

Web Ring Project as of Jan 31st 2006

The Web Ring will be an information gateway
giving access to information from different and relevant
ARD information sources

Scope

The Web Ring project:

- 1) is an essential part of the re-design of EGFAR
- 2) plays an important role in the GFAR Communication Strategy
- 3) implements two essential key-concepts identified for EGFAR when it was conceived:
 - a. "maintain a gateway function to access the GFAR stakeholders' information resources" (*"a formal link will have to be established between the websites of the key stakeholders, constituting a Webring. The ultimate purpose will be to use a multihost database search engine..."*)
 - b. "subsidiarity and decentralization" (*"EGFAR has no vocation to develop and manage databases at a central level"*)

Objectives

The objectives of the Web Ring project are:

- 1) to facilitate web access to information hosted by partners who agree on some protocols of data exchange. Web access means:
 - a. access to information contained in partners' web pages through advanced searches
 - b. access to databases maintained by partners
- 2) to cross-check data sources (and merge them when possible) in order to avoid duplication
- 3) to promote agreed standards in order to make simultaneous searches possible and in order to make data hosted on EGFAR easily available for others.
Standards are needed both for the exchange format and for taxonomies and indexes to be used in searches

Plan: the Pilot

The Web Ring Pilot will be a gateway to information on ARD Institutions.

The WebRing project will integrate new data sources gradually, starting with separate links/searches to the partners' websites and databases and then proceeding to unified searches as the partner websites agree on and comply to protocols, standards and taxonomies.

The first Pilot of the Web Ring will involve some key partners in interfacing their information resources with GFAR.

Partners involved so far: SDRR, Wisard.

Type of information: ARD Institutions data.

1) Phase 1

Merging of GFAR Institution database and SDRR NARS database.

After cross-checking and deletion of duplicates, all GFAR records not present in the NARS database will be completed with contact data and merged with the NARS database. A field in the records will keep track of the provenance of the data, so that announced FODATABASE and NGOBASE can still be shown as individual databases if wished.

The merging will of course require adaptation of some fields and above all integration / adaptation of reference tables (e.g. domain categories, Country codes, regions)

2) Phase 2

Web page allowing to make searches in the new database, hosted on a different server.

3) Phase 3

First Pilot of the WebRing.

Web page with:

- a. separate links / searches to the partner websites
- b. search of the GFAR/SDRR database
- c. link to the Wisard database

4) Phase 4

XML schema for exporting and querying data in a standard way

5) Phase 5

WebRing.

Unified searches of GFAR Institution database and Wisard Institution database through XML exports.

6) Subsequent phases

- a. Experiment unified searches of the partners' websites.
- b. Add access to new databases.
- c. Experiment unified searches of other partners' databases through XML.