

THE UNECE CONVENTION ON ACCESS TO INFORMATION, PUBLIC PARTICIPATION AND ACCESS TO JUSTICE IN ENVIRONMENTAL MATTERS (AARHUS CONVENTION)

TASK FORCE ON ACCESS TO INFORMATION

ELECTRONIC INFORMATION TOOLS: CASE STUDY BY FRANCE

PORTAL "TOUT SUR L'ENVIRONNEMENT"

<http://www.toutsurlenvironnement.fr>

I. Description

- **1. Title:** Portal "Tout sur l'environnement"
- **2. Brief description:** This portal aims to provide a single point of entry, centralized and organized to environmental data and information distributed for free on the websites of public authorities.
- **3. Link(s) to electronic information tool(s) (if available online) or the description:**
<http://www.toutsurlenvironnement.fr>
- **4. Type (governmental, non-governmental, municipal, other):** Non-governmental
- **5. Scope (international, sub-regional, national, local):** National
- **6. Working language(s):** French
- **7. Target users:** Citizens, Actors of public debate, companies, Teachers, researchers, students, students, Media, other users
- **8. Starting year:** 2009
- **9. Budget and funding source:** The portal is financed from the budget of the Ministry of Environment, Energy and marine Affairs. The documents and metadata are provided by partner agencies from their own budget.
- **10. Contact: (name, functional title, institution, email, phone number)**
Mme Christelle Larrieu
Administratrice du portail « Tout sur l'environnement »
Commissariat General au Developpement Durable
5 Route d'Olivet CS 16105
45061 Orleans Cedex 2
Tel. : +33 2 38 79 78 87 / Fax. : +33 2 38 79 78 70
Courriel : christelle.larrieu@developpement-durable.gouv.fr

II. Implementation

- **11. Policy, legal and institutional context:** The portal is the response of the French State to the first pillar of the Aarhus Convention on access to environmental information to citizens to enable them, in particular, to effectively participate in public decisions.

Only public bodies (public institution, public authority, association in charge of a public service mission ...) can join and thus publish their environmental information through the portal. Membership requires the signature of a charter.

The portal is in two indicators of the National Strategy ecological transition towards sustainable development 2015-2020 "Change in the number of resources" (Axis 6 - Priority 4: Facilitate and promote access to scientific data and results); "The attendance of Evolution"

(Priority 7 - Priority 3: Promote the dissemination and sharing of information on the environment).

- **12. Partner organizations involved:** The computer hosting provided by the Bureau of Geological and Mining Research (BRGM), a public institution, financed by the Ministry of Environment, Energy and the Sea.
- **13. Stakeholders involved, their expected benefits:** To date, 186 member organizations publish environmental information on the portal.
- **14. User needs and methods of their assessment:** After seven years of operation, a user satisfaction survey is under preparation.
- **15. Technology choice:** The portal uses the Metadata Schema Qualified Dublin Core (17: title, URL, summary, keywords, subject, date, document type, reading level, organization, geography, etc.) to describe the physical resource and digital to make them identifiable, readable and shareable.

Automatic referencing (harvesting) for new sources of environmental information regularly enriches the content of the portal (recently: National Institute for Agricultural Research (INRA), French Institute for Exploitation of the Sea (IFREMER), DREAL / DEAL, Data Eaufrance, Eider, Geocatalogue ...) and allows new players to join the network of contributors (soon: Agency for environment and energy Management (ADEME), Anses, National Inventory of Natural Heritage (INPN) , reading room of the Ministry for the environment).

CMS Drupal 7.x

III. Evaluation

- **16. Results:** To date, the portal brings together more than 132,000 resources on the environment. 733 subscribers follow his Twitter account.
- **17. Efficiency gains:** These gains have not been identified at this stage.
- **18. Risks:** Like any application open to the general public, security remains an ongoing concern. A safety approval according to rules set by ANSSI (National Security Agency Information Systems) is currently underway.
- **19. Challenges encountered (please indicate resolved or not):** The challenge is to be sure that this initiative will live over time, which requires a continuous effort of animation and persuasion.
- **21. Conditions for successful replication:** Replication possibilities have not been studied. The team has yet not been approached by international counterparts; however, willing to answer any questions.

