

Preface

This book contains the proceedings of the 7th International Conference on eDemocracy (e-Democracy 2017), held in Athens, Greece, December 14–15, 2017. The conference continues from previous events that have always been held in Athens, the cradle of democracy, initially every three years starting in 2003 and every two years since 2009.

ICT innovations such as big data, Internet of Things, cloud computing as well as intelligent systems employed in e-Government services raise issues relating to security, privacy, and data protection. Governments want to integrate more services and enhance participation, but they have to convince the users that they can be trusted. At the same time, e-government services need to improve their efficiency and to do so they need to re-engineer their back office processes, to support them with intelligent systems, but also improve openness, collaboration, and citizen participation. This last point can be hugely enhanced by offering citizens participation in devolved decision-making and e-voting facilities for elections. Such services are often quoted as being dependent on political will, but are the systems and services ready? Are they privacy-friendly and secure to withstand attacks and malicious or even terrorist activities in cyberspace? Are they trustworthy to be embraced by the citizens in a digital world that is moving fast and becoming more intelligent? And finally, where should be drawn the “golden line” between anonymity and confidentiality, and accountability and certification?

These were the questions and the focus of the 7th occasion of the International Conference on e-Democracy. The conference was organized by the Scientific Council for the Information Society, in co-operation with the Hellenic Data Protection Authority. It was intended, as in previous occasions, to provide a forum for presenting and debating the latest developments in the field, from a technical, political, legal, and regulatory point of view. The conference attracted 44 high-quality submissions, each of which was assigned to four referees for review; the review process resulted in accepting 18 papers to be included in the conference proceedings.

e-Democracy 2017 brought together academic researchers, industry developers, and policy makers. We thank the attendees for coming to Athens to participate and debate the new emerging advances in the field of e-democracy.

We would like to express our thanks to all those who assisted us in organizing the event and putting together the program. We are very grateful to the Program Committee members for their timely and rigorous reviews of the papers. Thanks are also due to the Organizing Committee for the event. Last but by no means least, we would like to thank all the authors who submitted their work to the conference and contributed to an interesting set of conference proceedings.

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