Techniques and Analysis.

This volume brings together 14 papers representing the comprehensive research of over 41 international authors.

All ePart papers (besides the keynote speech paper) were blindly peer reviewed by at least three reviewers from the ePart 2012 Program Committee with the assistance of additional reviewers. We would like to acknowledge their professionalism and rigor, which resulted in these high-quality papers.

As in the past, Trauner Druck, Linz/Austria, published the accepted work-in-progress papers and workshop and panel abstracts in a complementary proceedings volume. This year, the volume covers over 30 paper contributions, workshop abstracts, and panel summaries from both IFIP EGOV and IFIP ePart conferences. Edited by the Chairs of both conferences, the volume once again illustrates the close links ePart has with EGOV, our sister conference focusing on eGovernment research.

For the first time this year and per recommendation of the Paper Awards Committee under the leadership of Olivier Glassey, IDHEAP, Lausanne, Switzerland, the IFIP ePart 2012 Organizing Committee granted an outstanding paper award. The winning paper was announced in the award ceremony at the conference dinner, as a highlight of the IFIP ePart conference.

ePart 2012 was hosted by the Department of Information Systems in the School of Economics and Social Sciences at Agder University, Kristiansand, Norway. Established in 1839 as the Kristiansand Teacher Training College, the University College of Agder was formed through the merger of six public colleges in 1994 that already had a long academic tradition at that time. In 2007, the

college was granted the status of university covering the academic areas of business, economics, engineering, technology, the humanities, mathematics, nursing, teacher education, and the fine arts. With approximately 8,000 students and an academic staff of 1,000, the University of Agder is a bustling and intellectually diverse academic hub near the southern tip of Norway.

Kristiansand was founded in 1641 by King Christian IV of Denmark and Norway in an area that has been inhabited by humans since ancient times. It is a uniquely located and charming coastal city with a historic center at the mouth of the Otra river and a population of some 81,000. Today, Kristiansand is a hub of commercial activity, overseas trade, culture, research, and education. The city has a reputation for its warm, sunny, and long summer nights. It was a great pleasure to hold IFIP ePart 2012 at this special place.

Finally, we would like to thank Carl Erik Moe, Leif Skiftenes Flak, and their team at the University of Agder in Kristiansand for organizing the conference including all the crucial details pertaining to an international conference.

September 2012

Efthimios Tambouris
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