

HENVINET Networking Portal

Design Specifications and Extensions
(Final Report for Deliverable 2.6)

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Aileen Yang and Alena Bartonova

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HENVINET
Health & Environment
Networking Portal

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Executive Summary

The primary goal of HENVINET is to establish a long-term co-operation between researchers, policy makers and other stakeholders in the area of environment and health research, policy, and assessment. The HENVINET networking portal (www.henvitnet.eu) is the main deliverable for WP2 of the project which focuses on the development of a web-based tool to facilitate information gathering and access to information for the purposes of the project. This Portal Design Specifications document is the **final** report regarding the design description of the portal structure and functionalities.

In addition to the social networking functions, the portal also allows access to other web applications developed within the project: an interactive causal chain diagrams with questionnaires, a database of decision support tools, a database of projects, and an internal document management system.

The Portal is based on social networking principles. The main features of the Portal are contained in the following sub-pages: About, My Profile, Members, Groups, Forum, Events, Tools, Help, Documents, Newsletter, and Search.

The HENVINET portal design and structure met the goals of the project to provide such a online networking tool. However, the Portal has not yet entirely met its own goal of being a self-sustained online network. The following four issues must first be addressed in order to complete this goal:

1. **Recruitment.** More members must be recruited to establish a solid base of registered users in the health and environment field.
2. **Participation.** Existing members and new members must be encouraged to use the network to find contacts and find and provide information.
3. **Content.** More content must be available on the Portal to attract new users and give a solid base of information that is useful to the members.
4. **Network.** The Portal must be seen as “the” network to turn to when particular issues arise in the Health and Environment field.

The Portal design and structure are fundamentally established to handle the four issues mentioned above. We have also indications that the portal is well known within the European environment and health community. The main challenge thus lies in generating content. This can be done by own editorial contributions, increasing contacts with existing activities, and through continuous administration and marketing. These issues are heavily dependent on available resources, as access to many professionals and their networks has been established, and we also managed to build their interest and expectations.

It is hoped that future funding can be granted to address these issues in order to make the HENVINET Portal, “the” network for Health and Environment professionals.

HENVINET Networking Portal

Design Specifications and Extensions

(Final Report for Deliverable 2.6)

1 Introduction

The main objective of the HENVINET project (a coordination action funded by the EU 6th Framework Program, grant nr. 037019) was to establish a long-term co-operation between researchers, policy makers and other stakeholders in the area of environment and health research and assessment. The objective of Work Package 2 of the project was to *develop a web-based tool to facilitate information gathering and access to information for the purposes of the project, to assist in dissemination of project information, and to provide technical solutions and input to the Environment and Health Information System*. As a part of these “technical solutions”, it was determined through the progress of the project that a Networking Portal could be a valuable tool to provide a part of these solutions. Deliverable 2.6 dealing with portal development and extensions was deemed the necessary deliverable to address this new tool to be developed.

This report is the final deliverable for Deliverable 2.6 for the project. This report is also a document of the *final* design specifications for the portal, thus building upon the previous *initial* design specifications which are documented in the report “HENVINET networking portal. Design specifications. (Planning document)” (Kobernus et al., 2009). The Portal can be found at www.henvinet.eu.

1.1 Purpose

The purpose of the portal is to bring together professionals within the health and environment field to improve communication and collaboration. Enhanced communication between these professionals (representing various organizations) from the differing scientific background/fields and different policy perspectives hopes to lead to improved dissemination and information flow. This may in turn contribute to environment and health policy interpretation in order to encourage better informed and substantiated political decision making. More powerful and integrated environment and health issues and policies based upon wide-spread collaborative efforts and well informed argumentative debate on policy interpretation may result in policy relevant environment and health assessments - and ultimately better protection for populations and individuals.

1.2 Goals and Objectives

The objective of the portal is to provide a platform to facilitate networking for professionals within and mostly between the health and environment fields. The portal will facilitate networking through providing a professional virtual meeting place to make new contacts, maintain contacts, discuss issues, and share information for the purpose of better informed policy making. An additional

objective of the portal is to provide a networking platform which contains new added-value above other more general portals currently available. Different modules will be presented in this document which contributes to the added-value, but most importantly the portal will not only just *establish* a site for networking, but utilize modules/components that *encourage* links between various professionals and their interests.

The goals and objectives of the Networking Portal were laid out in the created “Vision Statement” which reads as follows:

The HENVINET is a powerful new networking portal designed specifically for the global Environment and Health community. With a range of innovative tools for locating and accessing expertise, sharing knowledge, views and networking with peers, HENVINET empowers a multi-stakeholder approach to addressing the most pressing Environment and Health issues at hand. The HENVINET portal provides Environment and Health professionals and stakeholders anywhere in world with the ability to:

- *Network with peers: Engage with a community of scientists, policymakers and stakeholders to share expertise, views and information.*
- *Access the experts: Search for and pinpoint specific expertise, and efficiently communicate and discuss concerns and specific topics with renowned experts.*
- *Tackle global challenges: Effectively collaborate within self-forming communities and forums that bring together a relevant portfolio of experts and stakeholders to address the issues at hand.*
- *Set the agenda: Shape the agenda of the Environment and Health community by participating in communities and forums discussing hot-topics of today and tomorrow.*
- *Share opportunities: Advertise conferences, symposia, research calls, job opportunities and the like to a broad range of professionals.*

1.3 Audience

The broader audience for the portal is environment and health professionals with common associations between environment-health, and health-environment. These individual professionals shall also represent their respective employer (Institute, University, authority, consulting firm, etc.) within the portal. A primary focus of the portal audience is to link Policy-makers to the Scientists/Researchers in these fields, where the portal is specifically designed to encourage relationships and information flow in this direction.

1.4 Incorporation of HENVINET products

The Portal is designed to incorporate/utilize the core HENVINET products:

- Decision Support Tools (DST's). Links to the HENVINET DST's are made under the "Tools" subheading. A summary of this project outcome is also given on this page.
- Causal diagrams. Links to the HENVINET causal diagrams are made under the "Tools" subheading. A summary of this project outcome is also given on this page.
- Policy Briefs.
- Website and intranet. The Portal makes links to the HENVINET project website and intranet where appropriate.

The tools and products are further explained in the Tools Integration section (Section 7). Other specific extensions and applications of the Portal in regards to the HENVINET project are discussed in Section 6 of this report.

2 Overall Design and Platform

The networking portal is designed using a modern social networking platform based on open source software. The general design is based on Facebook principles, which are geared towards professionals in the Health and Environment community.

2.1 Basic Sitemap (Portal Structure)

The basic structure of the Portal can be seen in the sitemap presented in Figure 1.

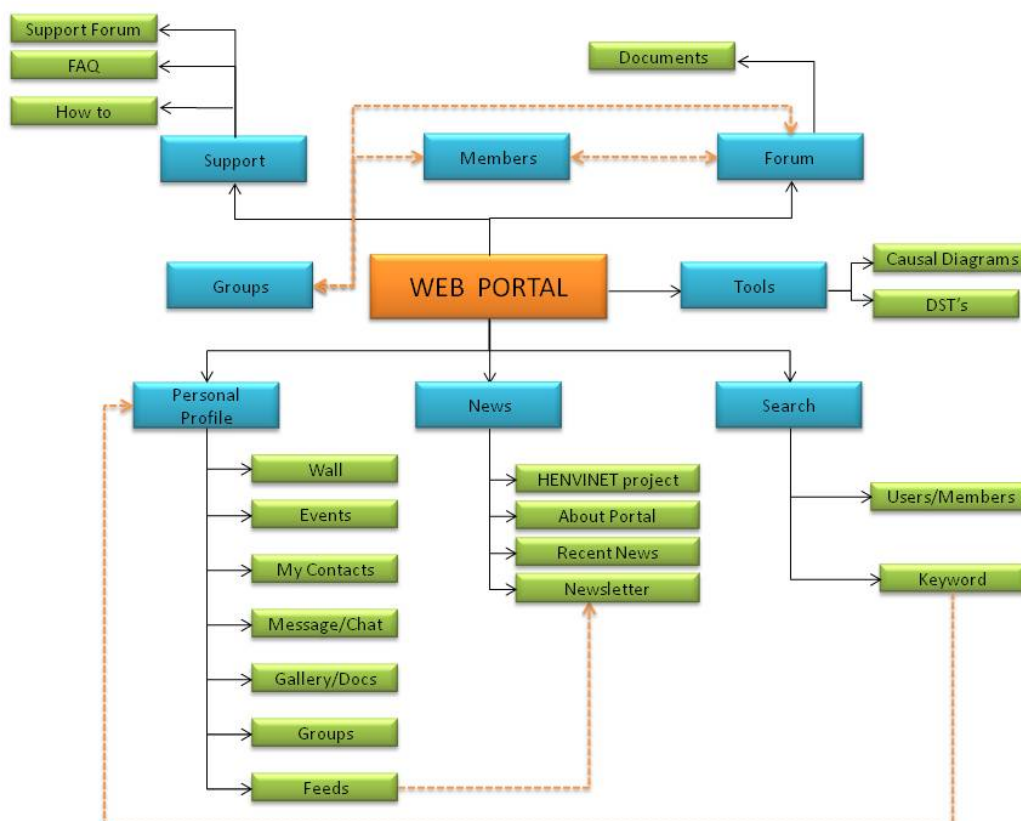


Figure 1: HENVINET Portal Sitemap

2.2 DNN framework

HENVINET project guidance suggested that the platform selected to host the portal should be an industry leading solution; open source and available without restriction. To this end, DotNetNuke (DNN) has been selected, since it meets the various requirements stated above. In addition, DNN is:

Versatile – It is an open source web application framework ideal for creating, deploying and managing interactive web, intranet and extranet sites.

User-Friendly – It is designed to make it easy for administrators, content editors, developers, and designers to manage all aspects of their web assets. Wizards, content-sensitive help, and a well-researched user interface provide a superior user experience.

Feature-Rich – It comes loaded with a set of built-in features that provide exceptional functionality. Site hosting, web design, content management, security, and membership options are all easily managed and customized through simple, browser-based tools.

Supported - It is managed and supported by It Corporation, a legal entity which provides production Service Level Agreements as well as other professional services for the platform. It is also supported by its Core Team of volunteer developers and a dedicated international community. Through user groups, online forums, resource portals and a network of companies who specialize in DNN®, help is always close at hand.

Open Source – It is provided for free, with full source code, licensed under a standard BSD open source license agreement. It allows individuals to do whatever they wish with the application framework, both commercially and non-commercially, with the simple requirement of giving credit back to the It community.

Cutting-Edge - It provides developers with an opportunity to leverage best-practice software development concepts by utilizing cutting-edge technologies like ASP.NET 2.0, Visual Studio, SQL Server, Windows Server, and IIS.

Extensible – It has a pluggable architecture which allows additional functionality and presentation elements to be dynamically added to the application at runtime. By leveraging the base functionality exposed through the built-in content management system, developers and site administrators can be immediately productive and more focused on delivering optimal solutions to their own unique business requirements.

Recognized – It is a trademarked name, and a brand widely recognized and respected in the open source community. With over 600,000 registered users and a talented team of developers, it continues to evolve its software through participation, real world trial, and end-user feedback.

2.3 Active Social

In order to build the portal with many of the modern social networking features available, the Active Social solution from ActiveModules was installed on the portal. Active Social is customizable and user-friendly social networking solution which works within the DNN framework. Most of the features presented in Section 3 below are being run by or supported by the Active Social solution.

2.4 Frontpage

It was ensured that the frontpage of the portal maintained a user-friendly design, where all main features of the portal could easily be accessed from (Figure 2).

The frontpage also contains updated news items, as well as automatic feeds for related news.

The screenshot shows the HENVINET Health & Environment Networking Portal frontpage. At the top, there is a welcome message for Scott Randall and a search bar. Below this is a navigation menu with links for Home, About, My Profile, Members, Groups, Forum, Events, Tools, HENVINET Project, How to, FAQ, and Admin. The main content area is divided into several sections:

- H&E News:** Contains three news items:
 - 14/12/09 Underused drilling practices could avoid pollution.** Industry has developed innovative ways to make it easier to exploit the nation's natural gas reserves without polluting air and drinking water. But it tends to use these environmental safeguards only when political, regulatory, cost or social pressures force it to do so.
 - 14/12/09 Can China turn cotton green?** Producing "natural" cotton clothing is a huge and filthy global business that, Chinese-commissioned research shows, will be extremely difficult to clean up.
 - 14/12/09 Politicians choose sides in Marcellus Shale drilling debate.** Elected officials taking a position on Marcellus Shale development are facing strident demands from stakeholders who could become rich, go broke or possibly abandon hope, depending on Albany's response.
- HENVINET Portal News:** Contains two news items:
 - Winter school on Uncertainty:** The four projects HEIMTSA, INTARESE, 2-FUN and NoMiracle are organising a hands-on training course on integrating uncertainty within environmental health impact assessment. The course is designed for members of the four founding projects, environmental health impact assessment professionals and students. The key target groups are PhD students, new recruits of the four projects and any other interested project partners. For and more information and registration, please visit the HEIMTSA webpage.
 - 10th Urban Environment Symposium:** The 10th Urban Environment Symposium will be held in Gothenburg, Sweden on June 9-11 2010. This symposium will provide a forum for recent R&D within a wide range of topics related to urban environment. The deadline for submitting abstracts for oral or poster presentations is 30. November 2009. Detailed information can be found at the conference website. For additional information, please contact Maria Evans (secretariat@hues.se). [Read More...](#)
- Member Login:** A login form with fields for Username and Password, a "Remember Me" checkbox, and buttons for "Login" and "Sign up". A link for "Forgot your password?" is also present.
- Latest Forum Entries:** A list of forum entries with titles like "RE: Pollen and climate change", "RE: Should the production and use of HBCD be banned worldwide?", "Should the production and use of DecabDE be banned worldwide?", "RE: Pathways of chemicals causing intra-uterine growth retardation", and "DST: Traffic Emission and Energetic".
- Latest Members:** A section showing a small profile picture of a member.

At the bottom of the HENVINET Portal News section, there is a pagination control showing "Page 1 of 4" and navigation links: "First", "Previous", "[1]", "2", "3", "4", "Next", and "Last".

Figure 2: HENVINET Portal frontpage.

3 Main Features and Sub-pages

The main features of the portal are found in the separate sub-pages which are accessible from the front page. A non-registered user of the portal has access to the following sub-pages: Frontpage, About, Groups, Forum, Events, Tools, How to, FAQ, and Documents. A registered user which is logged in has access to the aforementioned pages, and in addition has access to their Profile page, and the Members page. These sub-pages are presented in the sections below.

3.1 About

The About page (Figure 3) lists the goals/objectives of the portal; this text comes from the established Vision Statement (see also Section 1.2).

The screenshot shows the 'About' page of the HENVINET portal. At the top, there is a welcome message for 'Scott Randall' and a search bar. The navigation menu includes 'Home', 'About', 'My Profile', 'Members', 'Groups', 'Forum', 'Events', 'Tools', 'HENVINET Project', 'How to', 'FAQ', and 'Admin'. The main content area features the HENVINET logo and a vision statement. The vision statement text is as follows:

HENVINET Portal Vision Statement
 The HENVINET is a powerful new networking portal designed specifically for the global Environment and Health community. The portal is a product of the EU funded HENVINET project.

With a range of innovative tools for locating and accessing expertise, sharing knowledge, views and networking with peers, HENVINET empowers a multi-stakeholder approach to addressing the most pressing Environment and Health issues at hand.

The HENVINET portal provides Environment and Health professionals and stakeholders anywhere in world with the ability to:

- Network with peers:** Engage with a community of scientists, policymakers and stakeholders to share expertise, views and information.
- Access the experts:** Search for and pinpoint specific expertise, and efficiently communicate and discuss concerns and specific topics with renowned experts.
- Tackle global challenges:** Effectively collaborate within self-forming communities and forums that bring together a relevant portfolio of experts and stakeholders to address the issues at hand.
- Set the agenda:** Shape the agenda of the Environment and Health community by participating in communities and forums discussing hot-topics of today and tomorrow.
- Share opportunities:** Advertise conferences, symposia, research calls, job opportunities and the like to a broad range of professionals

For more information on participating on the HENVINET portal, go to the [HowTo](#) page.

On the right side of the page, there is a 'Search Input' field with a 'Go' button and a 'Tell A Contact About HENVINET' form with fields for 'To:', 'From:', and 'Message:', and a 'Send' button.

At the bottom of the page, there is a navigation menu and a footer with the text: 'Copyright 2009 HENVINET Terms Of Use Privacy Statement Help'.

Figure 3: About page.

3.2 My Profile

The My Profile page (Figure 4) lists the user's profile, recent activity, contacts, groups, and settings.

Welcome [Scott Randall](#) 

[Alerts \(0\)](#) [Inbox \(0\)](#) [Logout](#)

An online network "bridging the gap" for the environment and health policy community **Search** 

Home About **My Profile** Members Groups Forum Events Tools HENVINET Project How to FAQ Admin

Inbox

 **HENVINET**
Health & Environment
Networking Portal

My Profile December 14, 2009

Scott Randall   

About Me [My Settings](#) [My Account](#) [Edit Profile](#)



I am a Research Scientist at the Norwegian Institute for Air Research (NILU). I am currently involved in studying the environmental effects of Carbon Capture technology, coordination for the EU HENVINET project, investigating traffic contributions to air quality problems in European cities for the EEA, general project proposal writing/acquisition, and environmental education projects.

I have a M.Sc. in Environmental Science from Johns Hopkins University (USA), a M.Phil. in Culture, Environment, and Sustainability from the University of Oslo (Norway), and a B.A. concentrating in Environmental Studies from Gettysburg College (USA). I have focused my studies in ecology and atmospheric issues, with an interest in regional/global climate change and adaptation.

Before joining NILU I worked in the Watershed Management field where I was involved in environmental assessment, environmental restoration, field sampling, GIS integration, public outreach/education, and environmental policy making. My recent [NILU publications](#).

Contacts

Groups

- [Cancer](#)
- [Neurodevelopment Disorders](#)
- [Endocrine Disrupting Effects](#)
- [Portal Testing and Status](#)
- [Employment Opportunities](#)

Forum Activity

Posts: 363
Rank: Basic Member

[Activity](#) [Info](#) [Contacts](#) [Groups](#) [My Topics](#) [Photos](#) [Events](#) [User Account](#)

[Write](#) [Share Link](#) [Note](#) [Add Photos](#) [Upload File](#) [Import RSS](#)

Write something...

23 November

[Scott Randall](#) created the group [PRONET Fact Sheets](#) 

 a month ago [Comment](#)

Figure 4: My Profile Page.

3.3 Members

The Members page (Figure 5) lists the registered users of the portal and basic information to begin networking with them.

Welcome [Scott Randall](#) 

[ASSETS](#) [INFO](#) [LOGOUT](#)

An online network "bridging the gap" for the environment and health policy community **Search** 

Home About My Profile **Members** Groups Forum Events Tools HENVINET Project How to FAQ Admin

 **HENVINET**
Health & Environment
Networking Portal

Members December 14, 2009

Members Information

Below is a list of all registered portal members. Click on a name to view more about this member, or click "add contact" to request this member as one of your contacts (the requested member must approve).

Use the letters at the top of the page, or the arrows at the bottom of the page to browse the entire list. Click "advanced search" to search members by country, interest area, etc.

Members

[Advanced Search](#)

[A](#) [B](#) [C](#) [D](#) [E](#) [F](#) [G](#) [H](#) [I](#) [J](#) [K](#) [L](#) [M](#) [N](#) [O](#) [P](#) [Q](#) [R](#) [S](#) [T](#) [U](#) [V](#) [W](#) [X](#) [Y](#) [Z](#) [All](#)

	Name: Gabriele Bagnasco Location: VERCELLI Contacts: 0 Last Update:	Add as Contact View Contacts
	Name: Gemma Calamandrei Location: Rome Contacts: 4 Last Update: 05/05/2009 10:48:32	Add as Contact View Contacts
	Name: George Debono Location: Silema Contacts: 0 Last Update:	Add as Contact View Contacts
	Name: Georges Salines Location: Saint-Maurice Contacts: 1 Last Update: 03/09/2009 13:33:17	Add as Contact View Contacts
	Name: Bill Engline Location: Contacts: 0	Request Pending View Contacts

Figure 5: Members Page.

3.4 Groups

The Groups page (Figure 6) lists the established groups within the portal, where the HENVINET groups are listed first, and other H&E related groups follow.

Welcome [Scott R](#)

Alerts: (0) Inbox: (0) [Logout](#)

An online network "bridging the gap" for the environment and health policy community

Home About **My Profile** Members **Groups** Forum Events Tools HENVINET Project How to FAQ Documents Admin

HENVINET
Health & Environment
Networking Portal

→ Groups June 28, 2010

Group Instructions

Groups are places to share documents and network with other members in these interest areas. You must be a member of each group in order to participate in the related discussions in the [Forum](#), where group members also receive automatic notifications of new discussions in their groups on the Forum.

Registered portal members can click "join group" to become a member of that particular group, and begin participating in the discussions. Portal members can also [create a new group](#) as well.

Note that in order to view group content, you must be a member of that particular group, and be logged in.

Browse Groups

[Create New Group](#)

A B C D E F G H I J K L M N O P Q R S T U V W X Y Z All

<p>Water quality and management Water is an important prerequisite for life. This topic offers a broad range of discussion options: chemical, biological, or physical contaminants can alter the quality</p> <p>👤 12 Members Join Group</p>	<p>Friends of INTARESE Discussion group for the members of the INTARESE project.</p> <p>👤 8 Members Join Group</p>
<p>Journal articles in WP 1 Henvinet The goal of this group is to support the drafting of journal articles reporting the results of the studies conducted in WP 1 of the Henvinet project.</p> <p>👤 10 Members Join Group</p>	<p>Non Exhaust Emissions</p> <p>👤 14 Members Join Group</p>
<p>Friends of PRONET Friends of the Pollution Reduction Option Network (PRONET) and distribution of the Fact Sheets produced from the project.</p> <p>👤 3 Members Join Group</p>	<p>Aphekomp and other friends The Aphekomp project (www.aphekomp.org) will develop new health-impact indicators with a special focus on traffic and report on health impacts and related costs.</p> <p>👤 5 Members Join Group</p>

Figure 6: Groups Page.

3.5 Forum

The Forum page (Figure 7) is the place where content is posted and generated. All users can post information and comment on other posts.

Welcome [Scott Randall](#)

An online network "bridging the gap" for the environment and health policy community

Search

Home About My Profile Members Groups **Forum** Events Tools HENVINET Project How to FAQ Admin

HENVINET
Health & Environment
Networking Portal

Forum December 14, 2009

Forum Instructions

Forums are on-going discussions related to each category listed.

In order to participate (create topics and reply) in the forum discussions, one must be a registered user of the portal, and a member of the categories particular Group. If you are not a registered portal member, please [register](#).

If you are not a member of the category where you wish to participate in a particular discussion, please join the appropriate group [here](#).

Unanswered Not Read My Topics Active Topics Forums Moderate My Profile My Settings Search Members Control Panel

HENVINET PROJECT TOPICS

Forums	Topics	Replies	Last Post
Decision Support Tools Welcome to General Discussion	14	1	DST: Traffic Emission and ... by HENVINET Admin 27 Nov 2009 10:08 AM
Asthma And Allergy Welcome to General Discussion	9	10	RE: Pollen and climate ch... by Bertil Forsberg 07 Dec 2009 02:26 PM
Cancer Welcome to General Discussions	7	8	RE: Childhood cancers, ch... by S L Magnani 11 Nov 2009 01:29 PM
Neurodevelopment Disorders Welcome to General Discussions	2	1	RE: Pathways of chemicals... by steven verhaegen 27 Nov 2009 12:46 PM
Endocrine Disrupting Effects Welcome To General Discussions	5	7	RE: Should the production... by megan joanis 30 Nov 2009 01:32 PM
Climate Change & Health Welcome to General Discussions	4	1	RE: Physicians should pay... by Peter van den Hazel 12 Nov 2009 11:02 AM
Nanoparticles Welcome to General Discussions	0	0	

HEALTH & ENVIRONMENT TOPICS

Figure 7: Forum Page.

3.6 Events

The Events page (Figure 8) is a compilation of current events (conferences, meetings, symposiums, etc.) which found here across the entire H&E field.

Search 

[Login](#) | [Sign Up](#) *An online network "bridging the gap" for the environment and health policy community*

Home About Groups Forum **Events** Tools HENVINET Project How to FAQ Documents



HENVINET


Health & Environment
Networking Portal

→ Events August 17, 2010

Events Instructions

Events are future activities in the fields of Environment and Health, such as meetings, conferences, campaigns, etc. Registered portal members can add new events to the calendar by clicking "create event".

Events

Today View Date:  

Categories: All ▼

July		August 2010							September	
Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat	Sun	Mon	Tue		
26	27	28	29	30	31	1				
2	3	4	5	6	7	8				
9	10	11	12	13	14	15				
16	17	18	19	20	21	22				

Figure 8: Events Page.

3.7 Tools

The Tools page (Figure 9) contains a description (with links) of the main HENVINET project tools of DST's and Causal Diagrams.



Welcome [Scott Randal](#) 

[Alerts: \(0\)](#) [Index: \(0\)](#) [Logout](#)

An online network "bridging the gap" for the environment and health policy community

Home About My Profile Members Groups Forum Events **Tools** HENVINET Project How to FAQ Admin

Full Chain Cause-Effect Diagrams | Decision Support Tools

 **HENVINET**
Health & Environment
Networking Portal

Tools December 14, 2009

Two main tools were produced as a result from the [HENVINET](#) project: the Cause-Effect Diagrams and Decision Support Tools (DSTs).

[The Cause-Effect Diagrams](#) are a part of the evaluation of knowledge methodology which involves a combination of scientific review and expert evaluation. The focus is on four priority health challenges identified by the EHAP: asthma and allergies, cancer, neurodevelopmental disorders, and endocrine disruptors.

First, each identified issue is translated into a schematic framework: it was illustrated by a causal chain diagram or a mind-map that identifies the links between environmental change and its consequences on health. Based on the diagram, a web-based questionnaire was developed to ask experts to assess the diagrams completeness and accuracy, and the state of knowledge in each element and link.

As a final step, the experts analyzed and interpreted agreements and disagreements in their answers, and based on the results, suggested prioritized actions.

Six diagrams are currently available for expert evaluation through our web site; asthma and allergy, phthalates, chlorpyrifos, BFR (decaBDE, HBCD), cancer, and a diagram for nano particles is currently under construction.

[Decision Support Tools \(DSTs\)](#) is a collection of information of relevant tools collected to support practitioners in the environmental health management process. DSTs include software, handbooks, methodologies and data on environmental stressors, emissions, pathways, exposure and health effect. Over 80 tools have been identified to date and are accessible via the web-based searchable database.

Figure 9: Tools Page.

3.8 HENVINET Project

The HENVINET Project page (Figure 1) is available from the “HENVINET Project” heading in the tool bar. The Project page contains external information, as well as internal information for project partners by clicking “login”.


The screenshot shows the HENVINET Project page layout. At the top, there is a navigation bar with the HENVINET logo and links for HOME, ASTHMA & ALLERGY, CANCER, NEURODEVELOPMENTAL DISORDERS, ENDOCRINE DISRUPTING EFFECTS, MEMBERS, and SEARCH. Below the navigation bar, there are several main content sections:

- PROJECT DESCRIPTION:** Includes links for About HENVINET, Objectives, Focus Areas, and Participants.
- WORK PACKAGES:** Lists WP 1 (Evaluation and exploitation), WP 2 (System and database), WP 3 (Policy and Dissemination), and WP 4 (Decision support tools).
- HENVINET TOOLS:** Includes Evaluation of Knowledge and Metadatabase.
- HEALTH&ENVIRONMENT NETWORKING PORTAL:** Features the logo for the SIXTH FRAMEWORK PROGRAMME.
- Central Content Column:**
 - The HENVINET Final Event:** Announces the final event on 14-15 April in Brussels, with presentations, abstracts, and pictures available on the HENVINET Networking Portal.
 - Final conference of COST 356 - EST:** Announces the final conference on Monday 15 March 2010 in Paris, welcoming environmental indicators and decision makers.
 - Climate change & health impacts workshop article:** Reports on a workshop at the EUROCITIES office in Brussels, February 19th 2010, sharing management approaches to health impacts from climate change.
 - The HENVINET policy briefs:** Announces three policy briefs (phthalates, decaBDE and HBCD) available for download.
 - Society for Risk Analysis (SRA) - Europe Conference:** Announces a conference on "Risk, Governance & Accountability" on 21-23rd June, aimed at facilitating interaction among all actors in the field of risk.
- Right-hand Sidebar:**
 - Links:** Includes EPH, EPHE, and Site Feedback.
 - The HENVINET leaflets:** Lists Project Leaflet 2008, Project Leaflet 2009, Networking Portal Leaflet 2009, and MDB leaflet 2010.
 - The HENVINET policy briefs:** Lists expert elicitation on health implications of decaBDE, CPF, HBCD, and phthalates.


Figure 10: HENVINET Project Page

3.9 Help

A tutorial for how to navigate the portal is available on the How To Page (Figure 11), and frequently asked questions are available on the FAQ Page (Figure 12).

Welcome [Scott Randall](#) 

An online network bridging the gap for the environment and health policy community

Search 

Alerts (0) Track (0) Logout

Home About My Profile Members Groups Forum Events Tools HENVINET Project **How to** FAQ Admin

 **HENVINET**
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Networking Portal

How to December 14, 2009

To begin participating on the HENVINET portal, follow these steps:

- REGISTER.** Sign up for the Portal by going to www.henvinet.eu - be prepared to supply contact information, brief biographical information, and a picture or graphic to represent yourself. More information regarding the purpose of the portal can be found by clicking on "About" on the main menu, more information regarding the HENVINET EU Project can be found by clicking on "HENVINET Project" on the main menu.
- MY PROFILE.** Login to the Portal, click on "My Profile" on the main menu to navigate and update the profile that has been created for you. Personal settings and preferences can be modified by clicking on "My Settings" at the profile page. Your notification and mail inbox can be found by clicking "My Profile -> Inbox" or by clicking the "Alerts" link at the top right-hand corner of each page; the logout function is also located here as well.
- CONTACTS.** Click on "Members" on the main menu to find new or existing contacts, click "Add as Contact" to begin networking and sharing information with these individuals. Once contacts are established, one can view their profile and add information to their journal/wall (depending on each user's personal settings).
- GROUPS.** Click on "Groups" on the main menu to find relevant groups to participate in, click "Join Group" to enter a group and begin interacting with its members. This step is mandatory to be involved with some of the forum's that are specifically available only to group members. It is also possible to create new groups by clicking "Create New Group".
- FORUMS.** Click on "Forum" on the main menu to search for information, join discussions, or post new issues. Note that some forums are only available if you are a member of the associated group.
- EVENTS.** Click on "Events" on the main menu to search for related upcoming events posted from all groups. New events can be added by going to your registered groups, and adding events on the group calendar, this information will automatically be transferred to the common events calendar.
- TOOLS.** Click on "Tools" on the main menu to learn more about the specific tools developed from the HENVINET project, these include: Cause-Effect Diagrams and Decisions Support Tools.
- SEARCH.** To search for members and specific member information, click on

Search Input

Refer A Contact

To:

From:

Message:

Figure 11: How To Page.

Welcome [Scott Randall](#) 

[Alerts \(0\)](#) [Inbox \(0\)](#) [Logout](#)

An online network "bridging the gap" for the environment and health policy community **Search** 

Home About My Profile Members Groups Forum Events Tools HENVINET Project How to **FAQ** Admin

 **HENVINET**
Health & Environment
Networking Portal

FAQ December 14, 2009

FAQ - FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS (Click on the question to view the answer)

- Q. [What is the HENVINET Community Portal?](#)
- Q. [Can anyone join?](#)
- Q. [How do I register for the HENVINET portal?](#)
- Q. [Why is my full name listed as my display name?](#)
- Q. [Why is my picture requested during registration?](#)
- Q. [How can I update my profile information after I have registered?](#)
- Q. [How can I change my account information \(user name, password, email\)?](#)
- Q. [How can I change my notification settings \(when and how you receive emails and notifications\)?](#)
- Q. [How can I determine who can write on my profile wall and upload information here?](#)
- Q. [How can I create a new group?](#)
- Q. [Why can I not see forum posts?](#)
- Q. [Who can I contact if I have a technical problem or question regarding the portal?](#)

Search Input

Tell A Contact about HENVINET

To:


From:

Message:

Figure 12: FAQ page.


3.10 Documents

Documents can be found within individual forum posts, or on the Documents page (Figure 13).


Welcome **Scott R.** 

Alerts: (0) Inbox: (0) Logout

An online network "bridging the gap" for the environment and health policy community

Search 

Home About My Profile Members Groups Forum Events Tools HENVINET Project How to FAQ **Documents** Admin

 **HENVINET**
Health & Environment
Networking Portal

Documents June 29, 2010

This page is for uploading of files related to the topics of H&E, for dissemination purposes and/or relevant for policy and decision making.

Please feel free to upload!

PS: You need to be registered!

Policy Briefs


Title	Category	Size	
Policy Brief for HBCD		1.90 MB	Download
Policy Brief for phthalates		1.90 MB	Download
Policy brief - CPF		2.38 MB	Download
Policy Brief decaBDE		1.93 MB	Download

[Upload File](#)

Figure 13: Documents Page.

3.11 Newsletter

Registered users are automatically subscribed to a newsletter containing all the most recent site activity. An example of this newsletter can be seen below (Figure 14).



HENVINET

Health & Environment Networking Portal

Newsletter #1 <http://www.henvinet.eu>

Dear HENVINET portal member,

We welcome all of the new members to the HENVINET portal! This initial start-up phase is an exciting period for the portal as we are seeing an increase in user registration and new issues being presented and discussed.

We hope all members are taking advantage of this increased activity by searching for new H&E networking contacts in the [members list](#), joining/creating new H&E related [groups](#), participating in associated [discussions](#), and posting events.

Note that as the portal is developing, we are updating and adding new features along the way. Please see the **Feedback Forum** for a list of these features, or to contribute your own feedback.

We look forward to your continued participation in the Portal, and utilization of what it has to offer!

Most Sincerely,

The HENVINET Team

<p>New Groups.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Non Exhaust Emissions • Uncertainty in science for policy • Water quality and management 	<p>Relevant Discussions</p> <p>Indicators of children's environmental health - are they adequate in regard to climate change?</p> <p>TiO2 - not safe after all?</p>
--	--

Figure 14: HENVINET Newsletter example.

3.12 Search

A user is able to find portal information through using the search function (Figure 15). A user can find registered users, forum topics, news information, or even data within the DST database. This can all be done through free text keyword search that available on each page of the portal.

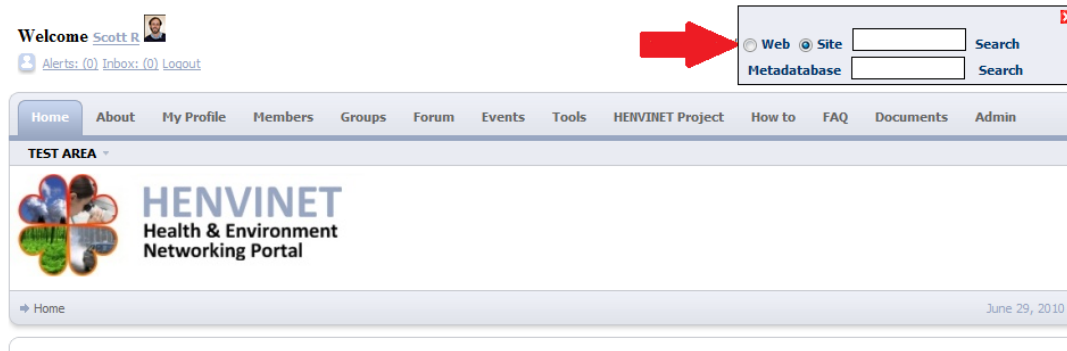



Figure 15: Search Function.

4 User Interface

The user interface is based on the standard DNN layout, and is composed of the following pages: Registration, Login, Profile Management, Account Settings, and Personal Settings.


4.1 Registration

New users can register directly from the portal (Figure 16). They will receive an email requiring them to validate their email address and to confirm their identity, allowing them basic access to the portal.

[Search](#) 

[Login](#) | [Sign Up](#) *An online network "bridging the gap" for the environment and health policy community*

[Home](#) | [About](#) | [Groups](#) | [Forum](#) | [Events](#) | [Tools](#) | [HENVINET Project](#) | [How to](#) | [FAQ](#) | [Documents](#)




HENVINET

Health & Environment Networking Portal

→ Home > Register June 29, 2010

ActiveSocial



Create Your Account

Create your account by completing the following information.

Login Information

***Username:**
This will be the name you use to login

***Password:**
Enter a password with at least 7 characters

***Password Confirm:**
Enter your password again for confirmation

Account Information

***First Name:**

***Last Name:**

***Email:**
We do not share email addresses with others.

*Indicates field is required.

Home | About | Groups | Forum | Events | Tools | HENVINET Project | How to | FAQ | Documents

Figure 16: New User Registration


4.2 Login/Logout

Users can login to the portal to access advanced features (Figure 17) . This is necessary in order for them to make new contacts, communicate with others within the portal, upload documents, and to comment on forum posts, etc.

Search 🔍

[Login](#) | [Sign Up](#) *An online network "bridging the gap" for the environment and health policy community*

[Home](#) [About](#) [Groups](#) [Forum](#) [Events](#) [Tools](#) [HENVINET Project](#) [How to](#) [FAQ](#) [Documents](#)



HENVINET

**Health & Environment
Networking Portal**

⇒ Home › Login June 29, 2010

ActiveSocial

Member Login

Username:

Password:



Remember Me

[Forgot your password?](#)

Figure 17: Login Page.

4.3 Profile Management


Users can manage their profile by clicking “Edit Profile” within their profile page (Figure 18).

Welcome **Scott R** 
Search 
 Alerts: (0) Inbox: (0) Logout


An online network "bridging the gap" for the environment and health policy community

[Home](#) [About](#) [My Profile](#) [Members](#) [Groups](#) [Forum](#) [Events](#) [Tools](#) [HENVINET Project](#) [How to](#) [FAQ](#) [Documents](#) [Admin](#)

Inbox



June 29, 2010


 **Scott R**

[My Profile](#) [Edit Profile](#) [My Account](#) [My Settings](#)

Contact Info

Street:
 City:
 Postal Code:
 *Country:
 Telephone:
 Website:
 Cell/Mobile:

About Me

*Profile Picture: 

*Main interest area:
 *Category:
 *Institute/ workplace:
 *Position Title:

Preferences

*Biography: Basic Text Box Rich Text Editor





Figure 18: Profile Management.

4.4 Account Settings


Registered users can change basic account information by clicking “My Account” on their profile page (Figure 19).

The screenshot shows the HENVINET user interface. At the top, there is a navigation bar with links: Home, About, My Profile (selected), Members, Groups, Forum, Events, Tools, HENVINET Project, How to, FAQ, Documents, and Admin. Below the navigation bar is an 'Inbox' section with the HENVINET logo and the text 'HENVINET Health & Environment Networking Portal'. The user's name 'Scott R' is displayed with a profile picture icon. To the right of the name are links: My Profile, Edit Profile, My Account, and My Settings. The 'My Account' section is expanded, showing two sub-sections: 'Login Information' and 'Account Information'. The 'Login Information' section contains fields for Username (scott), Password (masked with dots), and Password Confirm (masked with dots). The 'Account Information' section contains fields for First Name (Scott), Last Name (Randall), and Email (sr@nilu.no). A 'Save' button is located at the bottom of the 'Account Information' section.

Welcome **Scott R** 


Alerts: (0) Inbox: (0) Logout

An online network "bridging the gap" for the environment and health policy community


Search 

Home About **My Profile** Members Groups Forum Events Tools HENVINET Project How to FAQ Documents Admin

Inbox

 **HENVINET**
Health & Environment
Networking Portal

My Profile June 29, 2010

 **Scott R**

[My Profile](#) [Edit Profile](#) [My Account](#) [My Settings](#)

Login Information

Username: scott
This will be the name you use to login

Password:
Enter a password with at least 7 characters

Password Confirm:
Enter your password again for confirmation

Account Information

First Name:

Last Name:

Email:
We do not share email addresses with others.

Figure 19: Account Settings Page.

4.5 Personal Settings

User can change personal settings related to visibility, notifications, and special preferences within the portal by clicking "My Settings" on their profile (Figure 20).

The screenshot displays the HENVINET Health & Environment Networking Portal interface. At the top, there is a navigation bar with links: Home, About, My Profile (selected), Members, Groups, Forum, Events, Tools, HENVINET Project, How to, FAQ, Documents, and Admin. Below the navigation bar is an 'Inbox' section with the HENVINET logo and the text 'HENVINET Health & Environment Networking Portal'. The date 'June 29, 2010' is visible in the bottom right of the header area.

The main content area shows the user's profile for 'Scott R'. Below the profile name are links for 'My Profile', 'Edit Profile', 'My Account', and 'My Settings'. The 'My Settings' link is highlighted, leading to a settings page with a sidebar menu containing: Profile Preferences, Journal Features, Notifications, Options for Albums, Social Tools, Forum Preferences, and Forum Admin Settings.

The 'Profile Preferences' section is expanded, showing a table with the following content:

Profile Preferences	
Profile Preferences	Select profile visibility <input checked="" type="radio"/> Only Friends
Journal Features	<input checked="" type="radio"/> Only Admin
Notifications	
Options for Albums	
Social Tools	
Forum Preferences	
Forum Admin Settings	

A 'Save' button is located at the bottom of the settings table.

Figure 20: Personal Settings Page.

4.6 Bread crumb

The DNN bread crumb feature allows users to navigate up and down a hierarchical structure rapidly and intuitively (Figure 21). It allows them to jump to a different location with the file structure of the site and also presents an intuitive visual representation of the structure.

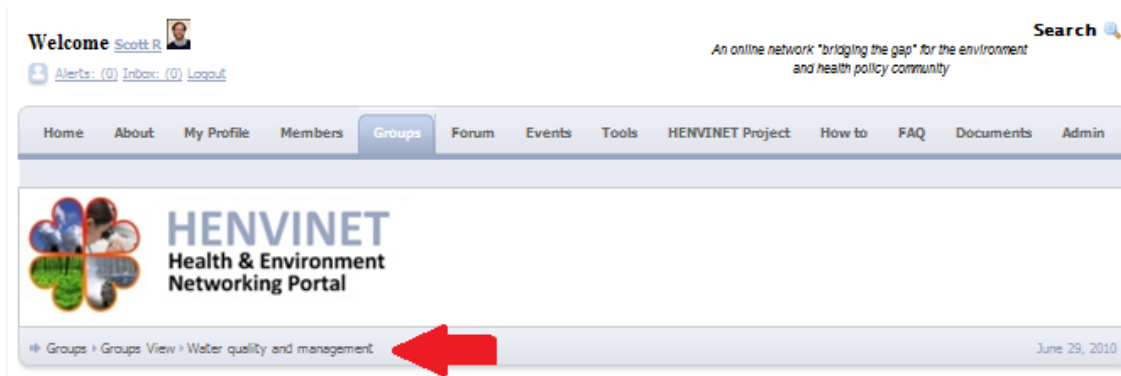


Figure 21: Bread Crumb Feature.

5 Site Management/Administration

Administration of the Portal is a critical function to maintain stability and creditability of the portal and its contents. Portal management is done through the following top-level administration features: Module, Site, Page, User, Role, and File.

5.1 Module Selection and Administration

Each page can host multiple modules (Figure 22). DNN is module driven meaning that every data type or content type is housed in a module. These modules can take many forms, such as a text module, links module or documents module.

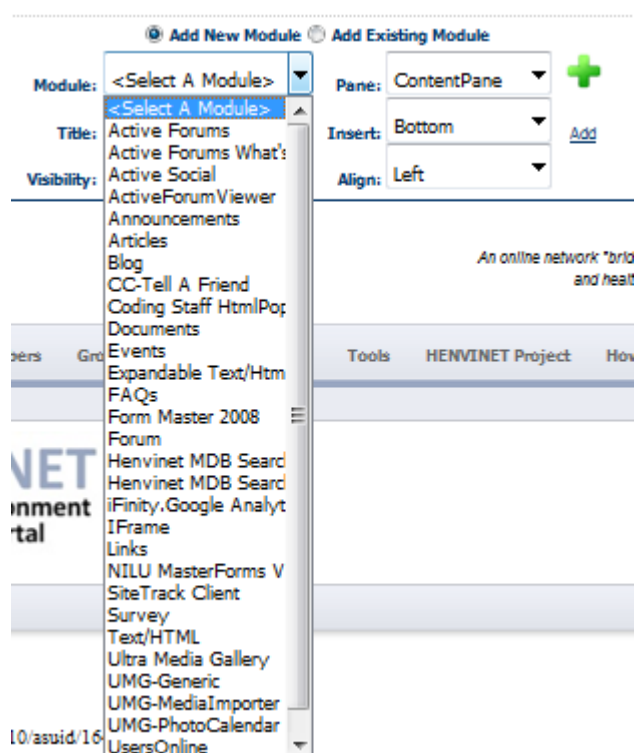


Figure 22: Module Selection.

5.2 Site Administration

Basic site information and settings can also be administered through the site administration feature (Figure 23).

The screenshot shows the 'Site Settings' page with a sidebar on the left containing expandable sections: 'Basic Settings', 'Site Marketing', 'Appearance', 'Advanced Settings', and 'Stylesheet Editor'. The main content area is titled 'Basic Settings' and includes a sub-section 'Site Details' with the following fields:

- Title:** HENVINET Community
- Description:** An online network bridging the gaps in the environment and health policy community
- Keywords:** Health, environment, health and environment, policy-making, science, research, cancer, endocrine disrupting effects, nanotechnology,
- Copyright:** Copyright 2010 HENVINET
- GUID:** 0A16ED8E-81E2-4E35-86E7-2979E7D0539E

Below 'Site Details' is the 'Site Marketing' section with the following fields:

- Search Engine:** Google (dropdown menu) with a **Submit** button.
- Site Map URL:** http://henvinet.eu/SiteMap.aspx with a **Submit** button.
- Verification:** (empty text box) with a **Create** button.
- Advertise:** (empty text box)
- Banners:** Radio buttons for None, Site, and Host.

At the bottom of the page, there is an **Update** button.

Figure 23: Site Administration Page.

5.3 Page Administration

Pages and sub-pages of the Portal can be modified, added, and deleted from the Page Administration feature (Figure 24).

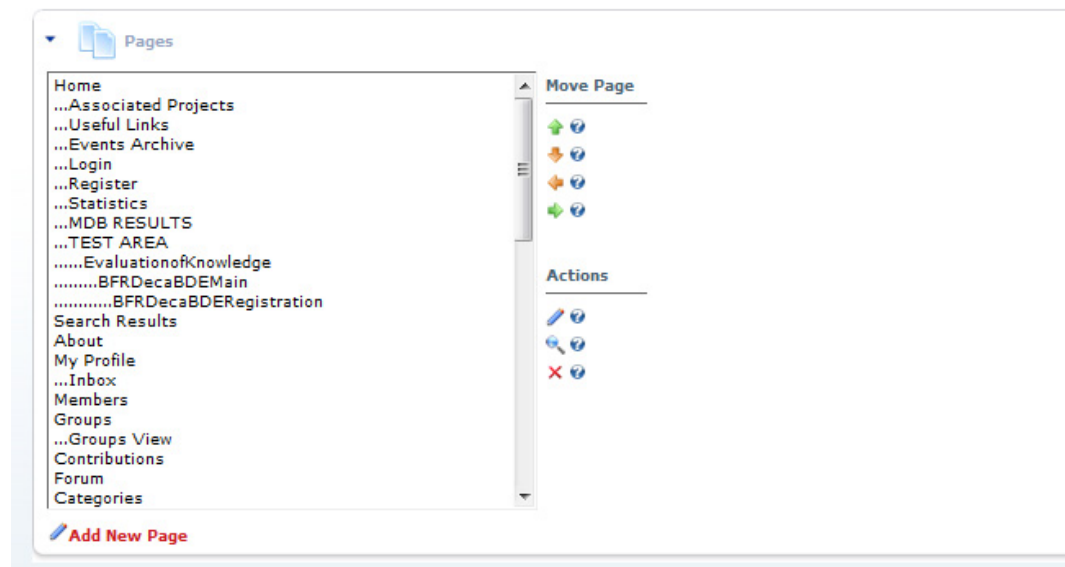


Figure 24: Page Administration.

5.4 User Administration

Registered users of the Portal can be modified, added, and deleted from the User Administration feature (Figure 25).

User Accounts																													
Search: <input type="text"/> Username <input type="text"/>																													
	A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	I	J	K	L	M	N	O	P	Q	R	S	T	U	V	W	X	Y	Z	All	Online	Unauthorized
Username	Name	Address		Email		Created Date	Authorized																						
	abiola	ABIOLA OLANIPEKUN	AGUYI IRONSI, ABUJA, Nigeria		abiolanipekun@yahoo.co.uk		13/11/2009 13:51:30	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>																					
	aragas	Ad Ragas	Heyendaalseweg 135, Nijmegen, Netherlands, 6525 AJ		A.Ragas@science.ru.nl		23/11/2009 16:19:54	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>																					
	drphillips001	Adekoyejo Phillips	Oshodi Street, Lagos Island, Nigeria		drphillips001@yahoo.com		11/11/2009 12:19:20	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>																					
	mahda	Ahmad Mahdavi	Iran		biomahda@gmail.com		17/01/2010 15:26:52	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>																					
	ay_henv	Aileen Yang	Oslo, Norway		ay@nilu.no		25/02/2009 09:02:54	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>																					
	Ake Bergman	Ake Bergman	Stockholm, SE		ake.bergman@mk.su.se		05/05/2009 10:21:23	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>																					
	duschl	Albert Duschl	Hellbrunner Strasse 34, Salzburg, Austria, 5020		albert.duschl@sbg.ac.at		15/11/2009 12:57:10	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>																					
	ale.livs	Alejandra Livschitz	Tamborini, Buenos Aires, Argentina, 1429		alejandra@hcwh.org		12/11/2009 20:19:13	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>																					
	afucic	Aleksandra Fucic	Zagreb, Croatia		afucic@imi.hr		05/05/2009 10:11:04	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>																					
	aba_henvinet	Alena Bartonova	Kjeller, NO		aba@nilu.no		09/11/2007 10:23:40	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>																					
	azijlstra	Aletta Zijlstra	De Muddegezaal 42, Dronten, Netherlands, 8252 KB		a.zijlstra@ggdjsselland.nl		12/11/2009 15:11:23	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>																					
	alexpott	Alex Pott	London, United Kingdom		a.pott@imperial.ac.uk		17/11/2009 12:45:47	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>																					
	APOL	Alexandra Polcher	Grauertstr. 12, München, Germany, 81545		alexandra.polcher@bipro.de		23/03/2010 14:20:00	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>																					
	aaj@force.dk	allan astrup jensen	Denmark		aaj@force.dk		09/02/2010 10:13:19	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>																					
	almut@web.de	Almut Gerhardt	Meiershofstrasse 20, Dübendorf, Switzerland, 8600		almut@web.de		08/02/2010 18:00:16	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>																					
	almutg	Almut Gerhardt	Meiershofstr. 20, Dübendorf, Switzerland, 8600		almutg@web.de		20/10/2009 14:08:16	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>																					
	IUF	Amuko Omara	27 Ntenga Road, Lugazi, Uganda, 6902		omara12@yahoo.com		13/11/2009 15:20:14	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>																					
	Anabela	Anabela Martins	Porto, Portugal		abmartim@fe.up.pt		18/01/2010 19:11:19	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>																					
	aconrad	André Conrad	Germany		andre.conrad@uba.de		24/11/2009 22:09:08	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>																					
	andres iriso	andres iriso	Madrid, Spain		andres.iriso@salud.madrid.org		12/01/2010 11:19:47	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>																					

Figure 25: User Administration.

5.5 Role Administration

Specific roles can be assigned to specific users to determine access to varying portal features on the Role Administration page (Figure 26).

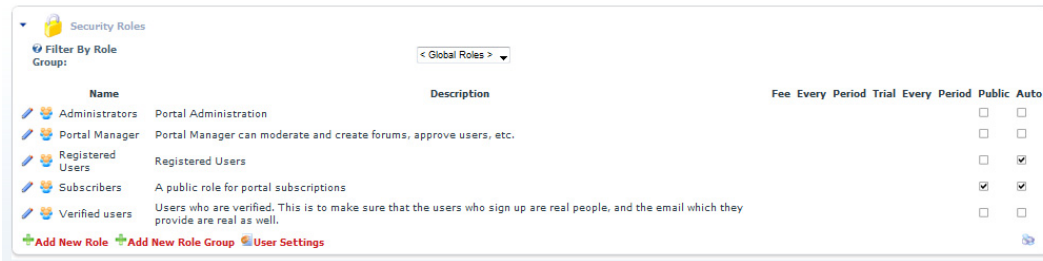


Figure 26: User Role Administration.

5.6 File Administration

All files associated with the portal can be viewed, deleted, or modified from the File Administration feature (Figure 27).

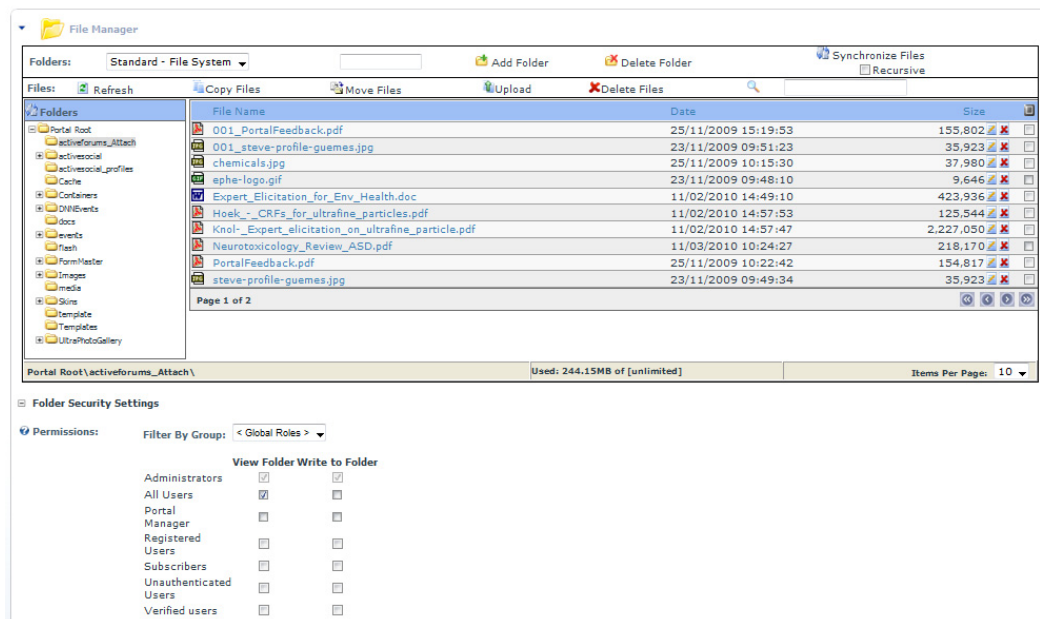


Figure 27: File Administration.

5.7 Daily Management

A portal Task force group was establish in order to take care of the daily administrative tasks on the portal. The tasks consisted of the following:

- Scanning various relevant health and environment related websites for news to post on the forums for content generation.
- Posting announcements/news related to conferences, workshops and other relevant events.
- Keeping up to date with the newest releases of modules.
- Fixing bugs related to updates of modules.
- Scanning the portal for spammers.

6 Portal Extensions

The HENVINET portal supported the other project WP's in the final year of the project. This support came in the form of extending the functionality of the portal to include WP outputs, as well as developing the portal towards a more refined product.

This development and extension of the portal in support of the other project WP's included:

1. Adding new groups based on specific H&E topics covered in the project to the portal Groups.
2. Adding WP outputs in user-friendly disseminated posts to the portal Forum.
3. Adding events generated from WP work to the portal Events page.
4. Adding the two primary project tools (causal diagrams and decision support tools) to the portal Tools page.

7 Integration of HENVINET Tools

Numerous HENVINET tools and products were integrated into the portal. These tools are:

- Decision Support Tools (DST's)
- Causal Chain Diagrams with evaluation
- Policy Briefs
- Project website (internal and external)

The DST database is a collection of information of relevant tools collected to support practitioners in the environmental health management process. DST's include software, handbooks, methodologies and data on environmental stressors, emissions, pathways, exposure and health effect. Over 80 tools have been identified to date. The portal allowed easy access to the web-based searchable database, under the "Tools" heading in the menu bar, see Section 3.7 above.

The Causal Chain diagrams are evaluations of the quality of scientific knowledge of various aspects of the cause-effect relationship within specific health related areas. The four health topics are; "asthma and allergies", "cancer", "endocrine disruption" and "neurodevelopmental disorders". The goal is to identify knowledge gaps and potential agreement or disagreement between expert from these areas. Ultimately, the aim is to discuss the implications of the results of the evaluation for policy and research. There are currently seven causal diagrams available to view at the portal: Asthma and allergy, BFR's, Cancer, CPF, Phthalates, Traffic, and Nanoparticles. In addition to viewing the diagrams (under the "Tools" heading in the menu bar, see Section 3.7 above), experts could also evaluate the entire causal change, this possibility was also available from a link on the Tools page.

Policy Briefs are short documents (less than 4 pages) about a single specific H&E topic, geared towards policy-makers. The briefs explain the problem, current research results, and simple recommendations from the scientists. Some of the briefs also contain outcomes from expert workshops conducted through the project. The following briefs are available on the portal (under the "Documents" heading in the menu bar, Section 3.10 above): CPF, decaBDE, HBCD, and phthalates.

A final project tool was also integrated into the portal: the project website (<http://henvinet.nilu.no/>). The project website contains internal and external information related to HENVINET. The HENVINET portal eventually also became the front page for the project, making the internal/external project pages as a sub-heading to the portal. (under the "HENVINET project" heading in the menu bar, see Section 3.8 above).

8 Conclusion

The HENVINET portal design and structure met the goals of the project to provide such a online networking tool. However, the Portal has not yet entirely met its own goal of being an established online network. The following four issues must first be addressed in order to complete this goal:

1. **Recruitment.** More members must be recruited to establish a solid base of registered users in the health and environment field.
2. **Participation.** Existing members and new members must be encouraged to use the network to find contacts and information.
3. **Content.** More content must be available on the Portal to attract new users and give a solid base of information that is useful to the members.
4. **Network.** The Portal must be seen as “the” network to turn to when particular issues arise in the Health and Environment field.

The Portal design and structure are fundamentally established to handle the four issues mentioned above – where the effort to tackle these issues mainly lies in **marketing**, as well as administration. A successful marketing campaign can drive new users to the portal, and at the same time continuous administration can encourage participation and content input from these new users. The persistence of this work will eventually lead the Portal to be “the” online network for the Health and Environment field.

9 References

Kobernus, M., Randall, S., Yang, A. and Bartonova, A. (2009). HENVINET networking portal. Design specifications. (Planning document). Kjeller, Norwegian Institute for Air Research (NILU TR 01/2009).

REFERENCE: U-106169
DATE: AUGUST 2010
ISBN: 978-82-425-2271-1 (print)
978-82-425-2278-8 (electronic)

NILU is an independent, nonprofit institution established in 1969. Through its research NILU increases the understanding of climate change, of the composition of the atmosphere, of air quality and of hazardous substances. Based on its research, NILU markets integrated services and products within analyzing, monitoring and consulting. NILU is concerned with increasing public awareness about climate change and environmental pollution.

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Norwegian Institute for Air Research