Editorial

It is our great pleasure to bring you the fifth number of IJISPM - International Journal of Information Systems and Project Management. The mission of the IJISPM is the dissemination of new scientific knowledge on information systems management and project management, encouraging further progress in theory and practice.

In this issue, readers will find important contributions on information systems sourcing, information technology projects management, and on procurement as part of the supply chain management activities.

As Mirella Muhic and Björn Johansson state in their article "Sourcing motives behind sourcing decisions exposed through the Sourcing Decision Framework", there is no doubt that information systems (IS) are the backbone of today's organizations. Having an initial inspection on sourcing motives in the financial sector, it can be stated that resources used in development of information systems (IS) are seen as an important factor for sustained competitive advantage. However, it can be claimed that it depends to a high extent on the application of different sourcing modes. This lead the authors to a closer inspection on sourcing motives through selected case studies and the following research question: How can motives for sourcing options of IS-development be explained? In the article, the empirical investigation on sourcing decisions and the motives behind, in addition to a literature review on sourcing decisions and sourcing options, ends in four propositions. These propositions are then used in tandem with the findings from the empirical data for initial development of the Sourcing Decision Framework (SDF).

The second article "Social relationships in Information Technology (IT) project teams: its role, complexity and the management thereof" is co-authored by Awie Leonard and Dawie van Zyl. To implement an IT project successfully, many aspects need to be monitored and carefully controlled and managed. One such aspect is social relationships. All IT professionals are exposed to, and in many cases involved, in the phenomenon of social relationships. These relationships are used by software project team members for personal as well as professional purposes. In most cases the impact of these relationships on the success or failure of any given IT project is ignored by IT management. Little attention is given thereto in the literature and this paper attempts to make a contribution in terms of giving a broad perspective of the complexity, the impact, as well as the management of such relationships. This paper shows that these relationships play a significant role and should be managed in such a way that the team members and the project as a whole can reap the benefits thereof. A conceptual framework is proposed for the management of the relationships.

With organizations now placing an increasing amount on attention on the management of their supply chain activities, the role of IT in supporting these operations has been put in the spotlight. In spite of extensive research examining how IT can be employed in various activities of supply chain management, the majority of studies are limited in identifying enablers and inhibitors of adoption. Empirical studies examining post-adoption conditions that facilitate performance improvement still remain scarce. Patrick Mikalef, Adamantia Pateli, Ronald Batenburg, and Rogier van de Wetering, in their article "Business alignment in the procurement domain: a study of antecedents and determinants of supply chain performance", focus on procurement as part of the supply chain management activities. The authors apply the business-IT alignment perspective to the domain of procurement, and examine how certain organizational factors impact the attainment of this state. Additionally, they research the effect that procurement alignment has on supply chain management performance. In order to do so, it is applied the Partial Least Squares (PLS) analysis on a sample of 172 European companies. Their findings show that firms that opt for a centralized governance structure, as well as larger firms, are more likely to attain a state of procurement alignment. Furthermore, the obtained results empirically support the statement that procurement alignment is positively correlated with operational efficiency and competitive performance of the supply chain.

We would like to take this opportunity to express our gratitude to the distinguished members of the Editorial Board, for their commitment and for sharing their knowledge and experience in supporting the IJISPM.

Finally, we would like to express our gratitude to all the authors who submitted their work, for their insightful visions and valuable contributions.

We hope that you, the readers, find the International Journal of Information Systems and Project Management an interesting and valuable source of information for your continued work.

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João Varajão is currently professor of information systems and project management at the *University of Minho* and a visiting professor at the *University of Porto Business School*. He is also a researcher of the *Centro Algoritmi* at the *University of Minho*. Born and raised in Portugal, he attended the *University of Minho*, earning his Undergraduate (1995), Masters (1997) and Doctorate (2003) degrees in Technologies and Information Systems. In 2012, he received his Habilitation degree from the *University of Trás-os-Montes e Alto Douro*. His current main research interests are in Information Systems Management and Project Management. Before joining academia, he worked as an IT/IS consultant, project manager, information systems analyst and software developer, for private companies and public institutions. He has supervised more than 50 Masters and Doctoral dissertations in the Information Systems field. He has published over 250 works, including refereed publications, authored books, edited books, as well as book chapters and communications at international conferences. He serves as editor-in-chief, associate editor and member of the editorial board for international journals and has served in numerous committees of international conferences and workshops. He is co-founder of CENTERIS - Conference on ENTERprise Information Systems and of ProjMAN – International Conference on Project MANagement.

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