This year the minitrack explores cases of and discuss theories associate with the design, management, and evaluations of the policies and the strategies deployed to support, facilitate, and promote digital government. The Policies and Strategies for Digital Government minitrack aims at contributing to the analysis of the challenges faced by governments when formulating e-government policies. In the specific it focuses on the effects associated with the implementation of ICTs designed to transform government organisation, public sector management, and the functioning of public institutions in general.

The minitrack includes one session with three papers. The papers show the latest findings on governments’ best practices in the design, management and evaluation of e-government policies and strategies.

The first paper “e-Government Stage Models: A Contextual Critique” co-authored by Finn DeBri and Fran Bannister offers and extensive analysis of the e-government stage models placing them in the wider historical context of stage and maturity modeling. The paper argues that, with a small number of exceptions, most e-government stage models are theoretically weak with being descriptive, not well grounded in empirical evidence and/or normative. The paper offers a very valuable contribution to the existing debate on e-government stage models by offering alternative aideas and approaches to formulate e-government stage models.

The second paper “Investigating Open Source Software Benefits in Public Sector” authored by Osden Jokonya investigates the benefits of Open Source Software (OSS) in public sector organizations. In order to understand the benefits of public sector investments in OSS the paper discusses trends and patterns of adoptions in different regions over time. The paper uses content analysis to review published articles on open source software in public sector or government organizations between 2003 and 2012. Building on these findings the paper discusses the different benefits associated with OSS adoptions and their benefits across the regions (Africa, America, Asia, and Europe). Although open source software is used more and more widely, in this study the authors offers a focused analysis of open source software in the public sector. The results suggest that there is no one-size-fits-all open source software adoption benefits to the public sector in different regions. The paper in addition also highlights potential areas of further research on the topic.

The third paper “Examining Government Inter-Organizational Information Integration Success: Do Governance Structures and Mechanisms Matter?” co-authored by Djoko Sigit Sayogo and J. Ramon Gil-Garcia discusses the challenges associated with the implementation of inter-organizational collaboration and information sharing initiatives. Building on an extensive literature review the paper finds that among other variables, the literature points to the critical role of governance as an important success factor for inter-organizational information sharing initiatives. The paper highlights that most of the existing literature inter-organizational collaboration systems is based on qualitative cases. To complement this literature the paper offers a quantitative, empirical base study of the phenomenon. Based on a national survey of government managers in two policy domains, the case presented in the paper systematically examines the role of governance in the success of inter-organizational information sharing initiatives. The quantitative analysis suggests three variables related to governance as key determinants of the success in inter-organizational information sharing initiatives: (1) knowledge of information needs (2) knowledge about participating organizations and (3) executive support and involvement. As mentioned before, this is one of the first quantitative explorations and testing of the role of governance structures and mechanisms as success factors of inter-organizational information sharing in government settings and additional research is clearly needed.