GUEST EDITORIAL PREFACE

Special Issue on e-Government Project Management

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e-Government evolution has been based on the implementation of ambitious public programmes, that reflect Government strategic planning and the respective political frameworks. E-Government programmes have and are being offered extensive funding for telecommunication networks, software applications, information systems, training, change management, interoperability frameworks etc. Several complex projects are generated by these programmes, which involve multiple disciplines and stakeholders. In this context, project management is necessary to secure project success.

According to the Project Management Institute (PMI), project management concerns "*the application of knowledge, skills and techniques to execute projects effectively and efficiently. It's a strategic competency for organizations, enabling them to tie project results to business goals — and thus, better compete in their markets*". Today, project management standards and theory provide with useful instructions and tools all major industries –i.e. construction, engineering, software, healthcare- and classify projects respectively, suggesting that e-Government projects could structure a district project category. Indeed, most e-Government projects require special knowledge and disciplines; they are large scale and cross-organization or even supranational, while at the same time many are innovative and politically ambitious. Moreover, e-Government project success demands social adoption beyond project's successful implementation.

This special issue focuses on the management of e-Government projects and in this order it aims to answer the following queries:

- Does e-Government concern a district novel industry and in this context respective projects have to be managed differently?
- Are project management standards (i.e., PMBOK, ICB etc.) and methods (i.e. PRINCE) efficient for managing an e-Government project or they must be extended accordingly?
- How public organizations measure e-Government progress and success? Are existing indexes and models effective for e-Government assessment?

- Which exemplars have derived from various international practices regarding e-Government project management?
- How differently public organizations deal with e-Government project management? More specifically, which aspects and attributes of a project a large organization does prioritize (i.e., the OECD, the European Commission, the UN) in comparison to a small organization (i.e. a Municipality)?

Similar sorts of questions have been asked by the contributors to this special issue who investigated e-Government project management. The first article "Why has Project Management (PMBOK) hindered instead of advanced Transformational eGovernment?" by Shauneen Furlong addresses the obstacles that lead transformational e-Government projects to failure and aligns their handling to respective PMBOK's knowledge areas. Gouscos and Karamagioli follow with their contribution "Management aspects of E-Government Projects: contextual and empirical findings", which illustrates a number of factors that affect e-Government project success, while it proposes a holistic model for e-Government project management. Charalambidis and Sarantis consider query e-Government project failure too in their contribution "Towards innovating electronic government projects management, utilising goal-driven, knowledge-based methods and tools" and they propose an e-Government project management model, which is based on goal-driven and knowledge-based methods and tools, which can increase respective project success. Aikins follows up the same question in his article "A Risk-based Audit Model for Improving the Success Rates of e-Government Project Implementation", he recognizes risk existence across the entire e-Government project life-cycle and provides a risk-based audit model to systematically improve project success rates. The final article "Social media and e-participation: challenges of social media for managing public projects" by Vogt et al., questions social media contribution to e-Government project management and introduces a social network exemplar that overcomes various social media barriers in this discipline.

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