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## Incentives for the Adoption of E-Government by Greek Municipalities

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**Abstract:**

**Purpose:** The research aims to identify the incentives that play an important role in the evolution of e-government in Greece at local scale and its actual development level. It also investigates the factors and the perceived barriers that affect the development of local e-government in Greek Municipalities, as well as the benefits they derive from it.

**Design/Methodology/Approach:** The research is based on a survey that was conducted through a questionnaire to all 325 Municipalities of the country and includes data from 109 Municipalities that participated in the quantitative approach.

**Findings:** While e-government is spread at a relatively satisfactory level, it appears that only a few Municipalities are performing well. Results highlight also the two main incentives that motivate Municipalities to adopt e-government: The first is the improvement of the efficiency of information exchange with the external environment and the second is managing internal issues-relationships in conjunction with the existence of prominent IT departments. Amongst the main factors that affect e-government adoption by Local authorities, budgetary constraints stand out, while the lack of personnel specialized in Information Technologies is identified as common obstacle.

**Practical Implications:** Findings suggest that an integrated approach to e-government is needed in order to enable organizations to minimize failures and to overcome barriers and counter risks. The capacity to align e-government applications with the increasing and evolving needs and requirements of the citizens is the key to optimizing the benefits of e-Government at local scale.

**Originality/Value:** There is no similar empirical research in the context of Greece; hence, it seems important to increase the knowledge about the drivers of e-government adoption, especially in the public sector at the local scale.

**Keywords:** E-government, municipalities, local authorities, motivations, incentives.

**JEL codes:**

**Paper type:** Research paper.

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## **1. Introduction**

The Greek public administration is known as a bureaucratic and dysfunctional organization and it has been the subject of numerous reforms aimed at modernizing the state by providing quality services, reducing bureaucracy and costs, increasing transparency and strengthening citizen trust and participation. Over the last few years, the picture has changed positively as attested by improved individual indicators. However, in their daily dealings with citizens, public administration entities continue to provide services that remain time consuming with complicated, inconvenient and not always transparent procedures. In this context, Information and Communication Technologies (ICT) have been used to support the implementation of an e-Government approach that could help bring about a fundamental change in public administration and a drastic amelioration of the services it provides.

In addition to ICT that are widely used in both the public and private sectors, e-government entails more elements, such as a regular organizational and process review, behavioral change and skill acquisition for the personnel involved in order to enable local public administration to deliver faster and at a lower cost better services to citizens. Although this transformational change often implies a demanding effort it is becoming an urgent priority since putting it off can only lead to a proliferation of the existing problems. E-Governance can be treated as a business strategy, not so much in terms of technology management but as a process, that promotes innovation in services and institutional transformation.

From the literature review and the in-depth study of the reports that were conducted it appears that there is only a limited number of empirical studies that seek to answer questions like: “Under what conditions would the Greek public sector innovate?” and “Which incentives can harness e-government adoption?”. The aforementioned questions defined the subject of this study. The article examines the institutional motivations underlying the adoption of e-government by Greek local authorities, the main barriers encountered by projects promoting e-government, the indirect benefits that they generate as well as a wide range of factors that are likely to affect their effective implementation. Its contribution lies in enriching the relevant international literature and taking stock of the current situation through the collection and analysis of empirical data. Results can also help Municipalities, policy makers, citizens and stakeholders to identify and enhance the incentives that will help them to achieve the desired result.

## **2. Theoretical background**

### **2.1 E-Government**

E-government was introduced and developed by former U.S. Vice President, Al Gore, whose vision was to connect citizens to the numerous governmental agencies and to provide them with full and immediate access (Alketbi, 2018). In the literature,

there are many variants of the "e-government" or "e-governance" concept. Their difference is that the term "e-government" refers only to services and information provided by the public administration, while the term "e-governance" includes an interaction between organization and stakeholders.

Generally speaking, e-governanment is defined by the use of the internet in public administration in combination with organizational change and innovation which results in the provision of services and information with added value for administrative entities and citizens alike and a positive impact on democratic processes too (Rossel and Finger, 2007, Jun and Weare, 2010). Its benefits include, amongst others (1) the reduction of costs and the improvement of service quality, (2) the reorganization and streamlining of public administration processes,(3) the increase of the efficiency and the effectiveness of services, (4) less time spent by municipal staff on contacts with the public and processing related paperwork thus expanding their availability to support other core activities. E-government is a tool that can bolster democracy and help the fight against corruption as it encourages public participation in the formulation and implementation of policy while it facilitates considerably the transactions of some of the most vulnerable groups with public authorities (Karakykla and Karakyklas, 2013).

## **2.2 The Transition from New Public Administration (NPA) to New Public Governance (NPG)**

The need to reduce costs and improve the quality of services through better management and different planning (Hood, 1991) resulted from the 1960s financial crisis and government spending overruns. The main goal was to make public administration more entrepreneurial by saving money, increasing public service efficiency and at the same time make government bureaucrats more accountable and responsive to the needs of users-citizens. This trend, called the New Public Management-NPM, became more pronounced when national governments in various countries launched reform programs in the 1980s (Pollitt and Bouckaert, 2011). One of its main elements of NPM was the introduction of "e-government" supported with the use of modern technology and innovative practices with ultimate objective being to service citizens better and faster and to accelerate economic growth (Andrisani *et al.*, 2002). In parallel, the New Public Governance (NPG) sought to ensure that "e-government", besides delivering better results, fully complies with legal requirements while engaging a broad range of social actors in policy formulation and implementation. Hence, NPG relied heavily on a 'network approach' that gave a strong emphasis to 'horizontal' in addition to the traditional "vertical" controls (Pollitt and Bouckaert, 2011).

## **2.3 The Diffusion of Innovations**

In recent Government strategies, the term 'modernization' has been replaced by that of 'innovation', which, in practice, is used to include small scale improvements in

service delivery while distinguishing organizational development from process changes that lead to an improved service to existing users (Griffin, 2007). Diffusion theory focuses on a new technology or an innovation which is spread out to a population of individuals or organizations who decide when to adopt it but also refers to a flow of ideas about the technology that affects the opinion of those who adopted it. The diffusion of new technology is determined by its technological capabilities and impacts, and consequently its usefulness. This implies that in order to understand the diffusion of a new technology someone needs to identify and recognize its impacts and the way it could be useful (Webster, 2007).

The Diffusion of Innovation (DOI) model considers the decision of adopting a new technology as a process of gathering information and reducing uncertainty, while the individual's decision is based upon perceptions of the technology such as relative advantage, compatibility, complexity, trialability and observability. The identified antecedents of a technology usage may differ significantly between a consumer, who adopts technology to receive a service and an employee, who uses technology to perform his job. Resistance to innovation appears to stem from the need for pre-use testing and the uncertainty over after-sales service; moreover, is identified as a key determinant of the innovation diffusion rate, suggesting that organizational features and peer influence play key roles (Gilbert, *et al.*, 2007). Innovation depends, by its nature, on impulse, i.e., bottom-up or top-down, on incentives, on employees and on innovation management. Different initial impetuses can result in differences in the level, shape and direction of innovation, creating conflicts that reflect the differentiated viewpoints and perspectives of people who operate at different hierarchical levels (Windrum, 2008).

The widely spread opinion that the public sector does not innovate and it is only a passive recipient/adopter of innovations, which have been initially developed in the private sector, has been dispelled (Windrum, 2008). The pace of adoption and change sometimes may be slower though because, unlike in the private sector, public institutions have a political layer of accountability and a bureaucracy that inhibits the responsiveness to change since it requires more often than not, a major departure from established routines, up-front expenditures, behavioral changes and entails significant risks (Young, 2015, Jun and Weare, 2011). The bureaucratic state has not been overcome, but its nature and structure change radically as ICT are absorbed by employees in administrations (Fountain, 2006).

## 2.4 Previous Studies

Many previous researches had focused on the development of e-government, implemented on data from different administrative levels such as municipalities, provinces and states. The corresponding conclusions were about website presence, usability problems (Youngblood and MacKiewicz, 2012) or the type of information (Deakins and Dillon, 2002; Criado and Ramilo, 2003; Reddick, 2004; Hahamis *et al.*, 2005; Pina, 2007; Fan, 2011; Criado and Ramilo, 2003; Karkin and Janssen,

2014; Ruano de la Fuente, 2014). A small number of surveys regarding e-government dealt with transactions and interactive tools for participation in decision-making and planning processes (Fan, 2011; Sandoval-Almazan and Gil-Garcia, 2012, Reggi *et al.*, 2014, Lappas *et al.*, 2015), while others are about vertical and horizontal integration (Fan and Luo, 2014), or about social media activity (Bonsón *et al.*, 2012). Listing the aforementioned results is not relevant here since e-government is a dynamic and not a static process.

Generally, there has been a tendency for researchers to consider particular motivational factors rather than to test the relative importance of a range of incentives. For example, a lot of research has generally concentrated on the role played by organizational, technological (Previtali and Bof, 2009) and related factors that vary according to specific initiatives and frameworks (Arduini *et al.*, 2013). More specifically, researchers examined organizational complexity (Gallego-Alvarez *et al.*, 2010), political support (Thompson, 2002; Hahamis *et al.*, 2005; Carrizales *et al.*, 2011, Ma, 2014; van Loon and Toshkov, 2015), commitment (Rose *et al.*, 2015), leadership, employee pressure (Ma, 2013; Warf, 2014), culture and communication strategy (Ford and Murphy, 2008).

Moreover, a large number of researches investigate individual factors such as: per capita income (Youngblood και MacKiewicz, 2012), type of agency and governance (Moon, 2002; Pina, 2007; Reddick and Norris, 2013b; Bonsón *et al.*, 2015, Feeney and Brown, 2017), geographical location (Nasi *et al.*, 2011), race, metropolitan status (central city, suburban), population size, education (Reddick and Norris, 2013b), lack of knowledge and skills, average age of users (Choudrie *et al.*, 2013), socio-economic status and socio-demographics population characteristics (Lev-On and Steinfeld, 2015), organizational size, internet penetration rate, regional competition (Ma, 2013), communication processes management with other authorities (Hultèn and Björkstrand, 2009), initiation, municipal actualization and rapid scaling-up (Chen *et al.*, 2009) and political stability (Gallego-Alvarez *et al.*, 2010). Microblogging has been studied by Ma (2014) and the use of ICT by Hahamis *et al.* (2005), while other researchers focused on e-government experience (Reddick and Norris, 2013b), sufficient ICT staff, and a dedicated team (Carrizales *et al.*, 2011, Warf, 2014; Alexopoulos *et al.*, 2018), effective ICT training and support, the ability to organize effective interfaces with end users (Arduini *et al.*, 2010) and finally the implementation and exploitation of funded programs (Goulas and Kontogeorga, 2009).

Some noteworthy results show that the boost to e-government has not led to significant accountability progress (Ruano de la Fuente, 2014) and citizens do not feel safe with e-government applications (Deakins and Dillon, 2002), especially the older users (Beldad *et al.*, 2010). More and more Municipalities are gradually realizing the importance of protecting privacy and security and take relevant measures (Manoharan *et al.*, 2015). To promote e-government initiatives, Municipalities are very likely to interact each other to exchange information for

better decision-making, while "imitation" processes play an important role (Schedler and Summermatter, 2007; Jun and Weare, 2011) in the elaboration of their development models (Calista *et al.*, 2010; Rooks *et al.*, 2017). It is also important to build appropriate institutional capacity, including strategic plans with clearly defined priorities (Lampathaki *et al.*, 2010; Warf, 2014; Gallego-Alvarez *et al.*, 2010), goals and roles (Xia, 2010), and even a dual strategy for the negative effects of ICT development on social life, work and related areas as well as on civil liberties of users (Garrett, 2005).

Previous studies also confirm that the main obstacle to adoption of e-government is the lack of financial opportunities (Moon, 2002; Beynon-Davies and Martin, 2004; Hahamis *et al.*, 2005; Previtali and Bof, 2009; Kamal *et al.*, 2009; Alexopoulos *et al.*, 2018), since a change at community level requires a huge amount of resources from multiple sources of funding (Chen *et al.*, 2009) and the successful e-government implementation occurs when the organization provides sufficient funding (Gallego-Alvarez *et al.*, 2010; Warf, 2014; Ma, 2014).

Public participation, although in some cases is not encouraged (Ochara, 2010), improves e-government (Thompson, 2002; Feller *et al.*, 2011; Cegarra-Navarro *et al.*, 2012; Cumbie and Kar, 2016), while regular citizen feedback contributes to the continuous improvement of the design and the type of service provided, promoting more comprehensive and effective governance (Carrizales *et al.*, 2011; Sandoval-Almazan and Gil-Garcia, 2012). Most municipalities do not use search methods, while those that use private sector practices are better placed to understand citizen behavior and to predict their future needs (King, 2007). Citizen participation depends on variables that are linked with beliefs and lifestyles, trust in technology, ease of use and perceived usefulness of e-government applications (Rufin *et al.*, 2012; Seo and Bernsen, 2016) while in particular cases the motivations for use are driven by very different needs (Luo and Chea, 2018).

From the above, it is evident that although there has been an increased research in this field over the last 20 years, especially in the field of Local Government and Municipalities, the relative importance of these various factors has not been clarified.

### **3. The Proposed Conceptual Framework (Research Hypotheses)**

#### **3.1. Improving Efficiency**

At the technical level of organizations, contingency theory argues that when efficiency considerations motivate them, then they adjust their organizational structures and tasks to address internal and external uncertainty. This instrumental-rational motivation underlies diffusion theories that assume adoption is influenced by the relative advantages that come from it. In the case of ICT, these benefits increase with the information processing requirements faced by the organization,

which in turn are affected by the complexity, unpredictability, and interdependence of the organization's internal and external tasks' conditions. (Jun and Weare, 2011). Organizations are generally motivated by the need to improve work efficiency and effectiveness (Feeney and Brown, 2017), something that can be achieved with e-government initiatives and workplace changes (Moon, 2002). This is because online information reduces administrative burdens and increase efficiency (Ganapati and Reddick, 2014). The development of e-government is also influenced by the internal characteristics and development of public administration and organizational complexity (Gallego-Alvarez *et al.*, 2010; Alexopoulos *et al.*, 2018; Arduini *et al.*, 2013). Thus, it is proposed:

*H1: Municipalities motivated by efficiency concerns and internally focused are more likely to be early adopters of Web sites and to adopt a greater range of e-government services when they face more complex internal environments.*

The complexity of the external environment and the impossibility of forecasting increases the information processing requirements. Thus, from an efficiency perspective, the benefits of e-government applications that can disseminate information, serve as communication channels increasing transaction processes and organization's information processing needs (Jun and Weare, 2011). Public organizations, in their attempt to link government structures with citizens and other entities, are expanding through websites, allowing them to pay more attention to citizens' demands (Criado and Ramilo, 2003). The following hypothesis may therefore be formulated as:

*H2: Municipalities motivated by efficiency concerns and externally focused are more likely to be early adopters of Web sites and to adopt a greater range of e-government services when they face more complex external and challenging environments.*

### **3.2 Internal Issues: Management, Conflicts and Competition**

Organizations which are focused internally on the managerial level are motivated by concerns about departmental competition. The introduction of Information Technologies has a significant impact on the allocation of resources and power. The fact that e-government technologies reorganize access to information and workflows has a consequent impact on the ability of departments to control their work processes, creating new dependencies on IT departments, turning them into prominent players. The importance of such interdepartmental dynamics has proven to be high because the existing power relationships within organizations substantially determine how new technologies are designed and implemented. Organizations that face intense opposition and complexity in internal structures are more likely to delay the adoption of innovations, as this may entail increasing the span of control by central administrator's management or other opposing sources (Jun and Weare, 2011). In general, organizations do not passively respond to stimuli

for change but are able to actively drive reform, provided that there is support within the organization (van Loon and Toshkov, 2015), more collaborative work and shared access to information (Baines *et al.*, 2010). The technological development of Municipalities and their administrative complexity largely determine the development of e-government (Gallego-Alvarez *et al.*, 2010). Based on the above the third and fourth hypotheses can be formulated as below:

*H3: Municipalities motivated by concerns over managing internal bureaucratic politics are less likely to be early adopters of Web sites and to adopt a greater range of e-government services when they have complex internal structures because they are more likely to be constrained by opposition to innovations.*

*H4: Municipalities motivated by concerns over managing internal bureaucratic politics are more likely to be early adopters of Web sites and to adopt a greater range of e-government services when they have more centralized administrative structures that can help overcome opposition to innovations.*

Organizations with strong departments that support a potentially "disruptive" innovation can more easily introduce it. Main beneficiaries and potential supporters of the e-government innovations enable IT departments to advocate for additional resources and create dependencies on the part of other departments. For central administrators, e-government improves their access to information, increasing their influence on departments. Thus, it is expected that Municipalities with more prominent central administrations and IT departments will adopt earlier e-government. (Jun and Weare, 2011). The following hypothesis may therefore be formulated as:

*H5: Municipalities motivated by concerns over managing internal bureaucratic politics are more likely to be early adopters of Web sites and to adopt a greater range of e-government services when they have prominent IT departments that benefit from e-government adoption.*

### **3.3 Responding to Environmental Demands**

Organizations with an external orientation are motivated by demands from the external environment, such as elected officials courting voters or administration officials with an interest to develop service-oriented programs geared to popular needs. Because the costs and benefits of web applications are widely distributed, their supply is linked to issues that are of concern for the majority of citizens and therefore depend on broad constituent support. Thus, stakeholders with a higher socioeconomic standing, who tend to use the internet more widely and require upgraded public services, are more likely to support such initiatives (Jun and Weare, 2011). Governments worldwide recognize ICTs as powerful tools for enhancing citizen engagement in public policy-making and as a way of enhancing citizen trust in governments (Pina *et al.*, 2007). Cities with more technologically sophisticated



residents may be more willing to address the needs of their constituents (Calista *et al.*, 2010). The adoption of social media applications for public relations purposes, such as promoting a positive organizational image, is also becoming more widely acknowledged tool enabling governments to connect with increasingly diverse constituencies and promote collaborative governance with citizens and stakeholders (Bennett, 2017). Stated as hypothesis:

*H6: Municipalities motivated by constituent demands are more likely to be early adopters of Web sites and to adopt a greater range of e-government services when they serve populations with a higher socioeconomic status.*

Emulation effects and competitive pressures, especially in the presence of political race at the local level, can affect the number of e-government providers (Arduini *et al.*, 2010). Municipalities may be inclined to compete with their counterparts in order to win in an economic and political race which represents a substantial incentive for local authorities to adopt innovation as a competitive advantage. Horizontal competition affects adoption more than vertical, while regional competition and top-tier pressure are positively and significantly associated with the likelihood of launching innovations and early e-government adoption (Ma, 2013; 2014). This environmental pressure can often come from the expectations of citizens (Homburg *et al.*, 2014), while local authorities are more likely to adopt innovations if their neighboring counterparts have already embraced them. (Jun and Weare, 2011). Therefore, the next hypothesis can be formulated as follows:

*H7: Municipalities motivated by competition from nearby jurisdictions are more likely to be early adopters of web sites and to adopt a greater range of e-government services when their neighbors offer e-government services.*

### **3.4 Legitimation**

At the institutional level, organizations must be perceived as politically legitimate which requires that they conform to social expectations concerning organizational form and functions. These expectations often lead them to adopt structures and practices that are socially acceptable and credible even if they do not necessarily improve technical performance. Web sites have the characteristic of being accessible and therefore visible, leading Municipalities to undertake activities in accordance with current social standards and practices (Jun and Weare, 2011). Persuasive institutional pressure together with the formulation of public views and collective knowledge are crucial to the innovation of e-government (Homburg *et al.*, 2014) because they contribute to the improvement of the quality of services for citizens and increase their legitimacy and trust (Bernhard and Wihlborg, 2015)

Municipalities are affected by higher levels of government as well as by normative and mimetic pressures arise from widespread comparisons and rankings of e-government practices. The desire to attain institutional legitimacy through e-

government adoption has noticeable effects on the diffusion pattern among municipalities. Early adopters are not influenced by institutional pressures because social expectations within their organizational field have not been established. As the number of adopters among peer organizations increase, expectations for such practices are gradually established and lagging organizations feel obliged to meet them in order not to lose their legitimacy (Jun and Weare, 2011). Initiatives of this kind require legitimacy to justify investment, action by the political personnel and adequate speed in the political decision-making process (Rooks *et al.*, 2017). The following hypotheses can be proposed:

*H8: Municipalities motivated to attain institutional legitimacy are more likely to adopt Web sites and a greater range of e-government services when neighboring municipalities offer e-government services, creating pressures to conform to developing norms.*

*H9: For municipalities that are motivated to attain institutional legitimacy, the factors that promote early adoption of Web sites when social norms of behavior have not yet been established will diminish in importance for later adopters that respond primarily to the social expectations created by the earlier adopters.*

### **3.5 The role of Vendors**

Outside vendors are obviously playing a prominent role in the formation and execution of e-government strategies despite the fact that Municipalities are treated as unitary actors with a given set of motivations. On the one hand, there are vendors who provide information on how e-government services can help a municipality achieve its goals without affecting the fundamental goals. In this case, vendors reinforce and strengthen existing organizational motivations to innovate. On the other hand, from a socio-psychological perspective, when sales pitches contain not only information but also affective pleas targeted at changing attitudes and addressing perceived social pressures, then greater interaction may cause a shift in key organizational motivations (Jun and Weare, 2011).

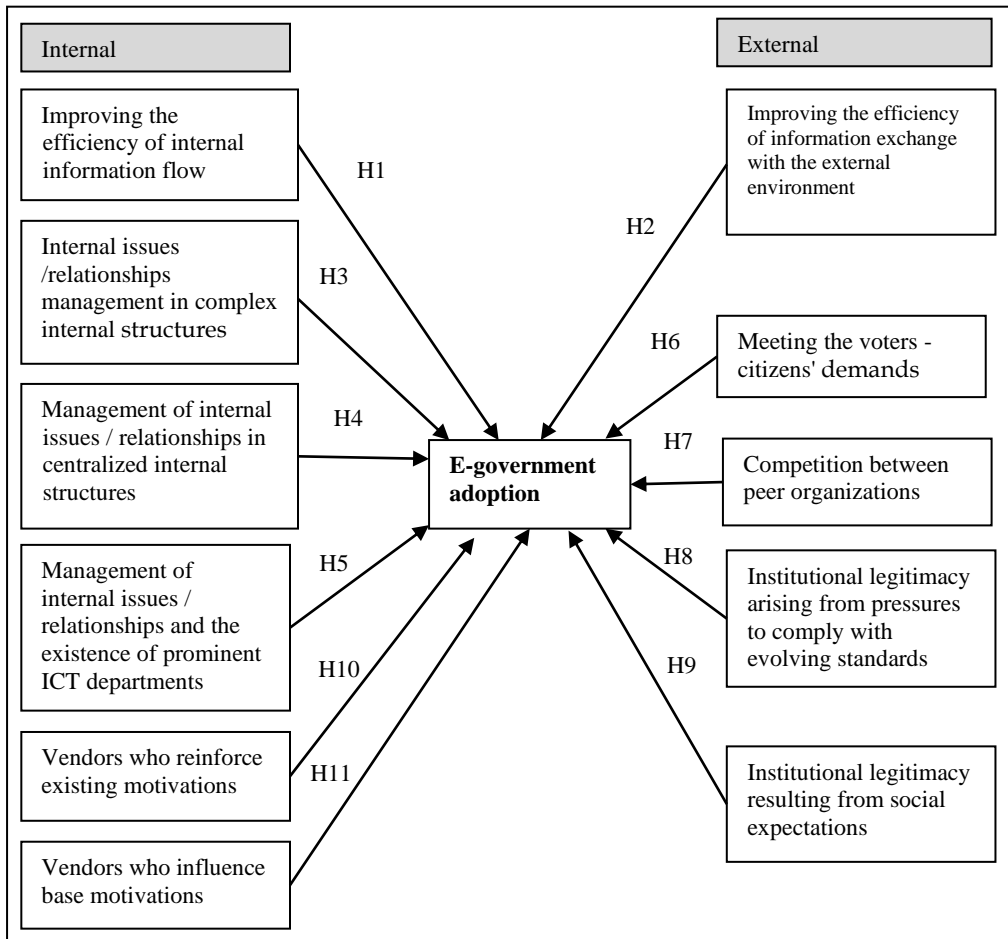
In the case of small municipalities lacking sufficient ICT skills and knowledge to manage relations with IT vendors (partner selection and software), IT governance is de facto delegated to third parties, with the risk of even being exposed to opportunistic behaviors (Previtali and Bof, 2009). As organizations perceive the priority flagging of web site development and management there is an increase in outsourcing practices. This is attributed to the lack of technical skills whereas in large municipalities the deficit of technical skills does not usually attain this high level (Ferro and Sorrentino, 2010). Therefore, a hypothesis can be formulated as follows:

*H10: When vendors act primarily employed as sources of information, greater reliance on outsourcing strengthens municipalities' existing motivations for the*

adoption of a greater range of e-government services.

*H11: When vendors influence the base motivations of municipalities, greater reliance on outsourcing will diminish the impact of municipalities' existing motivations on the adoption of a greater range of e-government services.*

**Figure 1.** The proposed conceptual framework of the study



## 4. Research Methodology

### 4.1 The Population of the Study

In order to adequately answer the key research issues of this study, a systematic review of the existing literature was conducted and the article of Jun and Weare (2011) was the base for the proposed conceptual framework that was developed. The sampling frame was decided to focus on Municipalities, which is an appropriate empirical framework for the research objectives. Municipalities are considered to be

the closest tier (level) of government to citizens because they are mostly concerned with the daily life of people (Cegarra-Navarro *et al.*, 2012). Besides, municipalities have a variety of possible interactions between them and citizens (Bonsón *et al.*, 2015). It was also considered appropriate for the sampling approach to be non-limited, viewing the 325 Greek Municipalities as a whole. Municipalities in Greece are located in all 13 Regions, 65 of them are situated in islands, covering 18.7% of the country's surface. The largest municipality has 664.046 inhabitants while the smallest one has 152. This diversity poses some challenges in the analysis due to their different characteristics (Sandoval-Almazan and Gil-Garcia, 2012).

## 4.2 Measurement

The present empirical study was conducted using a newly created structured questionnaire based on the Jun and Weare (2011) research and the questionnaires from the International City / Country Management Association-ICMA (years 2000, 2002 and 2004). They were adapted to the Greek context and include elements from the literature review. Indicatively, the questionnaire contains 42 questions that compose eleven individual factors. The first six factors refer to the internal environment while the other five refer to the external environment. Each of the 11 factors consists of 3 to 7 multiple choice questions and the five-point Likert scale was used to measure factors, in most of the cases. The questionnaire also consists of eight sections, from which the first two include general elements about the Municipalities and the next sections explore the provision of non-specific e-government services, while the rest were used to measure the 11 factors of the study, as mentioned before. The last section includes 38 questions about e-government services provided by each municipality.

To examine the organizational, environmental, and socio-economic characteristics of the Municipalities, data were collected about Municipal revenue (Diavgeia<sup>3</sup>, year 2011), population, employment rate, education and GDP per Regional Unit (ELSTAT<sup>4</sup>, 2011) and average household income per municipality (Petroudis, 2017). Table 1 provides explanations of the variables and of the descriptive statistics.

## 4.3 Sample and Data Collection

As previously mentioned, primary data set were collected electronically from a sample containing all Municipalities whose e-mail addresses were obtained from the official website of the Ministry of Interior or of the Municipalities.

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<sup>3</sup>The Transparency or Transparency Program was created by Law 3861/2010 and is created for posts online on a central website by government bodies and management on the Internet. Public authorities, public and private sector bodies, and Independent Authorities, as well as first- and second-degree Local Authorities required publishing.

<sup>4</sup>The Hellenic Statistical Authority (ELSTAT) is the national statistical office of Greece.

**Table 1. Descriptive statistics**

Variable	Measurement	N	Min	Max	Mean	SD (S)
Mean adoption	Average number of e-government services	109	6	37	19	6,32
<b>Environmental factors</b>						
Population	Municipal population	109	185	664.046	27.556	73.150
Central, Suburb	Suburb (0), Central (1)	109	0	1	0,35	0,479
Geographical location	North (0), South (1)	109	0	1	0,49	0,502
Island	No (0), Yes (1)	109	0	1	0,18	0,389
<b>Organizational factor</b>						
Organization size	Total employees	99	4	2.500	170	334,44
IT department	No (0), Yes (1)	109	0	1	0,679	0,469
Fiscal capacity	Municipal revenue (thous., year 2011)	102	1.198	547.467	32.837	70.399
Administrative centralization	Percentage of municipality employment devoted to central finance and administration	96	1	170	37	31,95
Web site management	Responsibility for Web site management to Mayor or Special Advisors or Secretary General or External consultants (0), IT department, Finance/Administration department (1)	95	0	1	0,59	0,495
ICT -e-government budget	Current use budget for ICT and e-government	105	<5.000	>50.000	3,43	1,525
General Director	Form of government - Nonexistence (0), existence (1)	106	0	1	0,00	0,2495
Secretary General		109	0	1	1	0,5013
Special consultants		108	0	1	1	0,2111
<b>Socio-economics factors</b>						
Employment	Employment percentage per Municipality	109	0,21	0,48	0,325	0,0486
Education	Education percentage per Municipality	109	0,02	0,48	0,11	0,07
GDP per capita	GDP per capita per Regional unit	109	10.355	33.845	14.789	5.512,42
Average household income	Average household income per Municipality (2011)	109	11.657	56.866	17.757	5.300

The questionnaire was uploaded online (using Google drive) and the link was forwarded online to 325 Municipalities over a three-month period (from 22 February

to 11 July 2019). As a result of the municipal elections, 3 extensions were given for obtaining a more satisfactory response rate. In total, 728 e-mails were sent and also numerous telephone communication took place, leading to 113 responses. Incomplete or invalid questionnaires were discarded, leaving 109 valid questionnaires (rate 33.53%).

#### 4.4 Validity and Reliability

The research tool was tested, both in terms of content and validity. The content validity test was conducted prior to the empirical survey. Specifically, the tool was discussed, in an interview process, with employees and Heads of Departments of 2 Municipalities, incorporating all the proposed modifications before finalizing the questionnaire. In order to examine the validity of its structure, each of the appropriate 11 factors was evaluated for its unidimensionality and reliability. The structure of the questionnaire was validated by the Exploratory Factor Analysis (EFA) method and then the reliability of the extracted factors was tested using the Cronbach's Alpha index. All tests concluded that the scales used were valid and reliable (see Tables 2 and 3 for the main results).

**Table 2.** Estimation of unidimensionality and reliability of internal environmental factors

Factors	KMO	Bartlett's Test of Sphericity	Eigenvalue	Total Variance Explained	Cronbach's Alpha
Improving the efficiency of internal information flow	0,764	858,137	5,985	29,924	0,760
Management of internal issues /relationships in complex internal structures			2,748	43,663	0,605
Management of internal issues / relationships in centralized internal structures			1,890	53,112	0,682
Management of internal issues / relationships and the existence of prominent ICT departments			1,618	61,200	0,886
Vendors who reinforce existing motives			1,091	66,655	0,696
Vendors who influence key motives			0,995	71,630	0,667

**Table 3.** Estimation of unidimensionality and reliability of external environmental factors

Factors	KMO	Bartlett's Test of Sphericity	Eigen-value	Total Variance Explained	Cronbach's Alpha
Improving the efficiency of information exchange with the external environment	0,854	1191,948	9,317	42,350	0,769
Meeting the voters - citizens' demands			2,649	54,389	0,901
Competition between peer organizations			1,262	60,125	0,704
Institutional legitimacy arising from pressures to comply with evolving standards			1,150	65,353	0,869
Institutional legitimacy resulting from social expectations			0,933	69,592	0,774

## 5. Empirical Findings

### 5.1 Descriptive Statistics

Table 1 in Appendix presents the current status of Municipalities with respect to e-government ranking. First came the Municipality of Molos Ag. Konstantinou, having adopted e-government for 37 out of the 38 possible services while the Municipalities of Aigina and Samothraki had the lowest score (6/38). All Municipalities have created a web site over the past decade providing e-government services, while 57.8% provide these services also through physical presence or mail. A separate IT department is found in 74 Municipalities (67.9%) with the number of employees usually ranging from 1 to 3 (65.1%) while in 46.7% of the cases it is the department with exclusive competence. Next, regarding the ICT-eGovernment budget for Municipalities, the largest percentage (33.9%) is found in ">50.000,00€" category and 46.8% of them finance these activities from "own resources". Lastly, one-fourth of them (24.7%) have developed their e-government services using both vendors and Municipality' staff.

Almost half of them (46.2%) elaborated "Some actions utilizing ICT and e-government" in the context of overall Municipal strategic planning while it must be pointed that 43 out of 109 do not have a comprehensive strategic plan at all. The

survey also revealed that only 7.3% conducted a citizen survey to determine the type of e-services to be developed. The most common problems faced by Municipalities were "Lack of personnel technology / web" (75.7%) and "Lack of technology / web specialization" (48.6%). Concerning the change that e-Government actually brought to municipalities, "Improving Citizens' Service" (69.7%) and "Improving Municipality's Communication with the Public" (64.0%) emerged as the frontrunners.

## 5.2 Regression Analysis

With respect to the explanatory factors, the multiple linear regression technique was used to explain the relationship between the expected value of dependent variable (Adoption of e-government) from the values of 11 independent variables. Specifically, two models for multiple regression analysis were conducted for the independent variables, for both internal and external environment. For the internal environment, the coefficient of determination was  $R^2=0.195$  (or 19.5%). It was not so high and satisfactory, showing that only 19.5% of the total variability is interpreted by regression. This is not a major problem though since the purpose of the analysis is not to predict the values of the dependent variable but to investigate the effect of the independent variables on it (Field, 2009). Regression is also significant at the 5% level of significance ( $F = 3.712$ ,  $p = 0.002 < 0.05$ ) which explains that at least one of the independent variables appears to have a significant effect on the dependent variable.

**Table 4.** *Estimated regression coefficients*

Internal Environment				External Environment			
Variable	Beta	t	Sig.	Variable	Beta	t	Sig.
		1,777	0,079			30,914	0,000
Improving the efficiency of internal information flow	0,184	1,477	0,143	Improving the efficiency of information exchange with the external environment	0,429	3,509	0,001
Management of internal issues /relationships in complex internal structures	0,003	0,027	0,978	Meeting the voters - citizens' demands	0,034	0,315	0,754
Management of internal issues / relationships in centralized internal structures	-0,026	-0,217	0,828	Competition between peer organizations	0,073	0,632	0,529
Management of internal issues / relationships and the existence of prominent ICT departments	0,302	2,745	0,007	Institutional legitimacy arising from pressures to comply with evolving standards	0,016	0,092	0,927



Vendors who reinforce existing motives	0,060	0,364	0,717	Institutional legitimacy resulting from social expectations	0,045	0,264	0,792
<b>Vendors who influence key motives</b>	0,021	0,133	0,895				

**5.2.1 Dependent variable: e-government adoption**

Table 4 shows that in the internal environment only the independent variable "Management of internal issues / relationships and the existence of prominent ICT departments" at the 5% significance level ( $t = 1,827$  with  $p = 0.007 < 0.05$ ) had a significant and positive effect on e-government adoption.

For the external environment, the coefficient of determination  $R^2$  is 0.228, also not so satisfactory, which means that only 28.4% of total variability is interpreted by regression. This, as mentioned in the previous case, is not a major problem. Regression is also significant at the 5% level of significance ( $F = 7.781$ ,  $p = 0.000 < 0.05$ ) meaning that at least one of the independent variables appears to have a significant effect on the dependent variable.

Amongst the variables related to the external environment, only the independent variable "Improving the efficiency of the exchange of information with the external environment" at the 5% significance level had a significant and positive effect ( $t = 3.509$  with  $p = 0.001 < 0.05$ ). This means that this is also the only variable related to the external environment that is important in determining the extent to which Municipalities adopt e-government. Except for this variable that has a positive and significant effect ( $B > 0$  and  $p < 0.05$ ), the table shows that all other "external environment" variables have a positive effect ( $B > 0$ ) on the adoption of eGovernment but not significant ( $p > 0.05$ ).

Except for the variable that has a positive and significant effect ( $B > 0$  and  $p < 0.05$ ), Table 4 shows that almost all "internal environment" variables, with the exception of "management internal issues - relationships in centralized structures", have a positive ( $B > 0$ ) effect on the Municipalities e-government adoption but not significant ( $p > 0.05$ ).

**Table 5. Hypotheses testing results**

Hypothesis	Remarks	Hypothesis	Remarks
H1	Accepted	H7	Accepted
H2	Totally accepted	H8	Accepted
H3	Accepted	H9	Accepted
H4	Rejected	H10	Accepted
H5	Totally accepted	H11	Accepted
H6	Accepted		

### 5.3 Factors Affecting E-Government Development

In addition to the incentives that motivate Municipalities, the availability of e-government services is influenced by other factors which, according to the literature review, can be grouped into 3 categories: environmental, organizational and socio-economic factors. One-way analysis of variance (One Way Anova) was performed to investigate the differences, while the degree of interdependence of the variables was measured with correlation analysis.

#### 5.3.1 Environmental factors

For the "Population" factor, there are 4 levels (0-25.000, 25.001-50.000, 50.001-100.000 and > 100,000) with only 5% significance level ( $F = 2,54$ ,  $p\text{-value} = 0,06 > 0,05$ ) and therefore there are no statistically significant differences. Duncan's multiple comparisons indicate that cities with bigger populations do not tend to develop e-governance more than municipalities with a smaller or much smaller population.

The next environmental factors to be examined through correlation analysis are "Geographical Location", "Island" and "Metropolitan – Suburb Municipality" in order to determine the degree of interdependence of the variables under consideration. For the "Geographical location", the Pearson coefficient is ( $r = 0,009$ ),  $\text{sig} = 0,927 > 0,05$  and therefore no significant linear correlation can be established, the same is true for "Island" where Pearson  $r = -0,126$  and  $\text{sig} = 0,193 > 0,05$ . For the "Metropolitan -Suburb Municipality", a statistically significant linear correlation is shown as Pearson  $r = 0,200$  and  $\text{sig} = 0,037 < 0,05$ .

#### 5.3.2 Organizational factors

For the "Budget for ICT and e-government in the current year", five levels were categorized (<5,000 €, 5,000-10,000 €, 10,000-25,000 €, 25,000-50,000 € and > 50,000 €). The results showed that analysis is significant at the 5% level of significance ( $F = 4,154$  with  $p\text{-value} = 0,004 < 0,05$ ) indicating that there are differences between the budget for ICT and e-government that is spent by Municipalities. Duncan's multiple comparisons show that Municipalities that spend more on ICT and e-government show the highest average adoption of e-government.

Concerning the "financial capacity" of Municipalities (revenue 2011) at seven levels and in thousands (<10,000 €, 10.001-20.000 €, 20.001-30.000 €, 30.001-40.000 €, 40.001-50.000, 50.001-100.000 and > 100.001 €), results showed that analysis is significant ( $F = 4,300$  with  $p\text{-value} = 0,001 < 0,05$ ) and there were statistically significant differences between groups means as determined by One Way Anova analysis. Duncan's multiple comparisons show that Municipalities whose revenues are at a higher level also have higher average e-government adoption.

For the organizational factors "Entity Size", "Existence of ICT department", "Administrative centralization" and "Web site management", examined by

correlation analysis, the results showed that there was no statistically significant linear correlation. This is because the Pearson correlation coefficient ( $r = 0.0116$ ,  $r = 0.093$ ,  $r = -0.025$  and  $r = 0.063$ , respectively) is very close to 0 and furthermore the p-value for the two-sided control is  $0.2251 > 0.05$ ,  $0.338 > 0.05$ ,  $0.809 > 0.05$  and  $0.543 > 0.05$ , respectively.

### **5.3.3 Socio-economic factors**

The first of the socio-economic factors is the "*GDP per Regional Unit*", with five levels (10,000-15,000€ 15.001-20.000€ 20.001-25.000€ 25.001-30.000 and >30.001). Results showed that the analysis was not significant at the 5% level of significance ( $F = 2,371$  with  $p\text{-value} = 0.057 > 0.05$ ) indicating that there were no statistically significant differences between the means of the groups as determined by One Way Anova analysis. Duncan's multiple comparisons show that Municipalities belonging to Regional High-GDP Peripheral Units have not further developed e-government.

For the variables "*Employment*", "*Education*", and "*Average annual household income*", correlation analysis results showed that there is a statistically significant mediate, linear correlation for the first two factors because Pearson's correlation coefficient ( $r = 0.225$ ,  $r = 0.233$  and  $r = 0.188$ , respectively) is very close to 0.2 and in addition the p-value for the two-sided test is  $0.008 < 0.05$ ,  $0.015 < 0.05$  and  $0.051 > 0.05$  respectively.

## **6. Conclusions**

The first result apparent from the empirical analysis is that the adoption of e-government by Greek local authorities follows quite the pattern found in the literature. Research results indicate that some services with institutional content or related to one-way information have been developed to a greater range than others, such as services related to participation (Appendix Table 2). Among them there are services similar to those that emerged from Costopoulou *et al.* (2017) research. According to the municipalities' ratings, it is concluded that 52.3% of the respondents are above the average level of e-government, out of the 38 services set to assess the level of development, provide at least 19.

Though there are many studies about e-government evaluation in literature, there is a scarcity in examining organizations' motivations for the adoption of e-government. The results of this research show clearly that one of the main motivations of Municipalities in Greece for the adoption of e-government services is to improve the efficiency of information sharing with the external environment. The information sharing and common use of them enhance the administrative processes, while in cases that organizations have an external orientation, the e-government website could be a starting point for a multitude of interactions with citizens (Sandoval-Almazan and Gil-Garcia, 2012). E-government enables organizations to provide better services and integrated information, to improve performance in order to

achieve higher efficiency and effectiveness and thereby to increase citizen participation and consequently increase their satisfaction and confidence in the organization (Manoharan *et al.*, 2015). E-services could be initially used as a tool for specifying citizen needs, through discussion forums, that will help organizations to provide relevant information and services.

Consequently, public administrations become more efficient as citizen needs are met while the organizations achieve cost reduction and higher revenues. The amount of information provided through websites enables citizens to evaluate in a better way the accountability of the organization (Bolivary, 2018). From the side of the demand, the benefits involve mainly increased organization transparency, effectiveness and efficiency leading to a system that fosters the professional interests of its constituencies. Therefore, from the demand side stance the interest lies in the implementation of a transparency-enabling information system. Although not involved in the implementation of the system, the supply side can support it as well since it facilitates modern, new public services and reduces corruption (Gritzalis, Tsohou and Lambrinouidakis, 2017).

Another key incentive for adopting e-government services is the management of internal issues when there is a prominent ICT department. E-government should be responsibility of a single unit, of an IT department capable to connect and collaborate with all the other parts of the organization. Such a form of organization could include a dedicated committee or a working group that will integrate the other units in the e-government planning process. In general, IT and e-governance deal with the complex relationship between political governance and IT management, including different cultures, frequent misunderstandings and mistrust. If the initiative for innovation comes from elected officials, initiators would be well advised to get into contact with the IT managers. If the initiative arises in the IT management context, the managers in turn should consult relevant elected people, whose approval will be needed for budgeting and/or authorization later on (Kubicek, *et al.*, 2011). There is a need for an ICT department in charge of e-government with its own budget that would allow it to confront internal competition among departments for fiscal resources and empower municipalities to have a more developed e-government and interact more with the public (Reddick, 2007).

This study identified the barriers faced by municipalities and the most significant finding was the shortage of staff (Moon, 2002) as the overwhelming majority of municipalities employ 1 to 3 people for the development and implementation of e-government services. Another major barrier to improving the performance of the e-government is the lack of appropriate skills in the workforce (Moon, 2002; Hahamis *et al.*, 2005; Ganapati and Reddick, 2014; Alexopoulos *et al.*, 2018). Also, the need for technology upgrades is a reality for the greek Municipalities, as also observed by Goulas and Kontogeorga (2009). Although most Municipalities declared that more than € 50,000.00 is spent on ICT and e-government, the lack of financial resources, as pointed out in the responses of the Municipal Representatives remains an

impediment (Moon, 2002; Beynon-Davies and Martin, 2004; Hahamis *et al.*, 2005; Ganapati and Reddick, 2014; Alexopoulos *et al.*, 2018). On the other hand, according to Goulas and Kontogeorga (2009), the e-government is not at an advanced stage due to the lack of exploitation of EU funding programmes and that is also confirmed by the survey conducted. According to this, almost half of the municipalities spend their own money and a very small percentage of third-party funding. Except for the above, there are also other obstacles like the bandwidth issues (Hahamis *et al.*, 2005), staff resistance (Ruano de la Fuente, 2014), lack of inter-departmental collaboration, lack of stakeholder interest and information about e-government apps as well as privacy-security issues.

Although the real e-government benefits are impossible to quantify Alketbi (2018), the findings of this survey show that municipality' representatives believe that the two greatest benefits are improvement of citizen services and communication with the public (Ganapati and Reddick, 2014; Munoz and Bolivar, 2018). This is fully in line with the motive of improving the efficiency of the flow of information with the external environment. Other benefits include reducing time requirements as well as streamlining administrative procedures to become more effective and changing staff roles.

Having gained knowledge of what motivates Municipalities, the obstacles they encounter, as well as some factors that favor the implementation of e-government, it would be easy to record some steps that lead to the creation of a successful application. In a rapidly changing environment, it is necessary for administrations to take a step backwards and rethink their goals and strategies for e-government. In addition to adding "e", an integrated policy approach is needed to help organizations avoid failures and address barriers and risks (Muñoz and Bolivar, 2018).

Results also show that some municipalities are implementing e-government far better than others. That means that there is a long way to go in achieving active, online governance that will enable the provision of interactive services responsive to citizens' needs. A more particular attention to the launch of e-government project and a more formal strategic planning specifically for e-government, with clear goals and roles description of the parties involved would allow municipalities to establish goals for higher e-government level. Competition may not always have the desired results, as mimesis is often limited to a focus on the characteristics of other organizations without taking into account the objectives that they want to achieve (Karkin and Janssen, 2014).

The first step for municipalities towards a successful e-government implementation should be the clarification of the requirements of both parties. This implies extensive research of the existing system and feedback from both end-users and employees who are using the legacy system that must be assembled. Comprehensive consultations will lead to a clear vision and a coherent plan which is the starting point for change. The lack of a strategic plan for e-government is a deterrent and the

bigger the distance between planning and reality distance, the greater are the chances for failure (Alketbi, 2018). More specifically, some recommendations for successful implementation could be formulated, such as an early planning and action to address the lack of technical skills and experience of the municipal staff, to deal with their resistance and to secure revenues or third-party funding. In general, there should be organizational and institutional changes, staff training in new technologies, reorganization of administrative processes, building citizen and employee confidence, increased awareness about the needs of citizens and securing the support of elected officials.

There are three main limitations of the study. The main point is that while e-government has been subject for many researches, there is still no extensive research in the field of motivation. Therefore, results are not easily verifiable and comparable which can result in the support of unreliable motivations and the omission of others. Second, three extensions were given for the collection of data because of the local government elections. These persistent requests may have resulted in responses that did not give the necessary weight and provided inconsistent information. Third, the data used by ELSTAT was related to the 2011 census. It is suggested future research to explore other motivations and factors, as well as to use the qualitative approach for a more detailed picture but also to focus on the regions of the country. Lastly, it would be useful to evaluate the benefits to operators after implementation and to identify citizen' perceptions.

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**Appendix Table 1. E-government ranking per Municipality and population**

Municipality name	E-gov ranking	Population	Municipality name	E-gov ranking	Population
MOLOS-AG. KONSTANTINOS	37	12.090	SERRES	19	76.817
KEA	36	2.455	AGRINIO	19	94.181
LAMIA	34	75.315	RHODES	18	115.490
CHALKIDONA	31	33.673	ILIDA	18	32.219
CHANIA	30	108.642	KEFALLONIA	18	35.801
SITIA	30	18.318	ALEXANDRIA	18	41.570
METAMORFOSSI	29	29.891	ATHENS	18	664.046
ELEFSINA	29	29.902	ELAFONISOS	17	1.041
KAVALA	29	70.501	OICHALIA	17	11.228
KOS	28	33.388	THASSOS	17	13.770
XANTHI	28	65.133	POLYGYROS	17	22.048
TRIKALA	28	81.355	PAGGAIO	17	32.085
HERAKLION	27	173.993	THIVA	17	36.477
PENTELEI	27	34.934	KILKIS	17	51.926
DESKATI	27	5.852	AG. DIMITRIOS	17	71.294
AMFIKLIA	26	10.922	SKOPELOS	16	4.960

NAXOS	26	18.864	KORDELIO-VOSMOS	15	101.753
ORAIOKASTRO	26	38.317	TEMPON	15	13.712
ANTIPAROS	25	1.211	IASMOS	15	13.810
TRIFYLIA	25	27.373	ALMYROS	15	18.614
ALEXANDROUPOLI	25	72.959	AVDERA	15	19.005
NEAPOLI-SYKIES	25	84.741	PHILOTHEI PSYCHIKO	15	26.968
APSPROPYRGOS	24	30.251	NAFPAKTOS	15	27.800
LEVADIA	24	31.315	FYLI	15	45.965
ZIROS	23	13.892	THERMAIKOS	15	50.264
THESSALONIKI	23	325.182	KORYDALLOS	15	63.445
SKIATHOS	23	6.088	PAROS	14	13.715
MAROUSSI	23	72.333	AGATHONISI	14	185
IOANNINA	22	112.486	PYLOS NESTOR	14	21.077
KILELER	22	20.854	LOUTRAKI	14	21.221
ALIMOS	22	41.720	AGIOS NIKOLAOS	14	27.074
TANAGRA	21	19.432	PAIONIA	14	28.493
NESTOS	21	22.331	ELASSONA	14	32.121
HERSONISSOS	21	26.717	NEA PROPONTIDA	14	36.500
NAFPLIO	21	33.356	VOREIA TZOUMERKA	14	5.714
ORESTIADA	21	37.695	ELLINIKO	14	51.356
EORDAIA	21	45.592	PERISTERI	13	139.981
DRAMA	21	58.944	SERVION - VELVENTOU	13	14.830
ALIARTOS	20	10.887	AIGIALEIA	13	49.872
ARCHAIAS OLYMPIAS	20	13.409	TINOS	13	8.636
SINTIKI	20	22.195	MYKIS	12	15.540
DELPHI	20	26.716	KALYMNOS	12	16.179
ARGOS-MYCENAE	20	42.022	GEORGIOS KARAISSAKIS	12	5.780
TRIPOLI	20	47.254	XIROMEROU	11	11.737
VIANNOS	20	5.563	MANTOUDIYOU-LIMNIS	11	12.045
ZAGORA-MOURESI	20	5.809	FARKADONA	10	13.396
CHIOS	20	51.390	MYLOPOTAMOS	10	14.363
ILIOUPOLI	20	78.153	GREVENA	10	25.905
KATERINI	20	85.851	ITHAKI	10	3.231
LESVOS	20	86.436	MOUZAKI	9	13.122
TOPEIROS	19	11.544	NIKOLAOS SKOUFAS	8	12.753
DIRFYS MESSAPIA	19	18.800	ZAKYNTHOS	8	40.759
AGIA VARVARA	19	26.550	AEGINA	6	13.056
ALMOPIA	19	27.556	SAMOTHRAKI	6	2.859
KOMOTINI	19	66.919			

**Appendix Table 2. Provided services on website**

<b>Provided services on website</b>	<b>YES</b>	<b>NO</b>
Press Releases	109	
General information about the Municipality and historical background	107	2
Contact information for Mayor and city council members (email, phone, address)	94	15
Online employment information (e.g. openings and application procedures)	93	16
Contact form	92	17
Central directory with all employees listed with contact information that enable citizens to find a particular person	85	24
Online announcement of City Council meetings, invitation of citizens and form of comments on the agenda to be discussed	84	25
Description, activities or events of municipal departments/organizations/units (central site/directory rather than having to go to departments)	83	26
Description of current and new projects (budget, designs, cost estimates)	75	34
Online submission of complaints, comments, reports and proposals	72	37
There an easy to use searchable database/search bar	67	42
Links to Municipality' social media (Facebook, Twitter or Youtube)	65	44
User registration to the municipal website	64	45
Mayor and council members' financial statements	63	46
Text or video of major speeches of mayor or deputy mayor, or city council chair	62	47
Districts maps	62	47
Information about elections	60	49
Information about the weather	56	53
Privacy statement/policy or disclaimer with a privacy section	55	54
Published date on main page	51	58
Search bar by outside provider (e.g. Google or Bing)	49	60
Online video, audio podcast, video webcast, or live feed of council meetings	48	61
Geographic Information System Data (GIS)	46	63
Versions of the site in other languages	44	65
Disabled persons accessibility	41	68
Statement or advertisement declaring that the site is development or maintained by outside contractor	40	69
RSS feed	39	70
Online application for licenses, permits, certifications, etc (citizens and business)	38	71
Public transportation options and schedules (i.e., bus routes)	36	73
Blog, discuss board, forum	32	77
Online voting and polls	30	79
Searchable index or list for archived laws, regulations, and requirements (includes municipal code)	25	84
Link or text of public information law about Freedom of Information Act/FOIA (this includes requesting access to files/ records requests	23	86
Direct link or access to transactional opportunities such as paying bills or parking tickets, taxes, fines, debts (citizens or business)	22	80
Ability to report online police misconduct such as graffiti, burglary, vandalism etc.	22	87
Online application form and registration for a job	18	91
Videoconferencing with municipal agencies/council members	10	99
Information about fuel prices	4	105