



ICT 269978

Integrated Project of the 7th Framework Programme

COOPERATION, THEME 3
Information & Communication Technologies
ICT-2009.5.3, Virtual Physiological Human



VPH-Share

Work Package: WP8

**Dissemination, Outreach and Community
Building**

Deliverable: D8.2

**Website and Biomed Town "VPH-Share"
Building Established**

Version: 2.2

Date: 31-May-2011



FP7 – ICT – 269978, VPH-Share
WP8: Dissemination, Outreach and Community Building
D8.2: Website and Biomed Town "VPH-Share" building established
Version: 2.2
Date: 31-May-2011



This page is intentionally blank



DOCUMENT INFORMATION

IST Project Num	FP7 – ICT - 269978	Acronym	VPH-Share
Full title	Virtual Physiological Human: Sharing for Healthcare – A Research Environment		
Project URL	http://www.vph-share.eu		
EU Project officer	Joël Bacquet		

Work package	Number ⁸	Title	Dissemination, Outreach and Community Building
Deliverable	Number ^{8.2}	Title	Website and Biomed Town "VPH-Share" Building Established

Date of delivery	Contractual	31-May-2011	Actual	31-May-2011
Status	Version 2.2		Final <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
Nature	Prototype <input type="checkbox"/> Report <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Dissemination <input type="checkbox"/> Other <input type="checkbox"/>			
Dissemination Level	Public (PU) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>		Restricted to other Programme Participants (PP) <input type="checkbox"/>	
	Consortium (CO) <input type="checkbox"/>		Restricted to specified group (RE) <input type="checkbox"/>	

Authors (Partner)	Debora Testi (SCS)		
Responsible Author	Debora Testi		Email d.testi@scsitaly.com
	Partner	SCS	Phone +39 051 593543

Abstract (for dissemination)	<p>One of the aims of the dissemination work package (WP8) is to create a visible and efficient web presence on the Internet. This presence has to be set-up from the very beginning of the project so as to assure continuous information of the project results and achievements as soon as they are available.</p> <p>To achieve this objective two web-related tools have been designed and made operative: a project website providing general information on the project and a building on the Biomed Town portal to reach the biomedical research community.</p>
Keywords	Dissemination, Internet, website

The information in this document is provided as is and no guarantee or warranty is given that the information is fit for any particular purpose. The user thereof uses the information at its sole risk and liability. Its owner is not liable for damages resulting from the use of erroneous or incomplete confidential information.



Version Log			
Issue Date	Version	Author	Change
22-May-2011	1.0	Debora Testi	Complete document
25-May-2011	1.0	Norman Powell & Martina Contin	Revised document
27-May-2011	2.0	Debora Testi	Final version
28-May-2011	2.1	PMO	Minor changes for release
31-May-2011	2.2	PMO	Final Proof Read



Contents

Executive Summary	8
1 Introduction.....	9
2 Project Website	9
3 Biomed Town Building.....	13
3.1 What is Biomed Town?.....	13
3.1.1 The Biomed Town homepage	15
3.1.2 How to join & log in	17
3.2 VPH-Share Building	20
3.2.1 VPH-Share building reception	21
3.3 Other collaborative tools	23
3.3.1 Documents repository	23
3.3.2 Folder	23
3.3.3 Collaborative editing.....	23
3.3.4 Discussion forums.....	23
3.3.5 Members search	23
3.3.6 Messages	24
4 Conclusions.....	24



This page is intentionally blank



LIST OF FIGURES

Figure 1 – VPH-Share website: homepage	10
Figure 2 – VPH-Share website: objectives	10
Figure 3 – VPH-Share website: consortium	11
Figure 4 – VPH-Share website: contact page	12
Figure 5 – The Biomed Town homepage	15
Figure 6 – The shared calendar and list of upcoming events.....	16
Figure 7 – The list of buildings and squares	17
Figure 8 – Selection of the type of membership	18
Figure 9 – Biomed Town registration form	18
Figure 10 – Subscribed groups	19
Figure 11 – Browse and subscribe to groups	20
Figure 12 – VPH-Share Building.....	20
Figure 13 – Reception room	21
Figure 14 – BioMed Town citizen search.....	24



EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

One of the aims of the dissemination work package (WP8) is to create a visible and efficient web presence on the Internet. This presence has to be set-up from the very beginning of the project so as to assure continuous information on the project results and achievements as soon as they are available.

To achieve this objective two web-related tools have been designed and made operative: a project website providing general information on the project and a building on the Biomed Town portal to reach the biomedical research community.

The web pages related to both Internet spaces are described in this document.



1 INTRODUCTION

One objective of the dissemination and outreach work package (WP8) is to inform the stakeholders in the different fields and the general public about the project results and achievements. The complete strategy plan on dissemination is described in D8.1 “Strategic dissemination plan”.

The main dissemination actions will start from the end of the first year when the first results will be achieved. However, from the very beginning the VPH-Share project will have a web presence, which will help in providing a dissemination channel for the general project information.

The first two web channels, which have been defined and made operative, are:

- The project website, and
- The VPH-Share building on the Biomed Town portal¹.

This document provides their description in the current stage; however, both should be considered as living tools that will be extended and modified during the project lifetime, the better to sustain the dissemination and outreach activities as they continue to grow.

2 PROJECT WEBSITE

A project website has been designed and put online at the URL: <http://www.vph-share.eu> (other similar domains have also been set to point to the same website: www.vphshare.eu, www.vphshare.org, and www.vph-share.org).

From now on, the website will be the public face of the VPH-Share project on the Internet and used as reference to disseminate general public information on the project.

The website has been designed to be simple in structure and easily extendible in the future. At present, it consists of 5 sections:

1. *Homepage*: general overview of the project – public abstract;

¹ <http://www.biomedtown.org>



Figure 1 – VPH-Share website: homepage

2. *Objectives*: more detailed description of the VPH-Share objectives;

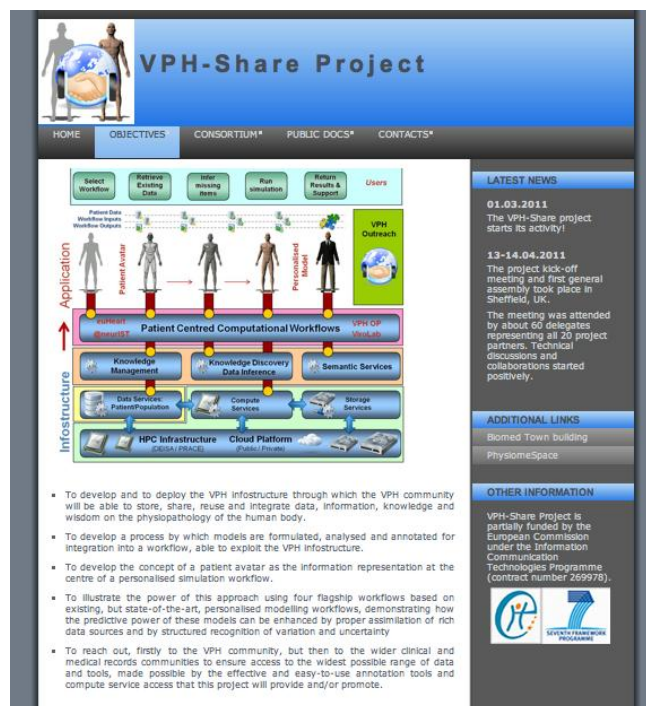


Figure 2 – VPH-Share website: objectives

3. *Consortium*: complete list of project partners with logos and reference to each institution website;



Figure 3 – VPH-Share website: consortium

4. *Public docs*: this section will contain all the public documents and deliverables as soon as they will be delivered by the project;
5. *Contacts*: details on how to get in contact with the Project Coordinator and Project management team.



Figure 4 – VPH-Share website: contact page

Additional menus provide useful links and reference to resources outside the project and news. The news will be soon synchronised with the items posted on Biomed Town so as to avoid the double posting of information for the dissemination manager.



3 BIOMED TOWN BUILDING

The other web presence already established from the beginning of the project is the building on the Biomed Town portal. The building will be used during the project lifetime for two main purposes:

- To establish a public presence in the portal for the biomedical research community
- To have a private space, reserved for the partners' staff, as a collaborative environment in which the project partners can work together and share information/documents

An internal document, describing the private spaces, their access, and their use, has been provided to all VPH-Share partners at the project kick-off meeting, while in this document the public spaces and their role are described.

3.1 What is Biomed Town?

Biomed Town is a free community of peers who have a professional or educational interest in biomedical research and technology. The portal is organised around the "town" metaphor and it is composed of *buildings* and *squares*, and managed by the City Managers.

Buildings host virtual organisations such as research consortia, companies, institutions, interest groups, etc. Inside a building as many rooms as are needed can be created, and it can be populated with many useful resources such as documents, web pages, folders, discussion forums, news, shared calendars, etc. This allows the creation of a virtual collaborative environment for the institution/project. The buildings are private by default, and it is up to the owner to decide room by room who can enter it.

Squares are where the people meet, discuss, and exchange experiences and pointers to resources; they represent the communities that populate the city, but that are not specifically represented by an organisation. Squares can contain forums and folders. Each user interested in the community located in a square can join its forum folder. The user can also submit objects for posting on the square folders, which will be approved by the City Managers.

Each folder (floor, room, etc.) on Biomed Town has a manager, who can create/delete objects and define the access policies by setting local permissions. According to the permission rules set and to the workflow associated with the object, any object in the town can be: *private*, accessible only by authorised users/groups; *visible or public draft/pending*, accessible by all Biomed Town citizens (logged in) and visitors or submitted for approval to the City managers; *public*, accessible by anyone (colour coding allows you to visually understand in which state an object is). When a new object is created by default it is private and if the user would like to make it public he/she has to change its status using the *state* option.



Biomed Town has at present more than 3000 subscribers from all over the world, and hosts different VPH-related projects and squares thus providing a preferential channel to communicate the project results within the biomedical community².

Biomed Town has been developed based on the following software libraries:

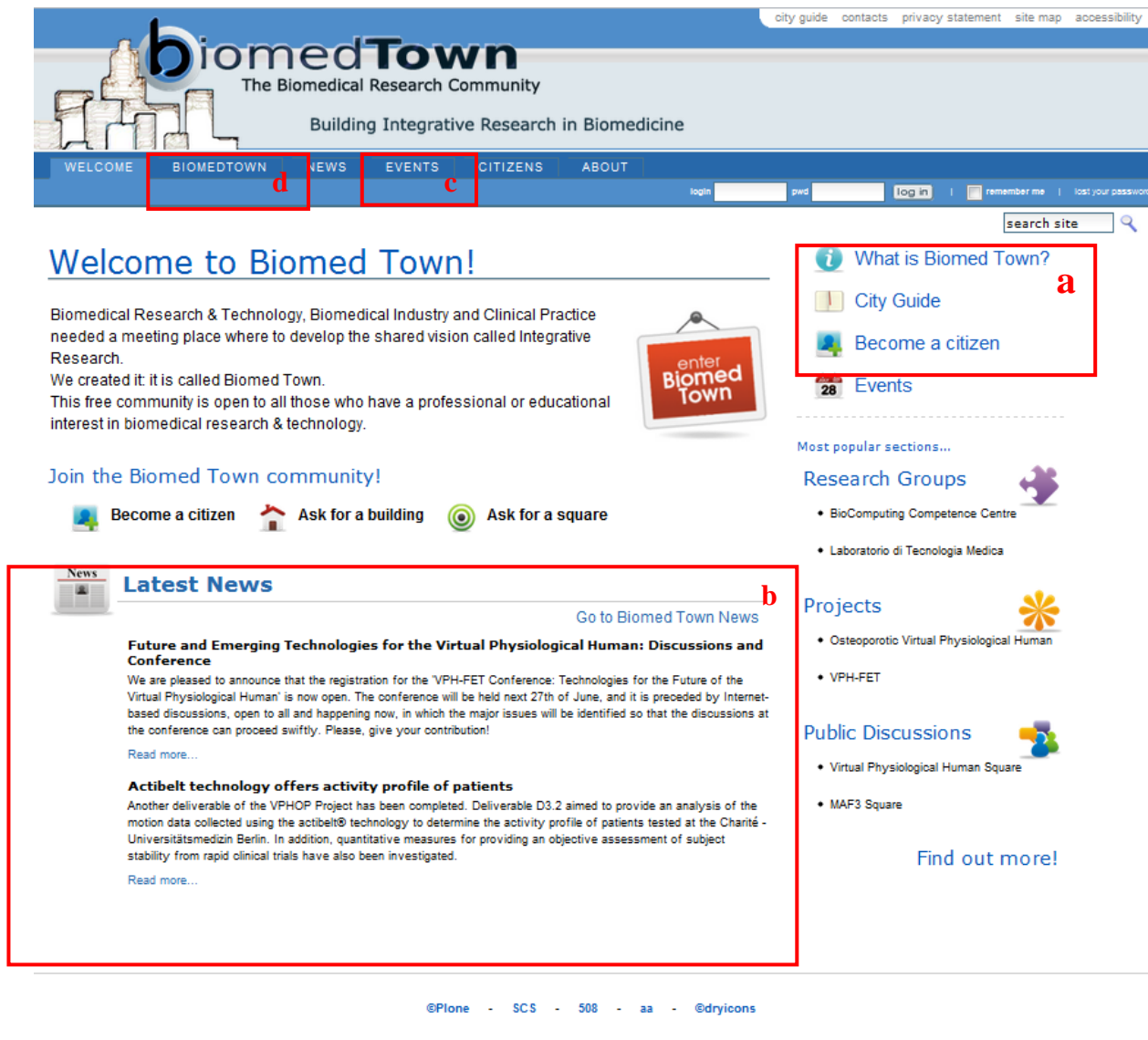
- Zope (version 2.8.5) as application server
- Plone (version 2.4.1) as Content Management System
- Python (version 2.3.5) as programming language,

and on the following hardware:

- Architecture: IBM Linux Cluster (High Availability configuration)
- 2.50GHz Processors
- 2 nodes, 8 CPUs per node
- RAM 16 GB

² http://www.biomedtown.org/City_Hall/Info_desk/docwiki/SomeStatistics

3.1.1 The Biomed Town homepage



The screenshot shows the Biomed Town homepage. At the top, there is a navigation bar with links: city guide, contacts, privacy statement, site map, accessibility. Below this is the Biomed Town logo and tagline: 'The Biomedical Research Community' and 'Building Integrative Research in Biomedicine'. A secondary navigation bar contains links: WELCOME, BIOMEDTOWN (labeled 'd'), NEWS, EVENTS (labeled 'c'), CITIZENS, ABOUT. There are also login and password fields. A search bar is located on the right. The main content area features a 'Welcome to Biomed Town!' section with a description of the community and a 'Join the Biomed Town community!' section with links: 'Become a citizen', 'Ask for a building', and 'Ask for a square'. On the right, there is a 'What is Biomed Town?' section (labeled 'a') with links: 'City Guide', 'Become a citizen', and 'Events'. Below this is a 'Most popular sections...' section with 'Research Groups' and 'Projects'. The 'Latest News' section (labeled 'b') contains two articles: 'Future and Emerging Technologies for the Virtual Physiological Human: Discussions and Conference' and 'Actibelt technology offers activity profile of patients'. At the bottom, there is a footer with social media links: @Plone, SCS, 508, aa, @dryicons.

Figure 5 – The Biomed Town homepage

Once connected to the Biomed Town web address³, the portal homepage is shown.

The homepage contains the following information and links to the basic resources of the town:

- *Useful links* (box *a* in Figure 5): in particular links pointing at the Biomed Town description and the City Guide. The *City Guide* is a document that is incrementally compiled trying to provide citizens information on the different Biomed Town

³ <http://www.biomedtown.org>

resources. In this area of the homepage there is also the link to subscribe to become a *citizen*;

- *latest news* (box *b* in Figure 5): here the latest published news on the portal are listed. To read a specific news simply click on the *Read more* link above the selected news; the news tab allows reading all the portal news and provides also the possibility to subscribe the feed RSS;
- the *events tab* (box *c* in Figure 5): provides access to the list of the events happening in the next future and the shared calendar shows highlighted the days in which an event is present (Figure 6). Going with the mouse on a selected date, a short description of the event will show up, while selecting an event its complete description will appear; it is also possible to filter the events according to specific keywords (the VPH-SHARE keyword is available to filter events of interest for the project).

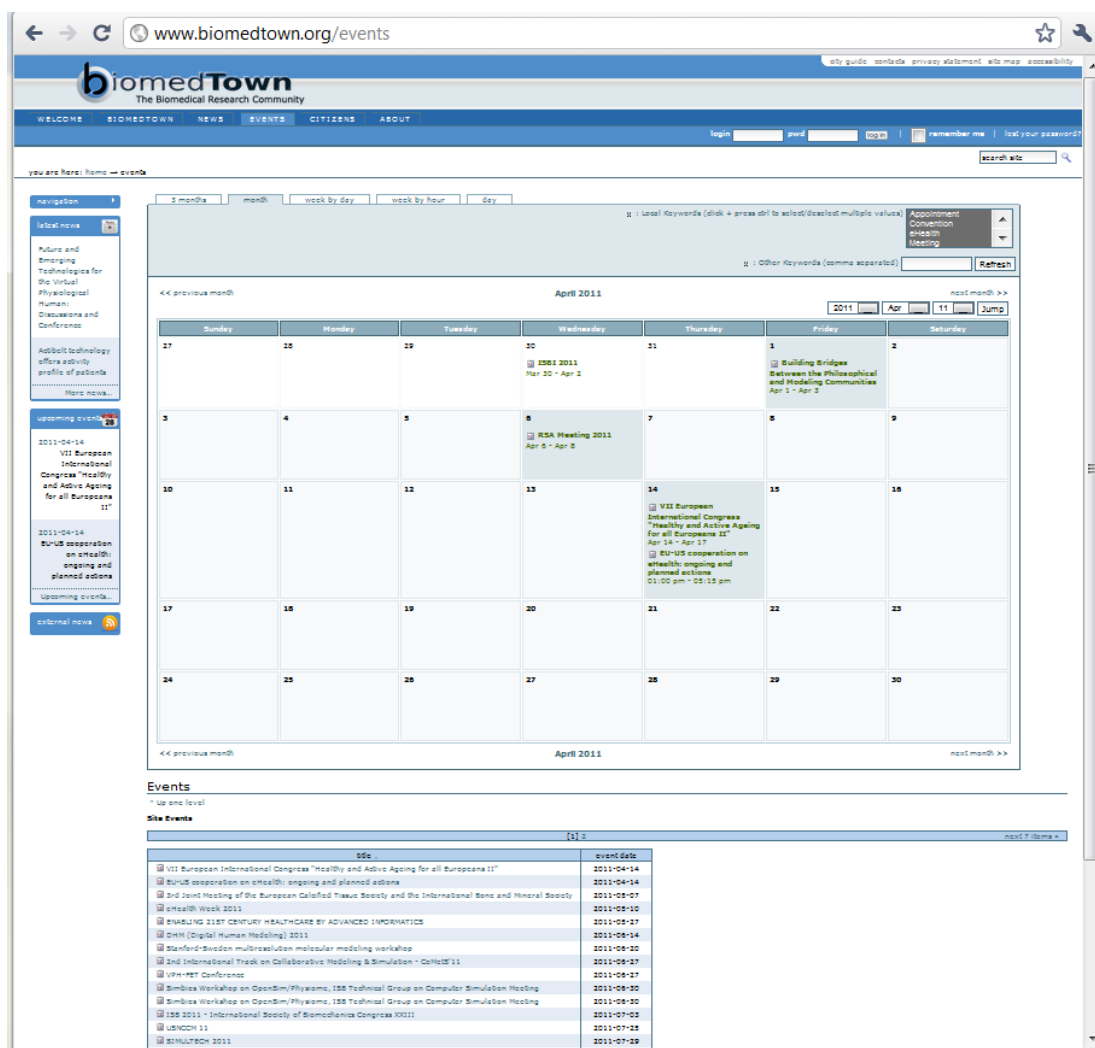


Figure 6 – The shared calendar and list of upcoming events

With the *BiomedTown* tab (box *d* in Figure 5) the buildings/squares list can be accessed (Figure 7): it is possible to enter the town (and any child folder) and browse all the public material (if not yet logged in).

The list is ordered based on the number of accesses of each user to the different areas, so the buildings most accessed are shown in the *Most visited* section.

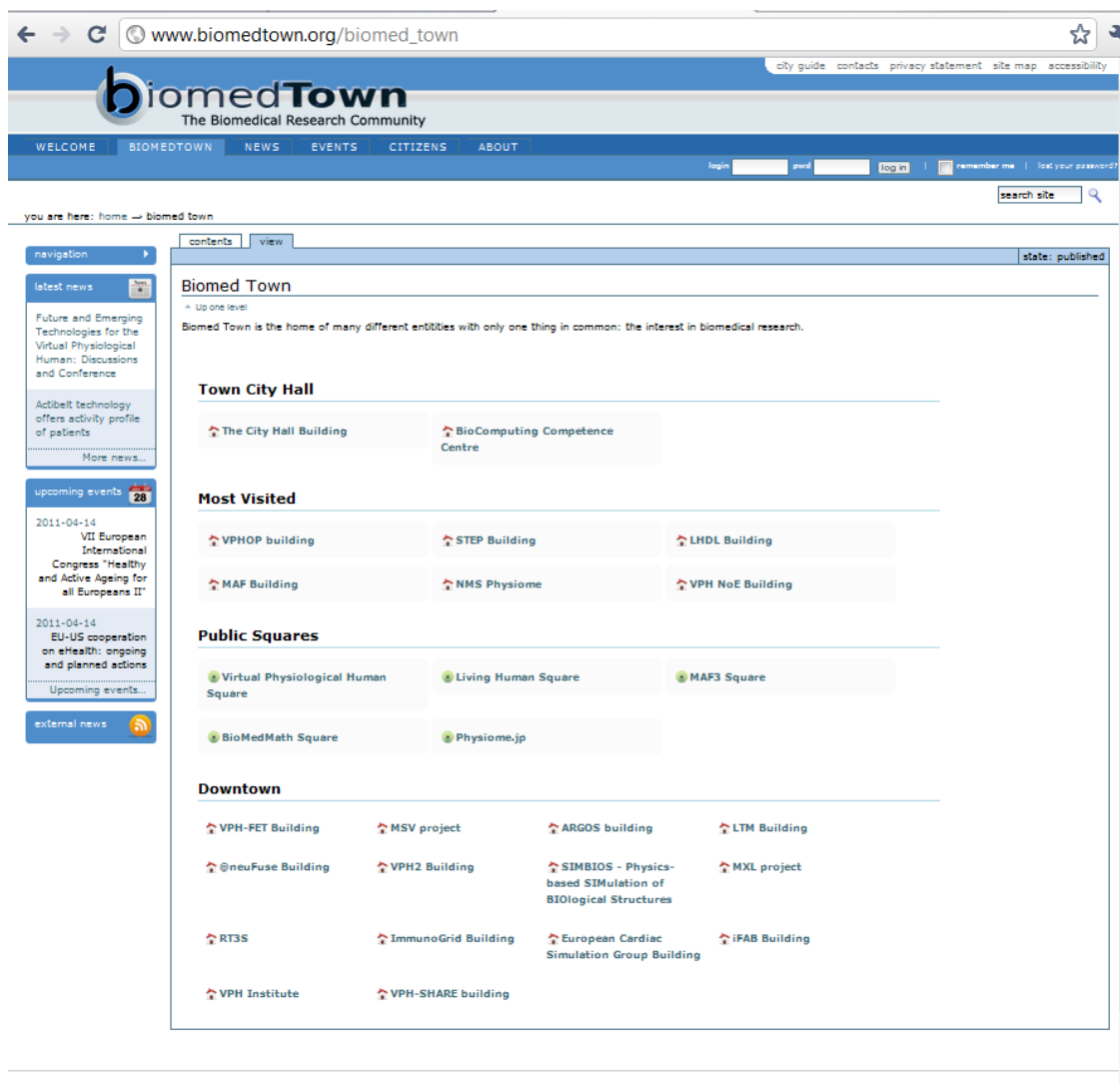


Figure 7 – The list of buildings and squares

3.1.2 How to join & log in

Anyone interested in and with affiliation to an institution related to biomedical research & technology can submit his/her application form to become a citizen.

To ask to become a citizen, the user has to click on the link *Become a citizen* in the home page (box *a* in Figure 5).

The page describing the different levels of membership available into the town will appear. Select the link and then select to become a *full citizen* (Figure 8). A form will appear to be filled in with the personal info (Figure 9). Only application with an institutional email (i.e. email of the university) will be approved. The fields with a red box near the title are mandatory.

If the subscription request is accepted by the City Managers, the password will be sent to the email address specified into the *Registration Form*.

Registration Form

Application Type

☐ Register as "Visitor". You'll access only public objects.

☒ Apply to become a full citizen. You'll be able to join to our community.

Figure 8 – Selection of the type of membership

Registration Form

Personal Details

Full Name *
 Enter full name, eg. John Smith.

User Name *
 Enter a user name, usually something like 'jsmith'. No spaces or special characters. Usernames and passwords are case sensitive, make sure the caps lock key is not enabled. This is the name used to log in.

E-mail *
 Enter an email address. This is necessary in case the password is lost. We respect your privacy, and will not give the address away to any third parties without your explicit authorisation or expose it anywhere. **Please enter an institutional email (i.e. NOT like yahoo, hotmail or something like this).**

A password will be generated and e-mailed to you to complete the registration process.

Contact Info

Institution/Company *
 You can enter your company here.

Department/Unit *
 You can enter your department here.

Institutional Role *
 You can enter your institutional role here.

Address *
 You can enter your institution address here.

City *
 You can enter your city here.

Figure 9 – Biomed Town registration form







Once logged in, the citizen can access all visible resources and also everything to which access permissions have been granted.

Each citizen can also access his/her personal space and in particular: *personal preferences*, *personal homepage*, *messages tool*, *the personal folder*, and the *my groups page*.

In particular, the *my groups* link opens the group membership status (Figure 10). The page gives a summarised list of the subscribed groups together with information on the groups such as the number of members and a group description. At the bottom of the table, there is the button to unsubscribe from the selected groups.

my groups managed groups browse groups

Current Group Memberships

<input type="checkbox"/>	group name	group type	members	subscription status	details
<input type="checkbox"/>	 VPHN Consortium	restricted	25	subscribed	
<input type="checkbox"/>	 VPHOP Principal Investigators	restricted	28	subscribed	
<input type="checkbox"/>	 VPHOP community	restricted	106	subscribed	
<input type="checkbox"/>	 VPHOP Associates	restricted	110	subscribed	
<input type="checkbox"/>	 Test Group	restricted	6	subscribed	
<input type="checkbox"/>	 HipOp Japanese users	restricted	57	subscribed	
<input type="checkbox"/>	 PhysiomeSpace users	restricted	252	subscribed	

 leave group (s)

Figure 10 – Subscribed groups

To *subscribe* to a new group, users first go to the *browse group tab* and search the group (empty search files provides the list of all available groups) (Figure 11, VPH-Share project groups); select the group of interest in and then the *subscribe to group* button. The request is automatically sent to the manager of the group, who will approve/reject the subscription. In both cases, an email of confirmation will be sent.

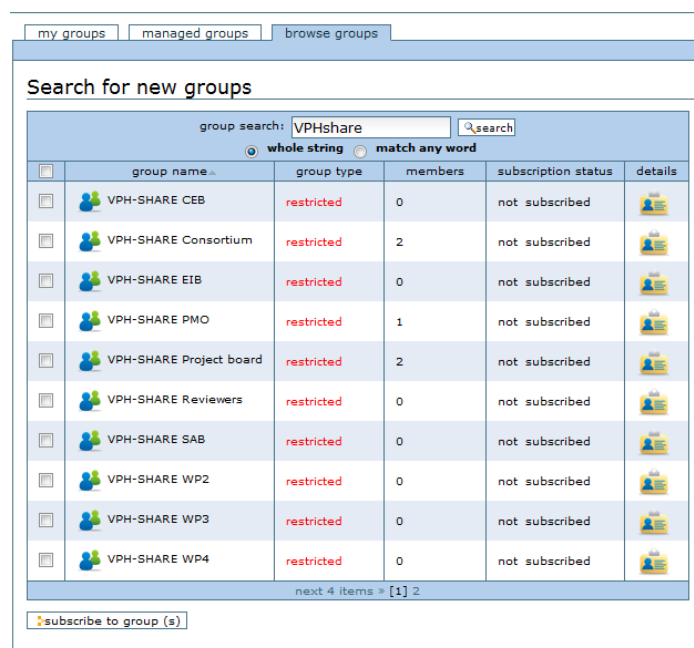


Figure 11 – Browse and subscribe to groups

3.2 VPH-Share Building

VPH-Share building hosts the project collaborative space (Figure 12). The building contains one room and two floors: *Reception*, *Associates floor*, and *Consortium floor*.

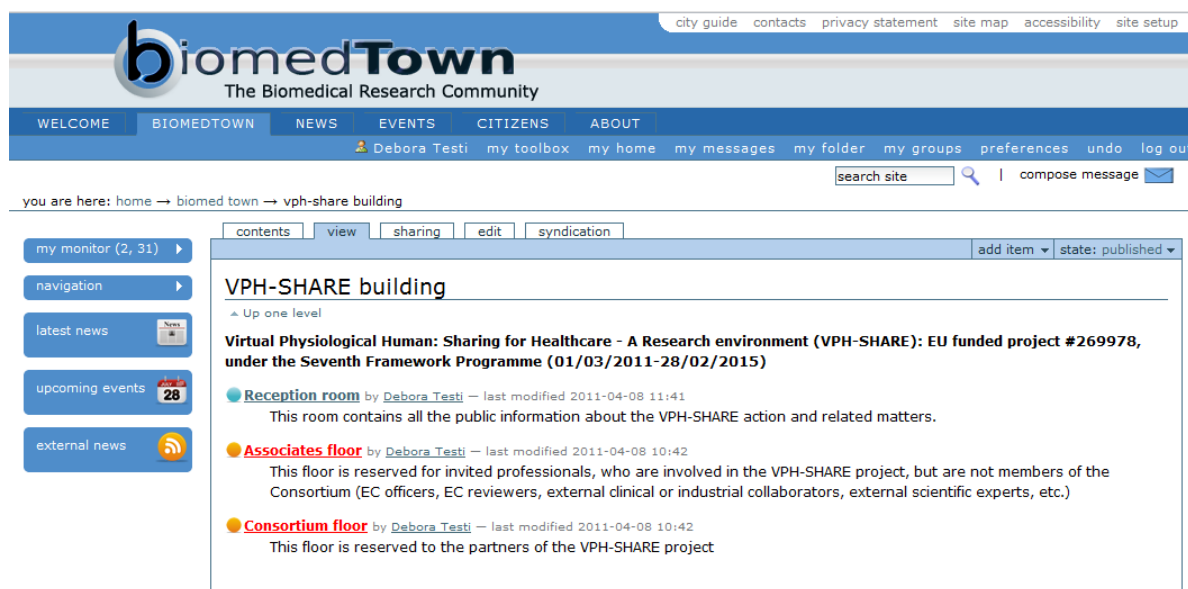


Figure 12 – VPH-Share Building

The *Associates floor* is reserved to persons who have access to some information on the project but are not VPH-Share partners (such as Project officer, reviewers, etc.). It also

contains the spaces for the Scientific Advisory board, the Clinical and Ethical board, and the Exploitation and IPR board.

The *Consortium floor* is the consortium working area and it is accessible only by the project partners. The floor contains rooms according to the VPH-Share project governing bodies, such as project board, and WPs.

3.2.1 VPH-Share building reception

The Reception room (Figure 13) is the public space of the project. It will contain all the material for public dissemination to Media, principal Stakeholders, etc.. In this context, everyone (also non Biomed Town citizens) will be able to access the material saved into this room.

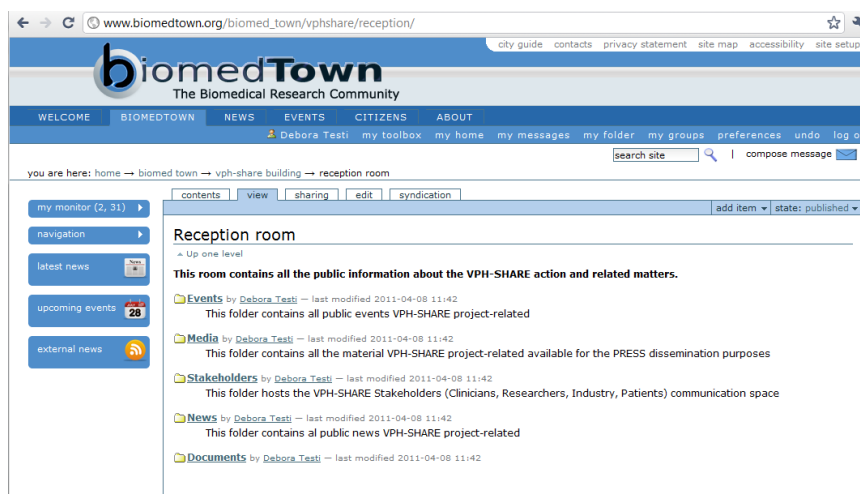


Figure 13 – Reception room

This room contains the dissemination material on the project and in particular:

- *Events*: contains all events related to the project. All project events will be marked with the “VPH-SHARE” keyword so to allow everyone to filter them in the portal calendar previously described;
- *News*: contains all VPH-Share related news both considering external news of potential interest to the project partners and also project results/information to be shared outside the consortium;
- *Project website*: contains all the pages used to build the external website which can be accessed also within the portal navigating within the reception;
- *Documents*: is a repository for public documents like public deliverables;
- *Media*: contains all the material VPH-Share project-related available for the PRESS dissemination purposes;



- *Stakeholders*: hosts the VPH-Share Stakeholders (Clinicians, Researchers, Industry, Patients) communication space.

For both events and news folder, the *RSS feed exporter* is activated so that information can be subscribed and read also outside the Biomed Town portal.

Another important and useful tool provided by Biomed Town in terms of dissemination activity is the possibility to easily create a periodic *newsletter* using the Biomed Town items like events and news. The newsletter can be then sent to all Biomed Town subscribers as well as to external stakeholders.

Below is provided a short summary of other collaborative tools available within Biomed Town and provided to the project consortium.



3.3 Other collaborative tools

3.3.1 Documents repository

This is the documents archive tool. It allows storing documents on the Biomed Town file system. Only city managers can create a repository (called *plone local folder*). A local folder has been already created in each room like the reception.

To upload a file is very simple, using the available *browse* and *upload* buttons. It is also possible to create a structure of directories like in a local file system selecting the *create directory* button.

3.3.2 Folder

In any room, there are and can be added *folders*. A folder can contain not only files but also other Plone items such as images, web pages, news, events, etc.. It is usually created to group common objects (i.e. room contains an events folder to group all the events item).

3.3.3 Collaborative editing

The collaborative editing tool available in Biomed Town is the wiki. A wiki is a collection of web pages designed to enable anyone who accesses it to contribute or modify content, using a simplified mark-up language. Wikis are often used to create collaborative websites and to power community websites. The collaborative encyclopaedia Wikipedia is one of the best-known wikis (<http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Wiki>).

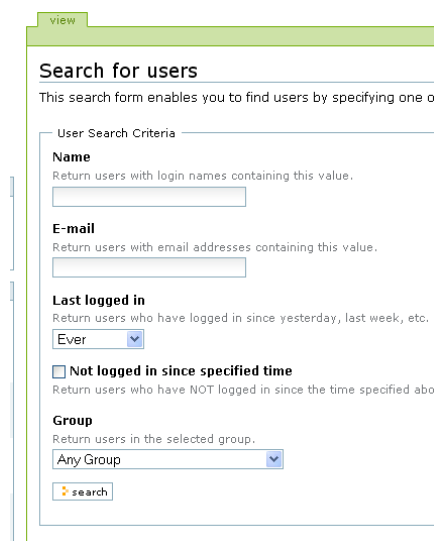
3.3.4 Discussion forums

Discussion forums have to be put into a forum folder, which is recognisable by an *F* into the folder icon. Forums can be public or private and by selecting the forum name link you get access to the selected forum.

The forums by default are managed only via web interface, where it is possible to read the posts, post a new item, etc.. When the forum is associated to an email address, the *subscribe button* allows receiving by email when an item is posted, but also sending a new item by email.

3.3.5 Members search

In the homepage navigation bar, there is also a link to *citizens*. If selected, this link opens the page that allows searching for other Biomed Town citizens (Figure 14). The search will provide the list of the citizens who satisfy the search criteria. If one of the found citizens is selected, his/her public material will be listed with any other information according to the granted permissions.



The screenshot shows a web interface for searching users. At the top, there is a green bar with the word "view" in a small tab. Below this is the heading "Search for users" followed by a subtext: "This search form enables you to find users by specifying one or". The main search criteria are listed in a box with a title "User Search Criteria". The criteria include: "Name" (Return users with login names containing this value.), "E-mail" (Return users with email addresses containing this value.), "Last logged in" (Return users who have logged in since yesterday, last week, etc.), and "Group" (Return users in the selected group.). Each criterion has a corresponding input field or dropdown menu. The "Last logged in" section has a dropdown menu with "Ever" selected and a checkbox for "Not logged in since specified time". The "Group" section has a dropdown menu with "Any Group" selected. At the bottom of the search criteria box is a "search" button.

Figure 14 – BioMed Town citizen search

3.3.6 Messages

Messages allow sending messages to another Biomed Town citizen or group of citizens. Using the available option, the message can be sent in copy also by email, otherwise the receiver will have to open it into his/her messages box at next log in Biomed Town.

4 CONCLUSIONS

This document provides a description of the first two web tools (the website and the Biomed Town building) set-up in the first months of the VPH-Share project to provide an Internet presence to disseminate general project information and the initial results. Further work will be done to improve those services and to add more dissemination channels during the project, as described in D8.1.