

EFAEP General Assembly side-event, Monday 3 December 2007; 14.30-18.00  
Essen, Germany

## ENEP: Working for you!

Topic C - national customization: collecting the suggestions and requests from each Association, in order to customize the national sections of ENEP

Moderator: Linda Van Duivenbode (VVM)

During the plenary session, Mario outlined that customization is possible, but will involve costs to make changes to the software. There needs to be therefore a strong need, something that would otherwise block the use of the system by one or more associations.

Possibilities for customization are:

- 1) **Translation** of the overall ENEP interface in other languages (the system is already ready for this, so the only cost would be the preparation of translations; to accomplish this task someone with programming skills would be preferable)
- 2) Differentiation of **default values** for the settings of visibility and of bonus services; for example each association could decide if all its members should be subscribed by default to all or to no bonus services (Job offers, EFAEP newsletters, etc.); on the other hand we could decide if we want the profiles to be by default "visible only to me" or "visible to everybody" or any other value. At the moment the profile by default is set to maximum privacy (visible only to me);
- 3) Definition of different **subscription procedures**: let any individual decide whether to subscribe or not OR perform a batch subscription for all the members of an association; nevertheless the latter could have strong privacy implications and the cost strongly depends on the type of database used by each association.
- 4) The enrichment of the **classification tree** for skills and expertise to better represent your specific sectors of activity (<http://www.environmentalprofessionals.eu/common/expertises.zip>)

During the plenary session some questions were asked that could be options for national customization:

Jörg (VBU): in the Search profile function, is it possible to indicate a sub-national level (i.e. a geographical differentiation within countries which would allow a regional or local profile to be found – possibly of interest to companies looking for someone in their area). At the moment this is not possible, other than adding a place name to the free text search field

Yves (AFITE): they have found that members pass on the ENEP brochure to colleagues who are not members. When these try to register it would be interesting to see also their company (which at present is not asked for with the first registration) to trace the origin. At the moment this is not included. It is possible to contact the person as an email address is provided, so it can be used to send an email outlining the purpose and benefits of ENEP as incentive to join the association.

Peter (VDI-KUT): what quality control is carried out? At the moment VDI work with regional databases and the registration indicates a professional status, as this is condition for registration. At the moment at ENEP level no quality control is carried out; the member associations have to validate a member and any quality control required is done at national level.

Group sessions:

**Translation:** no general agreement on whether this should be done or not, as it is argued that EFAEP is an international organization and speaking English is a requirement. The question is how much of the membership base we exclude by this? In some associations this might be quite high. If we consider ENEP as service to the EFAEP member associations also (i.e. something that would help them in their own work), then translation could be considered. In this case non-English speaking members indicate that many of their members would appreciate (or for example in the case of AFITE and VBU even need) a national interface/user manual, as they are not familiar with environmental jargon in English. The marketing of ENEP should be done in the home language; explaining the benefits is considered more important than language. . Listing job opportunities is considered a benefit (bonus service) to members, but requires: an active system to offer sufficient jobs/candidates; quality control.

**Default values:**

*Visibility settings* – it is preferred to keep the visibility settings the same for all members, so customization here is not seen as desirable. Neither the ‘visible only to me’ (maximum privacy) nor the ‘visible to everybody on the Internet’ (minimum privacy) are acceptable. During the General Assembly it was agreed that the default setting ‘visible only to me’ will be applied to 1) contact info short and 2) contact info extended; default setting ‘visible to all subscribers, including companies’ will be applied to 3) curriculum – short and 4) curriculum – extended. Users will by default be subscribed to bonus services upon registration. The EU Newsflash and Survey are considered a ‘bonus’ service and should be sent to ENEP subscribers only. The EFAEP Bulletin and General Assembly information on the other hand should be sent out to the wider public.

**Subscription procedures:** for privacy reason batch subscription is not considered an option. Possibly however ENEP could provide a national database to members who do not have their own database. A brief poll was done to find out what information systems are currently in use:

Organisation	Membership database yes/no
VBU	Yes; communication from secretariat to members (11 regional groups)
IEEM	Yes; individual and commercial sections which are separate subscriptions
AIN	Yes; members are entered into a regional database, following approval of suitability by a committee a member is entered into the national database

VDI-KUT	Yes; individual membership of engineers (i.e. no classification based on company). VDI have 17 sections of which environmental engineers is one. Communication from secretariat to members (e.g. sending newsletter)
IES	Yes; holds contact details, qualifications, professional organization and grade of membership. As part of continuing professional development IES needs to maintain a system to certify qualifications; ENEP as registration of professional/scientific activities could be useful. Communication (newsletter) to members.
VNU	Excel spreadsheet with name, surname and contact details. Limited functionality. The website includes a restricted (members only) area.
CSPZP	Excel spreadsheet with name, surname and contact details. Limited functionality.
AFITE	Yes; basis membership information.
VMD	Yes; membership database. For communication use VMx communication platform (separate system)
VVM	Yes; integrated system membership information and website
CIWEM	Yes. They are a chartered association which means they are regulated and monitored (audited). Website has an open area and a restricted (members only) area.

**Classification tree for skills and expertise:** the sessions were too short to really go through the list in detail. We discussed how we could get members to actively go through the list. For example VVM has sections of which the chairs meet a few times a year with the Board. Some time could be reserved during the meeting to have people from different backgrounds and disciplines to review the classification. Similar opportunities in other members should be identified.