Edited by: 
Luis Terán and Andreas Meier

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Centre for Research on Direct Democracy (C2D), Switzerland 
Dept. Computer Engineering and Mathematics. Rovira i Virgili University, Catalonia, Spain 
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Quito, Ecuador

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Preface

The challenge of modernizing the state and its administration has increased, especially with regard to the application of information and communication technologies. An information- and knowledge-based society creates its value by gathering, processing, evaluating, and sharing digital products and services. However, it must be avoided that any citizens are left behind in the process of introducing web-based technologies to the administration, as this creates a digital divide.

With an eDemocracy, we understand the support and enhancement of civil rights and duties in the information and knowledge society. Options of participation should be introduced for citizens to strengthen an open society. This involves the inclusion of the citizens even in the early stages of the planning, improved information and discussion forums, barrier-free web access in electronic votes and elections, and the formation of communities in different public sectors.

The term eGovernment covers information and communication processes between governmental institutions and citizens. In addition, the focus should be put on the development of electronic services for taxation, social security, health care, enrollment in education, and job search services, among others. Governmental institutions offer their electronic services not only to citizens but also to companies and organizations. In addition, the government itself uses Internet technologies to unify and improve the processes within their respective organizations.

The International Conference on eDemocracy and eGovernment aims to address important issues in the transition toward an information- and knowledge-based society and to systematically review the use of information and communication technologies in government, administration, the public, and politics.

For this second conference, 9 scientific studies (long papers) out of 16 could be accepted (56%) as well as 14 case studies (short papers) out of 23 (60%). As part of the International Conference, four tutorials related to the use and development of eDemocracy & eGovernment were included in the final program.

We are pleased to announce a joint venture with the Institute of Electrical and Electronics Engineers (IEEE), Inc. in New York, USA. IEEE is a non-profit organization and our technical sponsor. The new copyright model with IEEE modifies the existing author copyright transfer system to provide for a delayed, open-access release after a one-year embargo period. In the spirit of open data and open government, this is good news for all of us.

The program activities of the International Conference of eDemocracy and eGovernment are the result of a huge effort of many authors, reviewers, and organizers. We thank them all for helping to make this conference a success. Special thanks go to the tutorial instructors and keynote speakers for their contributions. In addition, we thank the sponsors for their ongoing support, including forthcoming seminars and conferences. Finally, we would like to thank the members of Universidad de Las Américas for organizing this conference on their campus site in Quito.

Andreas Meier, University of Fribourg, Switzerland.
Luis Terán, University of Fribourg, Switzerland & Universidad de las Fuerzas Armadas (ESPE), Ecuador.

Quito, Ecuador, April 2015.
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The challenges of modernizing the state and its administration have increased, especially with regard to the targeted application of Internet technologies. By means of eDemocracy, it is intended to support the exchange of knowledge as well as democratic processes. In addition, eGovernment aims to put digital public services at the disposal of the citizens, companies, and organizations.

The University of Fribourg, Switzerland cooperates with Universidad de Las Américas, Universidad de las Fuerzas Armadas (ESPE), Facultad Latinoamericana de Ciencias Sociales (FLACSO Ecuador), with the support of: Asociación AMARUN, Centre for Research on Direct Democracy (C2D), Department of Computer Engineering and Mathematics (Rovira i Virgili University), Empresa Pública Yachay, Inter-American Organization for Higher Education—College of the Americas (OUI-COLAM), University of Alicante, and University of Bern. For April 2015 the Second International Conference on eDemocracy & eGovernment (ICEDEG 2015) was organized.

The proceedings are published in English and contain the research papers presented at the Conference as well as keynote addresses and tutorials. It took place on April 8–10, 2015 at Universidad de Las Américas in Quito, Ecuador.