TECHNOLOGY AND GOVERNANCE NETWORK ANNUAL SEMINAR
"ACCOUNTABILITY AND TRANSPARENCY IN THE PUBLIC SECTOR"
28th November 2012, 10:00 to 12:00, MBS 08/09, refreshments provided

The last decade has seen changes in the organizational culture of the public sector worldwide under the parameters of New Public Management (NPM) which prioritise compliance with accountability and transparency. The implementation of information technology (IT) has favoured the process of reform and modernization, giving rise to greater accessibility to public information and services, interaction, individual participation and information transparency. This latter aspect has become a key factor in public-sector accountability. The Internet has played a prominent role in transparency, allowing communication and greater access to information to all parties concerned. The importance granted to information transparency in improving this accountability has prompted the development of studies aimed at analysing the level of online disclosure of public sector financial reporting and at identifying the key factors underlying a higher level of financial information disclosure by public organizations.

Public organisations are currently under pressure to improve their disclosure of information in the field of social responsibility and to move beyond the provision of financial or budgetary information. In this seminar we explore the question of how public organisations, as models of ethical behaviour in society, are taking advantage of the possibilities given by technologies to disclose information about their social responsibility actions. The seminar explores issues related to social responsibility information and cases of government organisations (including universities) and questions how the organisational mission, vision and corporate strategy are (or not) reflected in the disclosure of social responsibility information.

Manuel-Pedro Rodríguez-Bolívar is Associate Professor at the University of Granada in Spain. He is a founding member of the Spanish Association of Accounting University Teachers, the Spanish Association of Accounting and Business Management and of the European Accounting Association. His research interests are on e-Government, international public sector accounting and environmental disclosure of information. He has authored numerous articles in journals lie Public Money & Management, Government Information Quarterly, Public Administration and Development, International Review of Administrative Sciences, American Review of Public Administration, Environmental Education Research and Administration and Society. He has been also the author of several books published by the Ministry of Economy and Finance in Spain.

Raquel Garde-Sánchez is Lecturer in Accounting of the University of Granada. Her research interests are focused on the information disclosures on the Web, on the conceptual framework of social responsibility and on the Public Sector. She has been a research visitor at the school of Management of Royal Holloway, University of London during 2012. She is currently writing up her PhD thesis on the disclosure of social responsibility information by universities.

The Technology and Governance Network (TGN) is an international group of academics and practitioners interested in exploring the impacts of information technologies in the emancipation of individuals. Further information can be found at: http://www.rhul.ac.uk/management/research/tgn/home.aspx