The first Open Data Services Mini-track was organized in HICSS-46, followed by a workshop discussing Open Data service research agenda in HICSS-47, and a Mini-track focusing on different aspects of open data services in HICSS-48. This year the mini-track focus is wider and covers topics related to different digital service innovations based on "open" phenomena and practices.

The value produced by digital service innovation is disrupting established markets as well as generating entirely new ones. The innovations come from many different sources: traditional R&D, cross-industry initiatives, new entrants that displace incumbents in traditional industries and more and more from open development processes or crowdsourcing of new ideas from consumers as existing or potential customers. This minitrack focuses on those “open” phenomena and practices.

This year we focus on research related to the value and evolution of digital platforms and marketplaces. The three papers in this minitrack deal with digital services and service innovations based or building on “open” phenomena and practices from different perspectives.

The first paper, “The Dynamics of Digital Platform Innovation: Apple's Strategy to Control Modular and Architectural Innovation in iOS” by Ben Eaton (Copenhagen Business School, Denmark) challenges traditional understandings of innovation in platform architectures. It describes and explains the dynamics of contested innovation on curated digital platforms, with Apple's iOS platform ecosystem as a source for examples.

The second paper, “Digital Service Innovation from Open Data: Exploring the Value Proposition of an Open Data Marketplace” by Göran Smith (Viktoria Swedish ICT, Sweden) together with Hosea Ayaba Ofe and Johan Sandberg (both from Umeå University, Sweden) looks at open data marketplaces as a mode of addressing open data adoption barriers, with Trafiklab - an open data marketplace distributing open public transport data and linking together public transport authorities and open data users - as the empirical context. The paper concludes that these open data marketplaces can lower the threshold of using open data by providing better access to open data and associated support services, and by increasing knowledge transfer within the ecosystem.

The third paper is titled “Evolution of a Sharing Platform into a Sustainable Business” and authored by Ioanna Constantinou and Ben Eaton (both from Copenhagen Business School, Denmark) and Virpi Kristiina Tuunainen (Aalto University, Finland). It focuses on how sharing economy start-ups operate on two-sided platforms and enable sharing of physical products or services based on physical assets. With insights from platform economics and information infrastructures, it investigates the case of Airbnb and depicts the phases in the evolution of sharing platforms into sustainable and competitive businesses.

Together, these three papers provide examples of issues relevant to continuing the much needed work in the field. Furthermore, this minitrack provides a venue for presenting findings, creating future research collaborations and, debating the future of digital service innovations based on different "open" phenomena and practices.