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Preface, Electronic Government

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Preface

The EGOV-CeDEM-ePart 2020 presents the third-year edition after the merger of the IFIP WG 8.5 Electronic Government (EGOV), the IFIP WG 8.5 IFIP Electronic Participation (ePart), and the Conference for E-Democracy and Open Government Conference (CeDEM). The merged conference is dedicated to the broader area of electronic government, open government, smart governance, e-democracy, policy informatics, and electronic participation. Scholars from around the world have attended this premier academic forum for a long time, which has given EGOV a worldwide reputation as one of the leading conferences in the research domains of electronic, open, and smart government, as well as electronic participation.

Due to the pandemic, this year's conference was held from August 31 to September 2, as a digital conference. The original hosts at Linköping University, Sweden, supported the organization, and all presentations and discussions, workshops keynotes, and panels were held online. Despite the disappointment of not being able to host the conference locally, the conference was a huge success.

The call for papers attracted completed research papers, work-in-progress papers on ongoing research (including doctoral papers), project and case descriptions, as well as workshop and panel proposals. The submissions were assessed through a double-blind peer-review process, with at least two reviewers per submission, and the acceptance rate was 39%. The conference tracks present advances in the socio-technological domain of the public sphere, demonstrating cutting-edge concepts, methods, and styles of investigation by multiple disciplines. The papers were distributed over the following tracks:

- General E-Government and E-Governance Track
- General E-Democracy and eParticipation Track
- AI, Data Analytics, and Automated Decision Making Track
- Smart Cities (Government, Communities and Regions) Track
- Social Media Track
- Social Innovation Track
- Open Data: Social and Technical Aspects Track
- Digital Society Track
- Cybersecurity Track
- Legal Informatics Track
- Practitioners' Track

Among the full research paper submissions, 30 papers (empirical and conceptual) from the general E-Government and E-Governance track, as well as the tracks on Smart Cities, AI, and Open Data were accepted for this year's Springer LNCS EGOV proceedings (vol. 12219), whereas another 11 papers of completed research papers from the General ePart Track, as well as the tracks on Social Media, Legal Informatics, Digital Society, and Social Innovation, went into the LNCS ePart proceedings

(vol. 12220). The papers included in this volume have been clustered under the following headings:

- E-Government Foundations
- E-Government Services and Open Government
- Open Data: Social and Technical Aspects
- AI, Data Analytics, and Automated Decision Making
- Smart Cities

As in the previous years and per the recommendation of the Paper Awards Committee under the leadership of Noella Edelmann, Danube University Krems, Austria, and Evangelos Kalampokis from the University of Macedonia, Greece, the IFIP EGOV-CeDEM-ePart 2020 Conference Organizing Committee grants 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 during an awards ceremony held at the conference.

Many people make large events like this conference happen. We thank the members of the Program Committee and the additional reviewers for their great efforts in reviewing the submitted papers. We would like to express our gratitude to Ida Lindgren, Ulf Melin, and the team from Linköping University (LiU) for hosting the conference. Although disappointed from not being able to host it locally, they made the conference a success. LiU conducts world-leading, boundary-crossing research in fields that include materials science, IT, and hearing. In the same spirit, the university offers many innovative educational programs, frequently with a clear professional focus and leading to qualification as, for example, doctors, teachers, economists, and engineers. LiU was granted university status in 1975 and today has 32,000 students and 4,000 employees. The students are among the most desirable in the labor market, and international rankings consistently place LiU as a leading global university. The EGOV 2020 conference was hosted by the Division of Information Systems and Digitalization, at the Department of Management and Engineering, which is one of the most visible digital government research constellations in Europe and well-known for extensive research collaborations with a focus on public sector organizations and their digitalization in Sweden and beyond. We are looking forward having our conference in Linköping in the near future and having the opportunity to visit this excellent research group.

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