ICEGOV BEST PAPER AWARDS POLICY

1. INTRODUCTION

The goal of the *ICEGOV Best Paper Awards* is to acknowledge research excellence demonstrated by the authors whose papers were accepted and presented at the conference.

The award consists of a certificate (printed or digital) and a symbolic gift, usually a cultural object from the conference's host country, delivered to the lead author of the winning paper by the Awards Committee Chair or a person designated by him/her during the conference's closing ceremony.

The awards are provided in four categories:

- Best Research Paper
- Best Ongoing Research Paper
- Best Short Paper
- Best Poster Paper

2. ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA

The eligibility of a paper for the Best Paper Award in a given category includes:

1. The paper has at least two reviews.
2. The paper has an overall review score higher than or equal to 4.0.
3. The paper is accepted by the conference in the award's category.
4. At least one of the authors presents the paper during the conference.

3. SELECTION PROCESS

Once the list of accepted papers for the conference is available, all papers that meet the eligibility criteria are sent to the Awards Committee for evaluation. The process is blind, i.e. none of the committee members knows the identity of the authors during the evaluation process.

The eligible papers are evaluated based on the following criteria:

- **Originality (30%):** the originality of the paper in terms of theoretical development, empirical results, policy development, or managerial insights.

- **Significance (30%):** the clarity and significance of the paper's contribution and its potential to generate impact on digital government research, policy, or practice.

- **Quality of argument (20%):** the quality of the argument incorporated, that is, critical analysis of concepts, theories, and findings, and consistency and coherence of the narrative.

- **Quality of writing (20%):** the quality of the writing and presentation style in terms of accuracy, clarity, readability, and organization.

In each category, the committee nominates up to three papers and selects among them a winner. The decisions are made consensually or by vote with the Chair casting the deciding vote in case of a tie. The committee prepares written justifications for the winners, which are published on the conference website.

4. AWARDS COMMITTEE

The Awards Committee is formed by a Chair, who is appointed by UNU-EGOV upon advice from the ICEGOV Steering Committee, and three senior digital government scholars invited by the Chair. The Committee organizes its work to avoid any conflict of interest on its decisions.

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