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Electronic Participation

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Preface

The annual international IFIP conference on electronic participation (ePart) aims to bring together researchers of distinct disciplines in order to present and discuss advances in eParticipation research. As the field of eParticipation is multidisciplinary in nature, ePart provides an excellent opportunity for researchers with backgrounds in different academic discipline to share and discuss current research on foundations, theories, methods, tools, and innovative applications of eParticipation. In addition, ePart provides a fruitful ground to nurture and plan future cooperation.

The 6th ePart conference was organized by members of IFIP Working Group 8.5 and was supported by a multidisciplinary Program Committee from all over the globe. As always, the conference was organized along with the International Conference on Electronic Government (EGOV). Both conferences are supported by the International Federation for Information Processing Working Group 8.5 on Information Systems in Public Administration (IFIP WG 8.5).

The IFIP ePart 2014 Call for Papers attracted a wide range of topics with 22 submissions, which included 11 accepted full research papers, 5 ongoing research papers and one workshop.

This volume includes complete research work organized in four groups as follows:

- Social media
- Review and Analysis
- Engaging citizens online
- Software platforms and evaluation

In addition, ongoing research papers and the workshop abstracts are published by IOS Press in a complementary proceedings volume. As in previous years, that volume covers paper contributions, workshop abstracts, and panel summaries from both, IFIP EGOV and IFIP ePart conferences. Edited by the chairs of both conferences, the volume once again illustrates the close links between ePart and EGOV, our sister conference focusing on eGovernment research.

All ePart submissions were blind peer reviewed by at least three reviewers from the ePart 2014 Program Committee with the assistance of additional reviewers. We would like to acknowledge their professionalism and rigor which has resulted in these high quality papers.

For the third time and as per the recommendation of the Paper Awards Committee, led by committee chair Olivier Glassey of IDHEAP, Lausanne, Switzerland, the IFIP ePart 2014 Organizing Committee granted an outstanding paper award. The winners were presented with their award in the ceremony at the conference dinner, which has become a highlight of each ePart conference. The names of the winners are available on the conference web page: http://www.epart-conference.org/.

IFIP ePart 2014 was hosted by the Trinity College Dublin which is situated in the heart of Dublin, Ireland. Trinity College Dublin was created by royal charter in 1592. There were 16,646 registered students in 2012/13 and over 100,277 alumni. Trinity College has a long history, whose ongoing traditions and enduring artifacts we were able to enjoy. The conference dinner was held in the marvellous 18th century dining hall. The welcome drinks were held in the atrium, which has a modern internal structure and is an obvious contrast to the more traditional dining hall.

We are grateful to a number of people who made IFIP ePart 2014 happen. We thank the members of the ePart 2014 Program Committee and the additional reviewers for their great efforts in reviewing the submitted papers. Frank Bannister and his team of Trinity College Dublin were major contributors who tirelessly organized and managed all details locally.

September 2014   Efthimios Tambouris
                                                                Ann Macintosh
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Organization

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