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Citation (APA)
Ubacht, J., Rodríguez Bolívar, M. P., Danneels, L., Dobbe, R., Hofmann, S., Janssen, M., Lindgren, I., Loukis, E., Mureddu, F., Novak, A. S., Panagiotopoulos, P., Parycek, P., Viale Pereira, G., Schwabe, G., Simonofski, A., Tambouris, E., Spitzer, V., Engbers, M., & Nicosanti, S. (2025). Editorial to the EGOV-CeDEM-Epart 2025. *CEUR Workshop Proceedings*, *4127*.

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Editorial to the EGOV-CeDEM-Epart 2025

CEUR proceedings

The EGOV-CeDEM-ePart 2025 conference, for short EGOV2025, was organized by the IFIP WG 8.5 Information Systems in Public Administration. The conference is dedicated to digital or electronic government, open government, local government (smart cities), smart governance, artificial intelligence (AI), e-democracy, policy informatics, and electronic participation. With a long tradition along its various branches, the EGOV-CeDEM-ePart conference has gained its reputation of being the key and leading conference worldwide in the research domains of digital/electronic, open, and smart government, as well as electronic participation.

The call for papers attracted completed research papers, work-in-progress papers on ongoing research (including doctoral papers), posters, as well as workshops and practitioner papers. This volume contains 31 full research papers, 6 workshop descriptions, and 17 posters. All submissions were assessed through a double-blind peer-review process, with at least three reviewers per submission. The submitted papers were of high quality, and many reviewers indicated that the topic of the papers they reviewed were novel.

The review process was based on a double-blind reviewing process and conflicts of interest were actively avoided. Authors of papers submitted their papers to a track. The track chairs had only access to the papers within their own track and could assign reviewers and propose acceptance decisions. The lead track chairs of each chair were editors of the proceedings, in addition to the general chairs. Track chairs were not allowed to submit to their own track, nor were their close collaborators, to avoid any conflict of interest. Track chairs could either submit to another track or to the 'track chairs' track. The latter was handled by one of the general chairs, and these submissions were reviewed in the same way as all other submissions. The general chairs checked after the submission deadline if there was any conflict of interest among the papers submitted to tracks, and if so, the respective paper was moved to another track. The track chairs checked that all papers were submitted anonymously. If not, the authors were asked to resubmit within a couple of days. Track chairs assigned the reviewers and selected the program committee members in such a way that experts in this area reviewed the papers and there were no conflicts of interest. After at least three reviews were received, the track chairs made a proposal for a decision per paper. The decisions were discussed in a meeting with the general and track chairs to ensure that the decisions were made in a consistent manner across tracks.

EGOV-CeDEM-ePart conference, August 31-September 4, 2025, University for Continuing Education, Krems, Austria.
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CEUR-WS.org/Vol-4127/editorial.pdf

CEUR Workshop Proceedings ceur-ws.org ISSN 1613-0073
published 2025-12-12

This volume includes papers distributed over the following tracks:

- General E-Government and E-Governance
- General E-Democracy and E-Participation
- Digital Technologies and Sustainable Development
- Digital Society
- Emerging Issues and Innovations
- Smart Cities (Government, Districts, Communities and Regions)
- AI, Data Analytics and Automated Decision-Making
- Artificial Intelligence Governance and its Societal Challenges
- Open Data: Social and Technical Aspects
- Governance, Digital Legislation and Policy
- Managing E-Government Projects
- Practitioners-Researchers Collaboration

As in the previous years and per the recommendation of the Paper Awards Committee, under the leadership of Manuel Pedro Rodríguez Bolívar from the University of Granada, Spain, and Noella Edelmann from the University for Continuing Education Krems, Austria, the IFIP EGOV-CeDEM-ePart 2025 conference grants outstanding paper awards in three distinct categories:

- The most innovative research contribution
- The most compelling critical research reflection
- The most promising practical concept

The winners in each category were announced during the awards ceremony at the conference.

The IFIP EGOV2025 conference was hosted in Austria, in the Alpine Republic of Europe, at the University for Continuing Education Krems. The conference sessions were hosted 2-4 September at the University for Continuing Education Krems' Campus. The University for Continuing Education Krems is Europe's leading public university dedicated to continuing education, combining teaching excellence with cutting-edge research to address key societal challenges. Located in the vibrant and historic city of Krems an der Donau, the university thrives within a rich academic and cultural environment, surrounded by the charm and legacy of one of Austria's oldest cities.

As part of the conference, the PhD colloquium and the Junior Faculty School were hosted at Göttweig Abbey, a historic Benedictine monastery situated atop a hill in Austria's Wachau Valley. Known for its impressive baroque architecture, Göttweig Abbey offers a setting that blends historical significance with a peaceful atmosphere, ideal for focused academic discussions. With origins dating back to the 11th century, the monastery provided a unique context for scholarly exchange. The PhD Colloquium was a full-day event on 31 August, open only to those who were admitted, and offered a limited number of PhD bursaries. The Junior Faculty School was a full-day event on 1 September, for sharing experiences to advance the career of young researchers interested in digitalization and government.

Many people behind the scenes make large events like this conference happen. We would like to thank the members of the Program Committee, the reviewers and the track chairs for their great efforts in reviewing the submitted papers. We would also like to express our deep gratitude to Peter Parycek, Gabriela Viale Pereira, and their local team at the University for Continuing Education Krems for hosting the conference.

The papers in these proceedings range from societal to scientific, and from rigorous to innovative. We hope you enjoy reading them!

September 2025

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