EDITORIAL PREFACE

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In your hands, the second issue of 2014 of the International Journal of Web Portals, with five recent and relevant developments of theory and practice of web portals related to online communities, e-Government interoperability frameworks, intellectual capital management, education and environmental management. In another highly international issue, you will find a set of contributions authored by renowned authors from Germany, Portugal, Qatar, Spain and USA briefly introduced below.

Recently, sustainability of virtual organizations has been receiving increasing attention in the literature, and most of the suggested sustainability pieces have been theoretical in nature or based on case studies. Based on their experience with a virtual organization called GlobalHUB, Roumani, McNeill, Patil, Ouzzani and Hirleman discuss that putting all of the suggested building blocks into place does not necessarily lead, by itself, to sustainability of a virtual organization. In the first paper, "GlobalHUB - A Model for Sustainable Online Communities", the authors argue that sustainability has many complex and dynamic dimensions that needs to be addressed in existing models of sustainability for virtual organizations. This paper provides their key learnings in the process of building GlobalHUB as a sustainable online community.

The search for better and more adequate levels of government information systems interoperability led many governments all over the world to develop, adopt and publish what is known as e-Government interoperability frameworks. The central purpose of Campos and Soares in "IFPortal – A Web Portal for the Characterization and Comparison of Government Interoperability Frameworks", is to present a detailed description of a portal - IFPortal - that could provide a simple and appropriate way to aggregate, analyze, compare and display information about e-Government interoperability frameworks. Such a portal will enable the registration, search, visualization, analysis and comparison of interoperability frameworks' content, structure and scope, thus allowing for the identification of similarities and differences among them. An IFPortal prototype, already developed, is also presented and may be accessed in order to exemplify the concept.

The pervasive potential of artificial intelligence techniques in business scenarios has gained momentum recently through the combination of traditional software engineering disciplines and cutting-edge computer science research areas such as neural networks or genetic algorithms. The third paper of this issue, "A multi-objective genetic algorithm for software personnel staffing for HCIM solutions", authored by Jiménez-Domingo, Colomo-Palacios and Gómez-Berbís, introduces MORGANA, a platform to perform competence oriented

personnel staffing in software projects by means of a multi-objective genetic algorithm. The system is designed to be part of global human and intellectual capital management solutions. The main goal of MORGANA is to assist software project managers, by providing a comprehensible artificial intelligence-based formal framework to optimize efficiency and improve person-role fit.

A large number of university web portal's content and design do not meet today's students' expectations and requirements. In "Student acceptance of University Web Portals: A quantitative study", Ross, Fathema and Witte explore the factors that influence students' acceptance of university web portals. The authors conducted a wide study and concluded that website quality, perceived self-efficacy, and facilitating conditions were significant in explaining students' use of university web portals and therefore, indicated that the extended TAM has sufficient explanatory power to explain students' usage of university web portals. In conclusion, important theoretical and practical implications of the results are presented for both researchers and practitioners.

The last paper, "Green Web Services Integration and Workflow Execution within Next Generation CEMIS", presents a detailed implementation of the Corporate Environmental Management Information Systems (CEMIS) Next Generation platform of the IT-for-Green research project. The provided services within this platform are grouped based on the module to which they belong. These services will be the main realization of the workflows activities of the system's business processes. In the frame of this project, the Next Generation CEMIS will be developed, to integrate research concepts of current interest and investigate their feasibility through a prototypical implementation. In this paper, Mahmoud, Rapp and van Vliet focus on two major components: the workflow engine implemented using State Chart XML (SCXML) and the Green Service Mall realized as a set of standardized Web Services.

Before finishing this editorial preface, we would like to take this opportunity to express our gratitude to IGI Global for the excellent support of their team of professionals. We would like also to thank all the members of the Editorial Board for their commitment and for sharing their knowledge and experience in the support of the decision-making process. Finally, we would like to express our gratitude to all the authors who submitted their work, for their visions and excellent contributions.

We hope you will find here an interesting and a valuable source of knowledge and ideas. Enjoy your reading!

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