

OPEN GOVERNMENT: CONTRIBUTIONS FROM CURRENT EC FUNDED PROJECTS TO CITIZEN PARTICIPATION, GOOD GOVERNANCE AND COLLABORATIVE POLICY DEVELOPMENT

Friday, 2nd September 2011



Delft University of Technology
Aula Conference Centre
Mekelweg 5, Delft, The Netherlands
Room: commissiekamer 3

Motivation and Background

Over the past ten years, electronic government (also called e-government or digital government) has evolved to a prevalent field of research and practice. In the past few years, a high demand to focus more on the aspects of good governance in e-government arose. Two terms coined these developments: e-participation and e-governance. While e-participation concentrated on citizen participation in democratic decision making and policy formulation therewith using modern ICT, e-governance and public governance developments focused on organizational and efficiency aspects. Recent trends bring together the three foci of past evolutions in research and practice of e-government, e-participation and e-governance. The OECD has published a study in 2009, where it addresses the integration of these three aspects. In the study “Focus on Citizens: Public Engagement for Better Policy and Services”, it is argued that “open and inclusive policy making offers one way to improve policy performance and meet citizens rising expectations. Public engagement in the design and delivery of public policy and services can help governments better understand people’s needs, leverage a wider pool of information and resources, improve compliance, contain costs and reduce the risk of conflict and delays downstream”¹. Likewise, the European Commission (EC) has introduced an objective in its seventh Framework Program, which is dedicated to “ICT for governance and policy modelling”². The objective specifically focuses the involvement of the general public in policy making and in strategic decision making thereby exploiting advancements in ICT. The first set of projects that were funded by the EC started around early 2010 and a number of new projects are scheduled to start in autumn 2011.

¹ OECD (2009): Focus on Citizens: Public Engagement for Better Policy and Services, OECD Studies on Public Engagement, OECD Publishing, 2009, doi: 10.1787/9789264048874-en, p. 21

² See the European Commission’s website on FP 7
http://ec.europa.eu/information_society/activities/egovernment/research/index_en.htm

This workshop aims at cross-fertilizing approaches and insights from the individual projects funded by the EC in the field of ICT solutions for governance and policy modelling. As the workshop is organised in the frame of IFIP's international EGOV and ePart conferences, participation to the workshop requires registration to one of the conferences (one-day registration is possible).

The aim of this workshop is to

- a) provide an environment for cross-fertilization among the projects funded in ICT for governance and policy modelling;
- b) provide a platform to discuss and exchange knowledge and approaches, and to network among the different EC-funded research projects;
- c) present approaches and current results of the EC-funded projects in the field;
- d) discuss relevant aspects pertinent to the topic and emerging in the different projects; and
- e) identify common themes and directions for future research agendas in governance and policy modelling.

Agenda

Plenary	
9:00 – 9.30	Introduction to the workshop “Open Government: Contributions from Current EC-funded Projects to Citizen Participation, Good Governance and Collaborative Policy Development” and its objectives <i>by Maria A. Wimmer and Vishanth Weerakkody</i>
9.30 – 9.50	Presentation of the Cockpit project <i>by Sotiris Koussouris, NTUA, Greece</i>
9.50 – 10.10	Presentation of the UbiPol project <i>by Vishanth Weerakkody, Brunel University, UK</i>
10.10 – 10.30	ICT-enabled, Web 2.0 based policy deliberation, analysis and simulation: PADGETS and NOMAD projects <i>by Euripidis Loukis and Yannis Charalabidis, University of the Aegean, Greece</i>
10.30-11.00	<i>Coffee Break</i>
Plenary	
11:00 - 11.20	The IMPACT Argumentation Toolbox for Policy Deliberations <i>by Tom Gordon, Fraunhofer Fokus, Germany</i>
11.20 – 11.40	Presentation of the OCOPOMO project <i>by Maria A. Wimmer and Sabrina Scherer, University of Koblenz-Landau, Germany</i>
11.40 – 12.00	Establishing an international community on ICT for governance and policy modeling: The eGovPoliNet project <i>by Maria A Wimmer, University of Koblenz-Landau, Germany</i>
12.00 – 12.30	Discussion and introduction to the group discussions
12.30 - 13.30	<i>Lunch break</i>
Group discussions	
13.30 - 15.00	<i>Session 3: Discussions of pertinent issues relevant for the topic and emerging from different projects (more details will be provided at the workshop)</i>
15.00-15.30	<i>Coffee break</i>
Plenary	
15.30 - 17.30	<i>Session 4: Short reports of group results (30 - 45 min) and final group discussion (60 min)</i>

Call for papers for publication in IJEGR

Innovative contributions are sought for from the different projects funded by the EC under the objective ICT for governance and policy modeling for a special issue of the International Journal of Electronic Government Research. Please send your draft papers not exceeding 15 A4 pages, single-spaced using times new roman 12 pt fonts to the workshop organisers via email. The papers should briefly present the overall objectives of the projects and their expected results. The main focus of the papers should be on innovative methods and solutions deployed or developed in the projects, as well as on key contributions to open government and their impact and contribution to current strategic directions. The special issue of the International Journal of Electronic Government Research (www.igi-global.com/ijegr) will be co-edited by Maria Wimmer (University of Koblenz-Landau, Germany) and Vishanth Weerakkody (Brunel University, UK). Detailed guidelines for preparing the papers for the special issue will be emailed to the workshop participants after the workshop. The publication of the special issue is foreseen in 2012.

Workshop organisers

<p>Dr. Maria A. Wimmer Professor for Electronic Government University of Koblenz-Landau, Institute for IS Research Universitaetsstr. 1, D-56070 Koblenz URL: www.uni-koblenz.de/agvinf/ E-Mail: wimmer@uni-koblenz.de</p>	<p>Dr Vishanth Weerakkody Senior Lecturer Brunel University, Business School Uxbridge, Middlesex UB8 3PH, UK URL: www.brunel.ac.uk/about/acad/bbs/bbsstaff/bm_staff/vishanthweerakkody email: vishanth.weerakkody@brunel.ac.uk</p>
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