



Editorial

Welcome to the second issue of JeDEM in 2017, co-edited with Qinfeng Zhu from City University of Hong Kong!

This yearly issue is known as the “CeDEM issue”, it traditionally presents some of the best papers from the Conference for eDemocracy and Open Government (CeDEM) held earlier on in the year. It includes not only the “CeDEM Best Paper”, but also those that made it onto the shortlist (maximum 5!). Whilst the original papers were published in the conference proceedings, JeDEM presents the extended and updated versions of them. This year, we are doing things a little differently; the current issue not only has the top papers from CeDEM17 held in Krems, Austria, but also includes the best papers from the sister conference CeDEM Asia 2016 held in Daegu, Republic of Korea. Although CeDEM Asia does not yet have an official “Best Paper Prize”, the three papers presented here received some of the highest scores and reviews. In total, this CeDEM issue contains six papers; Heike Hermanns, Benjamin Huffman, and Morten Nielsen Meyerhoff submitted to the CeDEM Asia 2016 conference, whilst Marco Deseriis (winner of the best paper prize), Jan T. Frecè and Thomas Selzam, Martin Beno, Kathrin Figl, Jürgen Umbrich, and Axel Polleres contributed to the CeDEM17 conference. Their papers tackle two overarching themes, namely, the role of new media technologies in shaping political participation, and the use of ICTs in the public sector for service delivery, smart city and open data initiatives.

“The internet and social media have been credited with the potential to reinvigorate democracy by offering new avenues of political participation and communication between citizens and politicians” (p.1). While a great number of studies have investigated the role of new media technologies in facilitating bottom-up citizen participation, Heike Hermanns scrutinizes this statement by asking whether politicians really are exploring and exploiting the interactive potential of new media to engage citizens. To answer the question, she looks into the case of South Korea, one of the most wired nations in the world, where its citizens are among the most prolific social media users and digital media have become a common toolkit for bottom-up political mobilization and organization. Using Stein’s typology (2009), Hermanns examines the Korean National Assembly members’ social media presence and features of their online communication.

Benjamin Huffman also addresses the participatory potential of new media technologies in opening up new channels for citizens to communicate their preferences and opinions to decision makers. He approaches the topic from the perspective of demand, and raises the questions as to what intrinsic and instrumental values citizens attach to e-Participation and what barriers citizens confront. Based on his critique of the “Socially Inclusive Governance Framework” introduced by the United Nations Public Administration Network (UNPAN) and Amartya Sen’s (1992) Capabilities Approach, Huffman proposes an e-Participation model that shifts its focus from information

and technology access to individuals' capabilities to participate. He continues to test the model using the case of e-Participation in the Philippines, a country where the citizens spend a significant amount of time on social media daily and the government is eager to improve the country's information and communication infrastructure, e-Government, and e-Participation amid a fast economic growth.

After tackling the theme from both a supply and demand side, this issue goes on to pursue the question as to whether the new media technologies are neutral. In his award-winning paper "*Direct Parliamentarianism: An Analysis of the Political Values Embedded in Rousseau, the 'Operating System' of the Five Star Movement*", Marco Deseriis illustrates an intriguing case about how the design of a participatory platform can embody a certain set of political values and shapes democratic potentials. Through a case study on Rousseau, the decision-making platform of the second largest Italian political party, the Five Star Movement, Marco presents how the design of the platform allows seemingly incompatible conceptions of democracies coexist side by side. He argues that, contrary to the 5SM founders' claim that Rousseau enables a form of direct democracy, the frequent resource to voting combined with the lack of in-platform discussion tools produces an emerging "*direct parliamentarianism*" (p.47). It is a hybrid institutional arrangement wherein the deliberative, parliamentary moments are reserved to the representatives and party leaders, while the party members can only choose between predefined alternatives.

The following three papers investigate problems concerning the use of ICTs in the public sector. While technological infrastructure is commonly considered imperative to the successful provision of e-service, Morten Meyerhoff Nielsen argues that institutional factors can also play an important role. To answer the question whether a model of strong governance and high-level intergovernmental cooperation contributes to the successful supply and use of online service, he compares the two cases of Denmark and Japan following the most similar system design. Nielsen's research findings may help us understand better why the e-service outcomes would vary between two countries that share a great similarities in the levels of socio-economic development, infrastructural sophistication, and e-Governance build-up.

Jan T. Frecè and Thomas Selzam clearly state the importance of data for smart cities: "*data will be the fuel smart cities run on*" (p. 110) relying not only on public data sources but data from the private sphere too. The use of such data must of course be based on legal compliance, ethical soundness, and consent, and they propose TokPD (*Tokenized Ecosystem of Personal Data*), which as the name itself suggests, is a tokenized ecosystem of personal data combining anonymisation, referencing, encryption, decentralization, and functional layering. Using the smart city context, they show how TokPD ensures the data subjects' privacy but grants the smart city access to a new data sources and handles user-consent on the basis of the current data protection regulation (the European General Data Protection Regulation, GDPR).

Martin Beno, Kathrin Figl, Jürgen Umbrich, Axel Polleres address Open Data in particular. There are several difficulties associated with Open Data: many potential data providers are unwilling to publish their data, and data users are often faced with difficulties when trying to use Open Data

in practice, but there are only a few studies which systematically collect and assess the barriers. So they begin with a review of the available literature on the barriers as well as users' and publishers' views on the obstacles for adopting Open Data adoption, then collected data about the situation in Austria. In comparison to their original conference paper, this article includes new additional data from participants outside Austria, reports new analyses, and substantially extends the discussion of results and of possible strategies for the mitigation of Open Data barriers. Their results show that whilst there are numerous barriers regarding the use of Open Data difficult for both users and providers, "*not all barriers are perceived equally severe*" (p. 162), their insights could be useful for ensuring that Open Data is used as a way of achieving effective public services and encouraging adoption in the private sector.

Overall, this issue presents you some of the current developments in e-Participation and e-Governance in both Asia and Europe, and their pressing institutional, technical, and regulatory concerns and outlooks. We wish you pleasant reading!

Qinfeng Zhu (Guest Editor) and Noella Edelmann (Editor)