



Editorial 15(1)

Noella Edelmann

ORCID Nr 0000-0001-8386-9585

Department for E-Governance and Administration, University for Continuing Education Krems
Noella.edelmann@donau-uni.ac.at

Anneke Zuiderwijk-van Eijk

ORCID Nr: 0000-0002-3552-7289

Faculty of Technology, Policy and Management, Delft University of Technology, the Netherlands,
a.m.g.zuiderwijk-vaneijk@tudelft.nl

Welcome to a new issue of JeDEM! This is the EGOV Conference Special Issue as it invites the participants to submit to the OA journal JeDEM. Thus the research papers, case studies and reflections published in this issue address topics addressed at the conference, in this case, e-participation, e-democracy, e-voting, decision-making processes, transparency and cybersecurity.

Barati's article "*Casual Social Media Use among the Youth: Effects on Online and Offline Political Participation*" considers the use of social media in young audiences that is correlated with online and offline political participation. As the debate on whether online political participation in the youth increases offline political participation is mixed and inconclusive, the study uses three models of OLS, two-way fixed effects, and an instrumental variable approach to make causal inferences about the social media use and online and offline political participation of the youth. The analyses provide evidence of a significant effect of casual social media use on online political participation but no real effect on offline political activity and voting behavior. The author argues that the results provide strong evidence of "elasticity" between online political participation and offline political activity in young individuals.

Huda and Amin's article "*Understanding the Intention to Use LAPOR Application as e-Democracy in Indonesia: An Integrating ECM and UTAUT Perspective*" focuses on e-democracy, in particular the use of theoretical models to explain the critical factors that influence user acceptance of e-democracy. In order to study the critical factors that influence the adoption of e-democracy, they propose a conceptual model that integrates ECM into UTAUT. Their results indicate that satisfaction, perceived usefulness, effort expectancy, and facilitation conditions directly influence the intention to use e-democracy, whilst social influences do not. Another application of e-democracy is e-voting. The article "*Internet Voting for Policy Proposals: Amplifying Open Government in Chile and Colombia*" by Khutkky and Astudillo Laureda presents an analysis of the impact of i-voting for

policy proposals on voters, civil society organizations, government authorities and open government overall, taking into account public transparency, civic participation and public accountability in Chile and Colombia. The results highlight that i-voting for policy proposals helps bridge remote parts of the countries and makes democratic participation more inclusive.

Mamrot, in the article "*Application of business process modelling and reengineering to law making process in Poland*" argues that whilst the number of the adopted regulations is increasing, their quality is reducing. As improving existing legislation is both time-consuming and difficult, they propose the application of business process modelling and reengineering techniques to improve the quality of law during the the course of law-making. Business Process Model and Notation (BPMN) could support the design of processes, indicate how proposed amendments affect the regulated processes, ensure that legislation is failure-free and effective thus enhancing the quality of public processes regulated by legislation.

Transparency and privacy are big topics in this issue. Barati's second article "*Open Government Data Programs and Information Privacy Concerns: A Literature Review*" reviews the literature on privacy concerns regarding Open Government Data (OGD) programs in order to highlight the technical, procedural, and legal remedies. The study's findings suggest that contradictions with Fair Information Practices, reidentification risks, conflicts with OGD value propositions, and smart city data practices are significant privacy concerns and that technical, legal, and procedural measures may help mitigate privacy concerns. In the context of of government procurement, S. Chilunjika, A. Chilunjika and Uwizeyimana, focus on the challenges and benefits of adopting electronic procurement (e-procurement) technologies to facilitate anti-corruption mechanisms, accountability and transparency. Their article "*Implementing e-procurement at Zimbabwe's National Pharmaceutical Company (NatPharm): Challenges and Prospects*" focuses on the procurement of pharmaceuticals at the National Pharmaceutical (NatPharm) Company in Zimbabwe as pharmaceutical corruption is understood as a serious threat to the attainment of Universal Health Coverage. They see Information Communication Technologies (ICTs) as particularly useful in order to detect and prevent corruption and fraud, in particular, addressing the problems caused by leakages, mismanagement and theft of medicines. Their qualitative exploratory case study reveal that, pharmaceutical procurement is highly vulnerable to corruption, bid rigging, procurement-related corruption, bribery and nepotism. Based on these study resulty, they recommend the adoption of a transparent e-procurement system with open contracting and integrity pacts to reduce corruption, increase transparency and accountability. In the case study "*Examining the Impact of Transparency Portals on Media Coverage: Insights from a High-Profile Case of Public Procurement Irregularities in Spain*", García-García and Alonso-Magdaleno also focus on the topic of procurement and transparency. Their study examines the use of data from a transparency portal in media coverage of a high-profile case of alleged public procurement irregularities in Spain. Their qualitative analysis reveals that the most frequent topics were the use of portal data as an authoritative argument to endorse information, the statement that the portal did not contain sufficient information for journalistic purposes, and the absence of data on third parties involved in public procurement. Thus, they recommend that governments promote the existence of transparency portals and make media outlets aware that providing links to original data is beneficial for their reporting. In addition, linked open data should be used to ensure accuracy and transparency.

We conclude this issue with two reflections. The first, considers voting and the impact on democracy: "*Democratising Democracy: Votes-Weighted Representation*" by Major and Preminger. They argue that there is growing support for proportional representation in the UK, and suggest that the British voting system can be simplified and improved by introducing weighted voting in the legislative assembly and by giving every voter a 'dynamic' second vote, which they can arbitrarily split and delegate to any representatives from any constituencies, for however long and on whichever issues they wish. In comparison to existing systems, this would allow a more accountable, more responsive and finer-grained coverage of the inherently multi-dimensional political space, also in the periods between elections, helps prevent the waste of votes and achieve better proportionality of voting power, as well as provide the highest remainders methods for apportioning representatives. The second reflection addresses transparency, "*Defining Transparency: A Functional Approach*", by Cruz Romero. Transparency is a fuzzy concept within the governance literature; it is commonly linked, through blurry categorisations, to other concepts in the political science and public administration scholarship, such as accountability and corruption. His reflection piece seeks to tackle this blurriness and advance the concept's analytical precision by presenting and discussing transparency's main dimensions, as well as its framing within the scholarly body of good governance, democracy, and development. To do so, the reflection paper presents a novel approach; to define transparency in the form of a function (which places transparency in relation to, and as a function) of its two constituting dimensions: a) information (timely and qualitative), and b) accountability mechanisms (namely, a free media environment and legitimate accountability channels). Reviewing a sample of relevant and influential works in the broad field of transparency, these two dimensions are analysed highlighting the common analytical factors found in the scholarship, pointing towards potential applications of the novel functional approach framework. In doing so, the reflection presents and discusses some prospective research hypotheses, marking the road for future theoretical and empirical research, as well as policy implications.

We hope you enjoy reading this issue!