

20th Bled eConference
eMergence:
Merging and Emerging Technologies, Processes, and Institutions
Bled, Slovenia, June 4 - 6, 2007

**Shaping the future eGovernment research framework:
Research topics and further actions**

Co-chairs:

Maria Wimmer, Professor of eGovernment
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Workshop members:

Dr. Sharon Dawes, Director of the Center for Technology in Government
University at Albany, USA
Kristina Bogataj, Senior researcher
Faculty of Organizational Sciences, University of Maribor, Slovenia
Dr. Alenka Žužek Nemec, Secretary,
Department of International Relations, Ministry of Public Administration, Slovenia

Workshop description

Many strategic documents and initiatives have been launched in order to achieve more efficient government at the European level. The goals of these documents were the basic guideline underlying the 5th and 6th Framework Programs of IST (Information Society Technologies). The research priorities of the 6th Framework Program of IST addressed research priorities with the labels "ICT research for innovative Government" and "Strengthening the Integration of the ICT research effort in an Enlarged Europe".

To gather a comprehensive understanding of future eGovernment research, a profound analysis of the deficiencies of current research in respect to future needs is required. Within the eGovRTD2020¹ project, such an analysis of gaps in current eGovernment research and roadmapping for further needed actions was done.

At the workshop, the most important and relevant identified future research themes from the eGOVRTD2020 project will be presented. Further on also actions needed to efficiently address identified future research themes to shape them into the eGovernment research framework will be presented.

Workshop participants will be encouraged to actively participate in the discussion about presented research themes and actions. Discussion may result also to arising of new important research themes and/or needed actions for addressing them.

¹ eGovRTD2020 (Roadmapping eGovernment research 2020, IST-4-27139, <http://www.egovrtd2020.org/>) is a specific support action co-funded by the European Commission under the 6th framework program of IST.

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Research challenges for future eGovernment

Co-Chairs:

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Panel members:

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University at Albany, USA
Dr. Aleš Dobnikar, Head
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Dr. Pal Gaspar, Director
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Federal Public Service Finances, Belgium
Dr. Yigal Arens, Director
Digital Government Research Center, USC/Information Sciences Institute, USA

Panel description

Today, Information Society forces not only the business sector, but also governments all over the world to improve their operation in order to become more efficient and effective. Modern ICT heavily impacts and shapes Government activities in order to enable governments to cooperate with society, citizens, businesses and with other government agencies within countries and across borders in a more efficient and effective way.

Many strategic documents and initiatives have been launched in order to achieve more efficient government at the European level. Furthermore, a great deal of research is already going on in eGovernment related research. One of the EC-funded projects, eGOVRTD2020, aims at identifying future research themes for eGovernment, and measures to implement these research topics.

In order to understand future eGovernment research, there is a need to carefully analyze the deficiencies of current research in respect to future needs. Within eGovRTD2020, future scenarios of governments interacting with its constituency (citizens, companies, other governments, other institutions) via ICT have been developed. Based on a current state of play research, a comparison among current research and future needs has elicited a number of challenges and deficiencies for research. Based on these insights, a research roadmap for eGovernment has been developed, proposing as well measures to implement the research. Apart from that, a discussion of consequences and impacts if such research is not being carried out is provided.

At the beginning of the panel, the results of the preceding workshop group discussion will be presented. Subsequently, the panel discussion will be focusing on the exchange of experiences from different eGovernment related research projects aiming at defining future eGovernment research actions in order to spur eGovernment innovation and developments.

First, Ales Dobnikar will present the position of research in eGovernment from the Slovenian government. Thereafter, Dr. Sharon Dawes will introduce eGovernment research activities in the US, funded in the context of the National Science Foundation.

After the presentations of positions on eGovernment research, the panel will discuss the following questions:

- What are the current deficiencies of eGovernment research?
- What are the hindrances that practice can smoothly take up results from eGovernment research?
- What is the benefit of eGovernment research, and what is its contribution to the information society?
- What are the future challenges of eGovernment research?
- What if funding of eGovernment research will not be continued by the EC, and will not start at national level of Member States?

The panel discussion will be moderated by Maria Wimmer.

The whole panel will be chaired by Andreja Pucihar.

While discussion will be instigated by the panel members, the nature of the panel is to encourage and moderate the exchange of experience and perspectives between the panellists and the audience. This panel is expected to contribute to policy agendas.

The results of the discussion will be provided as a report on the eGovRTD2020 project website (<http://www.egovrtd2020.org/>).

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