

# 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, 24 papers (empirical and conceptual) from the General EGOV Track, the Open Government and Open/Big Data Track, and the Smart Governance/Government/Cities Track were accepted for Springer's LNCS EGOV proceedings, whereas another 14 completed research papers from the General ePart Track and the Policy Modeling and Policy Informatics Track are published in LNCS ePart proceedings (vol. 9821).

The papers in the General EGOV/Open-Big Data/Smart Gov Tracks were clustered under the following headings:

- Foundations
- Benchmarking and Evaluation
- Information Integration and Governance
- Services
- Evaluation and Public Values
- EGOV Success and Failure
- Governance
- Social Media
- Engagement
- Processes
- Policy-Making
- Trust, Transparency, and Accountability
- Open Government and Big/Open Data
- Smart Government/Governance/Cities

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.

As in the past and per the 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 the University of Minho (UMinho) and the United Nations University Operating Unit on Policy-Driven Electronic Governance (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 UMinho and Tomasz Janowski of the UNU-EGOV and their respective teams in Guimarães, Portugal, were major contributors who helped organize the dual conference and manage zillions of details

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