

Contents

List of Figures and Tables	ix
Abbreviations	xi
CHAPTER 1	
Introduction	1
The research framework	4
Theoretical approach	6
Conceptualising social culture and decision-making	7
Why the Western-Southern divide?	10
Book outline	11
CHAPTER 2	
Theory and Conceptual Foundations	15
Digital divides: a challenging landscape	16
Digital divides in a cross-national context	25
Social culture and digital divides: why should we care?	28
Decision-making and digital divides: why should we care?	37
Chapter summary	44
CHAPTER 3	
The Western-Southern divide in Europe	47
The European information society: policy, national heterogeneity, the market, and socio-cultural interests	47
Politics juxtaposing society in the EU? Implications for digital divides	56
Digital divides in Europe: the Western-Southern divide	61
Chapter summary	94

CHAPTER 4	
Greece	95
Why Greece? An overview of digital divides in Greece	95
The ICT market in Greece	102
Greek history, social culture and the information society	104
Policy and regulation in the Greek information society	110
Greek digital divides: introducing social culture and decision-making	118
CHAPTER 5	
Portugal	129
Why Portugal? An overview of digital divides in Portugal	129
The ICT market in Portugal	139
Portuguese history, social culture and the information society	142
Policy and regulation in the Portuguese information society	150
Digital divides in Portugal: introducing social culture and decision-making	160
CHAPTER 6	
The UK	167
Why the UK? An overview of digital divides in the UK	167
The ICT market in the UK	180
The UK: history, social culture and the information society	183
Policy and regulation in the British information society	187
Digital divides in the UK: introducing social culture and decision-making	199
CHAPTER 7	
Empirical Analysis	207
Social culture in the West and South of Europe	210
Perceptions of policy and regulation in the West and South of Europe	213

Association between Internet use and social culture in the West and South of Europe	216
Association between Internet use and policy and regulation in the West and South of Europe	220
Is Internet adoption influenced by social culture and decision-making? An inferential analysis	224
Chapter summary	238
 CHAPTER 8	
Concluding remarks	243
Reflections on the conceptual foundations of the work	243
The argument of the book	249
Contribution of the book	252
 Bibliography	255
Index	277