Preface

Information Technology (IT) has become crucial in the support, sustainability and growth of enterprises. Previously, governing boards and senior management executives could delegate, ignore or avoid IT decisions. In most sectors and industries, such attitudes are now impossible, as enterprises are increasingly completely dependent on IT for survival and growth. Given this centrality of IT for enterprise risk management and value generation, a specific focus on Enterprise Governance of IT (EGIT) has arisen over the past two decades.

Within the University of Antwerp and Antwerp Management School, we have been executing and stimulating applied research in this domain for more than 15 years. We established the IT Alignment and Governance Research Institute in 2003 (www.antwerpmanagementschool.be/itag) to organize and disseminate our research and launched the International Journal on IT/Business Alignment and Governance (www.igi-global.com/IJITBAG) in 2010 for further build an international ecosystem in this research area. The International Journal of IT/Business Alignment and Governance (IJITBAG) focuses on management and governance issues within the IT-related business domain. The emphasis is on how organizations enable both businesses and IT people to execute their responsibilities in support of business/IT alignment and the creation of business value from IT-enabled investments. This journal distributes leading research that is both academically executed and relevant for practice in the professional IT and business community. The journal encourages practice-oriented research papers from academics, case studies, and reflective papers from practitioners. Both quantitative and qualitative research papers are welcome, and special attention is given to explorative research reports that leverage innovative research methodologies to explore new insights in the practitioners’ field and theory.

With this manuscript, we want to highlight some of the research that was published in the journal in the period 2013, 2014 and 2015. Authors were asked to improve and update their work with new empirical findings, insights and discussions that they have obtained after publishing their original work in the journal. These enhanced manuscripts are now collected and published in this edited book.
The target audience for this book is threefold:

- Researchers and academics in the field of enterprise governance of IT and alignment, who are interested in new advances in this research area.
- Master students, for whom this textbook can be used in courses typical on IT strategy, Enterprise Governance of IT, IT management, IT processes, IT and business architecture, IT assurance/audit, information systems management, etc.
- Executive students in business schools, for MBA type of courses where IT strategy or IT management modules are addressed.
- Practitioners in the field, both business and IT managers, who are seeking research based fundamentals and practical implementation issues related to it in the domain of Enterprise Governance of IT.

We hope that with this book, we can contribute to further developing the knowledge domain of Enterprise Governance of IT. This book is one of the outcomes of our work within the University of Antwerp – Antwerp Management School – IT Alignment and Governance (ITAG) Research Institute and we would like to thank all business managers, IT managers, audit and control professionals, academics and colleagues who shared their experiences with us during our teaching, research and advisory activities.

*Steven De Haes*
*Antwerp Management School, University of Antwerp, Belgium*

*Wim Van Grembergen*
*Antwerp Management School, University of Antwerp, Belgium*