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Electronic Participation

8th IFIP WG 8.5 International Conference, ePart 2016
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Proceedings

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Preface

Under the auspices of the International Federation for Information Processing (IFIP) Working Group 8.5 (Information Systems in Public Administration), or IFIP WG 8.5 for short, the dual IFIP EGOV-ePart conference 2016 presented itself as a high-caliber five-track conference and a doctoral colloquium dedicated to research and practice on electronic government and electronic participation.

Scholars from around the world have used this premier academic forum for over 15 years, which has given it a worldwide reputation as one of the top two conferences in the research domains of electronic, open, and smart government, and electronic participation.

This conference of five partially intersecting tracks presents advances in the socio-technological domain of the public sphere demonstrating cutting-edge concepts, methods, and styles of investigation by multiple disciplines.

The Call for Papers attracted over 135 submissions of completed research papers, work-in-progress papers on ongoing research (including doctoral papers), project and case descriptions, as well as four workshop and panel proposals. Among the full research paper submissions, 14 papers (empirical and conceptual) from the General ePart Track and the Policy Modeling and Policy Informatics Track were accepted for Springer's LNCS EGOV proceedings, whereas another 24 papers of completed research papers from the General EGOV Track, the Open Government and Open/Big Data Track, and the Smart Governance/Government/Cities Track went into the LNCS EGOV proceedings (vol. 9820).

The ePart Track 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, this track provides an excellent opportunity for researchers with backgrounds in different academic disciplines to share and discuss current research on foundations, theories, methods, tools, and innovative applications of eParticipation. In addition, ePart provides a fruitful ground to nurture and plan future cooperation.

The Policy Modeling and Policy Informatics Track focuses on supporting public policy making with innovative ICT therewith involving relevant stakeholders. It heavily involves multidisciplinary research. The scope ranges from policy analysis and conceptual modeling to programming and visualization of simulation models, to help policy makers and stakeholders deliberate and evaluate policy decisions and explore new models of governance.

This volume includes completed research organized in four topical threads as follows:

- Theoretical Foundations
- Critical Reflections
- Implementations
- Policy Formulation and Modeling

As in previous years, IOS Press published accepted work-in-progress papers and workshop and panel abstracts in a complementary open-access proceedings volume. In 2016, this volume covers over 60 paper contributions, workshop abstracts, and panel summaries from all tracks, workshops, posters, and the PhD colloquium.

All submissions were blind peer reviewed by at least three reviewers (and in most cases by four reviewers) from the Program Committee. The quality of the conference tracks is directly related to the quality of the peer reviews and we would like to once again acknowledge the work done by the members of the Program Committee.

As in the previous years and per recommendation of the Paper Awards Committee under the lead of the honorable Prof. Olivier Glassey of the University of Lausanne, Switzerland, the dual IFIP EGOV-ePart 2016 Conference Organizing Committee again granted outstanding paper awards in three distinct categories:

- The most interdisciplinary and innovative research contribution
- The most compelling critical research reflection
- The most promising practical concept

The winners in each category were announced in the award ceremony at the conference dinner, which has always been a highlight of each dual IFIP EGOV-ePart conference.

The dual IFIP EGOV-ePart 2016 conference was jointly hosted in Guimarães, Portugal, by UMinho and UNU-EGOV. Established in 1973, UMinho operates on three campuses, one in Braga, and two in Guimarães, educating approximately 19,500 students by an academic staff of 1,300 located in eight schools, three institutes, and several cultural and specialized units. It is one of the largest public universities in Portugal and a significant actor in the development of the Minho region in the north of Portugal. UNU-EGOV is a newly established UN organization focused on research, policy, and leadership education in the area of digital government, located in Guimarães and hosted by UMinho. The organization of the dual conference was partly supported by the project “SmartEGOV: Harnessing EGOV for Smart Governance”, NORTE-01-0145-FEDER-000037, funded by FEDER in the context of Programa Operacional Regional do Norte.

Although ample traces of Celtic and Roman presence and settlements were found in the area, Guimarães became notable as the center of early nation building for Portugal in the late eleventh century, when it became the seat of the Count of Portugal. In 1128, the Battle of São Mamede was fought near the town, which resulted in the independence of the Northern Portuguese territories around Coimbra and Guimarães, which later extended further south to form the independent nation of Portugal. Today, Guimarães has a population of about 160,000. While it has developed into an important center of textile and shoe industries along with metal mechanics, the city has maintained its charming historical center and romantic medieval aura. It was a great pleasure to hold the dual IFIP EGOV-ePart 2016 conference at this special place.

Many people make large events like this conference happen. We thank the over 100 members of the dual IFIP EGOV-ePart 2016 Program Committee and dozens of additional reviewers for their great efforts in reviewing the submitted papers. Delfina Sá Soares of the Department of Information Systems at the University of Minho (UMinho)

and Tomasz Janowski of the United Nations University Operating Unit on Policy-Driven Electronic Governance (UNU-EGOV) and their respective teams in Guimarães, Portugal, were major contributors who helped organize the dual conference and manage zillions of details locally. We would also like to thank the University of Washington organizing team members Kelle M. Rose and Daniel R. Wilson for their great support and administrative management of the review process and the compilation of the proceedings.

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Contents

Theoretical Foundations

A Metamodel for the E-Participation Reference Framework	3
<i>Sabrina Scherer and Maria A. Wimmer</i>	
Towards a Research Framework of Computer-Supported Organizational Participation	17
<i>Thomas Wagenknecht, René Filpe, and Christof Weinhardt</i>	
A New Path for the Public Sector: How to Design a Co-created Strategy in Higher Education	29
<i>Maximilian Rapp, Markus Rhomberg, Giordano Koch, and Ken White</i>	
Electronic Participation with a Special Reference to Social Media - A Literature Review	41
<i>Ayman Alarabiat, Delfina Sá Soares, and Elsa Estevez</i>	

Critical Reflections

Success in eVoting – Success in eDemocracy? The Estonian Paradox	55
<i>Maarja Toots, Tarmo Kalvet, and Robert Krimmer</i>	
Citizens' Deliberation Online as Will-Formation: The Impact of Media Identity on Policy Discourse Outcomes in Russia	67
<i>Andrei Chugunov, Olga Filatova, and Yuri Misnikov</i>	
Will e-Participation Bring Critical Citizens Back In?	83
<i>Joachim Åström and Martin Karlsson</i>	
Open Governance in Authoritarian States: A Framework for Assessing Digital Participation in the Age of Mass Surveillance	94
<i>Fadi Salem</i>	

Implementations

Russian e-Petitions Portal: Exploring Regional Variance in Use	109
<i>Andrei V. Chugunov, Yury Kabanov, and Ksenia Zenchenkova</i>	
Efforts at the Boundaries: Social Media Use in Swedish Municipalities	123
<i>Livia Norström and Monika Hattinger</i>	

Motivations to Use a Mobile Participation Application. 138
Titiana Petra Ertiö, Sampo Ruoppila, and Sarah-Kristin Thiel

Policy Formulation and Modelling

A Web-Based Information Market to Support Policy Decision Making 153
Niki Nikolakakou, Efthimios Bothos, and Gregoris Mentzas

Passive Expert-Sourcing for Policy Making in the European Union 162
Aggeliki Androutsopoulou, Francesco Mureddu, Euripidis Loukis, and Yannis Charalabidis

Multi-stakeholder Preference Analysis in Ex-ante Evaluation of Policy Options - Use Case: Ultra Low Emission Vehicles in UK 176
Anton Talantsev, Osama Ibrahim, and Aron Larsson

Author Index 189