



Project no: 022936
Project acronym: Beneris
Project title: Benefit-risk assessment for food: an iterative value-of-information approach

Instrument: STP-Specific Targeted Project

D17 Internet interface

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1. Objectives

We have set several objectives in Beneris Technical Annex concerning Internet interface:

1. Internet interface could be used to publish risk assessment results
2. Interface could be used to publish entire benefit-risk models over the Internet.
3. The System should also be able to collect feedback from end-users about benefit-risk analyses
4. Internet interface should enhance the availability of existing databases
5. Disseminating the results and evaluating the relevance and usefulness of the work done from the perspective of an end-user/authority should be possible through Internet interface

2. Description of work done

2.1. Beneris open website

Lendac Datasystems Ltd. has already developed Beneris website. This site provides general information about Beneris project, descriptions of participating organizations and current news and events. Website offers also a place for publications. Beneris website is developed using modern programming technologies which ensure that functionalities are up-to-date. Website also has advanced content management tool that enables updating through standard web-browser. Web-site is available in Internet but some functionality (such as updating) requires valid username and password.

Beneris website can be accessed from: <http://www.beneris.eu/>

2.2. Beneris-wiki interface

Beneris-wiki is also a website which is located in Internet. Compared to Beneris website Beneris-wiki can be seen as a step towards more efficient collaboration. Both systems have

well-grounded existence and their own specific purposes. Beneris-wiki is not accessible at all without valid user name and password and therefore it is meant only for Beneris project partners.

Beneris-wiki is based on a MediaWiki technology. MediaWiki is a modern open source platform which was originally developed for Wikipedia, the free encyclopedia. We have adopted the use of MediaWiki platform in several international projects. Beneris project was one of the first projects in which we started using Wiki-environment.

Use of the Wiki platform enables a completely new form of collaboration. Articles can be written in collaboration with other contributors through standard web-browser, there's no need for any additional software. New version of the document is available for everyone instantly after previous editor have saved the document. Wiki offers also full file history and track back meaning that changes in the documents can be easily tracked to each contributor. All previous versions of the documents remains available in the Beneris-wiki database and can be easily accessed. Efficient use of Wiki can make processes such as sending Word-documents back and forth obsolete.

We have already used Beneris-wiki to various different kinds of purposes and it has proven its usefulness. We have written several deliverables and other documents in collaboration with our partners using Wiki-technology. Converting data into variables according to Pyrkilo-method has been one of Beneris-wiki's key features. Wiki website has proven to be useful for collecting and editing different types of documents and data. In addition we also use Wiki for archiving and sharing documents and information. These include e.g. models, publications, related literacy and even practical project management issues. This has been a very easy way to distribute important articles to all Beneris partners. We have also used Beneris-wiki to share benefit-risk models developed in Analytica within the project group.

Beneris-wiki meets very well several of our objectives which we have defined earlier in Beneris technical annex. Beneris-wiki can be used to publish risk assessment results online. Access to results is limited to Beneris partner group. Full stakeholder involvement and collecting feedback from end-users and authorities is also possible through Beneris-wiki. Beneris-wiki can be used to disseminate the results and to evaluate the relevance and usefulness of the work done from the perspective of an end-user and authorities.

Beneris-wiki can be accessed from: <http://www.pyrkilo.fi/beneris> (valid user name and password required)

2.3. Heande-wiki interface

Heande (The Health, The Environment and Everything) is Mediawiki-based internet platform. Heande is designed to be a much larger scale system than Beneris-wiki. Beneris-wiki and Heande differ from each other even though they both are based on same technological platform. Heande's use is not limited to only Beneris project where as Beneris-wiki is for Beneris partners only. For instance, project management related information is not processed in Heande. Access to Heande is not restricted in any way, meaning that information in Heande is freely available for anyone who has access to Internet. Heande has been developed in close cooperation with Intarese project and it can be seen as an evolved version of standard project Wikis. Heande offers a place for open risk assessment using Pyrkilö-method and variable structure. It is also a channel for collecting information from public audience, stakeholders and authorities as well as for publishing information to public. Currently we have several projects that are using Heande.

Heande's location in open Internet makes Heande a perfect place for gathering information for risk assessments from end-users, authorities and public audience. We have already used this possibility in our risk assessments and experiences are very promising. Information gathered from public audience has revealed point of views that would not have come into consideration without this channel. Currently we are working on Benefit-risk assessment of fish and related policy options risk assessment case in Heande. Model developed with Lumina's Analytica software is also available from Heande for everyone interested. Lumina offers Analytica player for free so everyone should be able to run the models. Combination of Heande and Analytica provides efficient risk modeling.

Heande is under continuous development because we want to ensure that system corresponds with the needs of end-users. Developing Heande into user-friendlier way and enhancing the efficiency of data processed are few of the key issues. MediaWiki platform, which is the core

of our system, is being constantly updated and newest version of MediaWiki is always running behind Heande. We are also integrating Analytica and Heande closer to each other.

Heande answers extremely well to the objectives which we have set earlier in Beneris technical annex. Heande is being used for publishing entire benefit-risk assessment models and risk assessment results over the Internet and they are available for everyone who are interested. Heande has proven to be an excellent channel for collecting feedback from end-users, stakeholders and from public audience. Disseminating risk assessment results and evaluating the relevance and usefulness of work done from the perspective of an end-user / authority can be done using Heande.

Heande can be accessed from: <http://heande.pyrkilo.fi>