

Editorial for the Special ECIME Edition of EJISE - ECIME2013

This special issue of the Electronic Journal of Information Systems Evaluation (EJISE) contains the full versions of seven papers that were presented in an earlier version, during the 7th European Conference on Information Management and Evaluation (ECIME 2013). ECIME 2013 was hosted by the Faculty of Management, University of Gdańsk, Poland, on September 12-13th 2013 and gathered researchers from fifteen countries worldwide. From the thirty papers chosen for presentation at the conference, seven were selected for inclusion in this special issue of EJISE.

The papers represent both qualitative and quantitative research: survey-based research, case studies, systematic literature review, and qualitative research based on data from interviews. The topics addressed include modern approaches to outsourcing, social technology, and IS management.

Two papers address issues related to out- and in-sourcing of services.

Carcary, Doherty, and Conway provide an exploratory study on the adoption of Cloud Computing in Irish SMEs. Their findings suggest that a careful process of preparation, including strategic planning, and a structured, criteria-based assessment of possible services, supported by both management and staff, increases the success of assimilation of Cloud Computing services. The study also shows that more attention should be paid to structured procedures for assimilation and migration. The authors also point to the main constraints in the adoption of Cloud Computing services, which include a lack of awareness of its possible benefits, a lack of IT capabilities, a shortage of resources, and issues of the security and ownership of data. This paper is an ideal starting point for causal research on the adoption of Cloud Computing services by SMEs.

Crump and Peter highlight the motivations, benefits, and barriers to the use of Shared Services by non-profit organisations in New Zealand. The use of Shared Services is a growing trend for all types of organisations and this paper can help them to understand the crucial of issues related to such an initiative.

The second field of research is social technology.

Harjumaa and Muuraiskangas provide an interesting case study on the development of personal health support systems using Persuasive System Design. The design of self-help applications, their usage, and their impact on human behaviour has clearly been understudied, and this case study also indicates a promising direction for further research.

Singh and Peszyński, in a qualitative study, identify organizational values that Australian enterprises gain through the use of social technologies. These include, among others, enhanced customer services, better interaction and collaboration with customers, interactive marketing, and improved corporate identity. The paper also discusses the ways these values are achieved.

The remaining three papers address various issues related to IS management.

Lech presents an implementation project for Enterprise Systems from the point-of-view of the functional consultants. Detailed lists of success factors, activities, and outcomes are presented. Because most of the research regarding the implementation of Enterprise Systems is done from the point-of-view of the implementing company, this study provides a valuable supplement to the existing research.

Maes et al. provide the comprehensive literature review regarding business-case notion, formulation, and application. This paper is an excellent starting point for anyone undertaking research regarding the planning and evaluation of IT Projects.

Mavengere presents an interesting research study on the role of IS in supporting competitiveness at the strategic level. It is interesting to see the differences in the perception of IS by IT and non-IT respondents. This study adds to the body of knowledge on the strategic role of IT (or the lack thereof).

Prof. Przemysław Lech

University of Gdańsk

Faculty of Management

Poland