LIETUVOS SEIMAS

Citizens' involvement in law making process

Birutė Leonavičienė
Analyst
Department of Information Technologies and Telecommunications
SEIMAS of the REPUBLIC of LITHUANIA

ECPRD ICT Meeting
26-27 November 2009, Rome (Italy)

Demos@work

- Enable European-wide discussion between elected representatives and civil society (EP-07-01-035)
  - Co-financed under the 2007 eParticipation call

Objective

- Facilitate European-wide discussion between elected representatives and civil society on emerging policy issues that have a potential impact on all countries within the European Union by making the complex political debate meaningful and interesting for all citizens.

Reasons

- Growing demands from citizens to have a more influential role in policymaking;
- Connect elected representatives with their constituents by creating a space for collaboration on a specific policy issue of common public interest;
- Citizens' engagement in the decision making process.

The scope

- Reconnect citizens with politics and policy making by:
  - Improving the transparency in tracking legislation;
  - Reducing the complexity of decision making process;
  - Identifying ways to visualize the impact of legislation;
  - Addressing the issue of citizen disengagement from decision making processes;
  - Improving the quality of services provided to citizens;
  - Facilitating the work of MPs;
  - Promoting the intra and extra parliamentary collaboration.

Focus

- Focused on citizens and politicians.

Trial

- Demos@work - environment through which elected representatives are able:
  - engage with citizens on policy issues using a semantically enriched user interface;
  - communicate and collaborate with their peers.

Citizens' involvement

- Forums;
- Documents;
- Online petitions;
- Open letters to MPs;
- Notifications;
- Events;
- Agendas, minutes;
- Newsletters.

Pilot discussion

- Public health – harmful effects of smoking.

Solution

- Integrate developed platforms such as collaboration, argument visualization, natural language processing through ontology in a secure interoperable environment.
- Include semantic technology to allow the automatic categorization of posted comments.

Platform

- Created through the customization of two open source platforms that have already achieved international recognition and the support of the European Union:
  - **eRepresentative platform** – a virtual desktop for elected representatives;
  - **Gov2DemOSS** – web content management system, online petition tool.

In addition

- Semantic technologies based modules for understanding Natural languge are integrated to the smoking ontology;
- Argument Visualization of Citizen's opinions.

Technologies used

- Open source:
  - Redhat OS;
  - Web Server Apache Tomcat;
  - Database server MySql;
  - PHP, Java.

Key members of user group

- Members of the National Parliament of Lithuania;
- Members of the Regional Parliament of Catalonia;
- Members of the Citizens user group:
  - Citizens;
  - Associations and Unions of citizens and enterprises;
  - Consultants / Experts;
  - Researchers;
  - Members of NGOs;
  - Civil Society Organizations.

The Consortium

GFI

National Technical University of Athens

Gov2u

National Parliament of Lithuania

Scytl

Parliament of Catalonia

Activities

- User requirements were analyzed.

Localisation

- Lithuanian language was set for the end-user interface;
- Natural language analysis tools were prepared.

Tobacco v1.2.owl

```
46      <!-- http://www.reusecompany.org/ontologies/2009/07/20/tabaquismo12.owl#Z-A_roll_of_tobacco -->
47
48      <owl:Class rdf:about="#Z-A_roll_of_tobacco">
49          <rdfs:label xml:lang="en"
50              >Tabako ritinėlis</rdfs:label>
51          <owl:equivalentClass rdf:resource="#Z-Cigar"/>
52          <rdfs:subClassOf rdf:resource="#Z-Smoking_products"/>
53      </owl:Class>
54
55
56
57      <!-- http://www.reusecompany.org/ontologies/2009/07/20/tabaquismo12.owl#Z-Adolescent_smoking -->
58
59      <owl:Class rdf:about="#Z-Adolescent_smoking">
60          <rdfs:label xml:lang="en"
61              >Paauglių rūkymas</rdfs:label>
62          <rdfs:subClassOf rdf:resource="#Z-Human_smoking"/>
63      </owl:Class>
64
65
66
67      <!-- http://www.reusecompany.org/ontologies/2009/07/20/tabaquismo12.owl#Z-After_age -->
68
69      <owl:Class rdf:about="#Z-After_age">
70          <rdfs:label xml:lang="en">Pagal metus</rdfs:label>
71          <rdfs:subClassOf rdf:resource="#Z-Smoker_category"/>
72      </owl:Class>
```

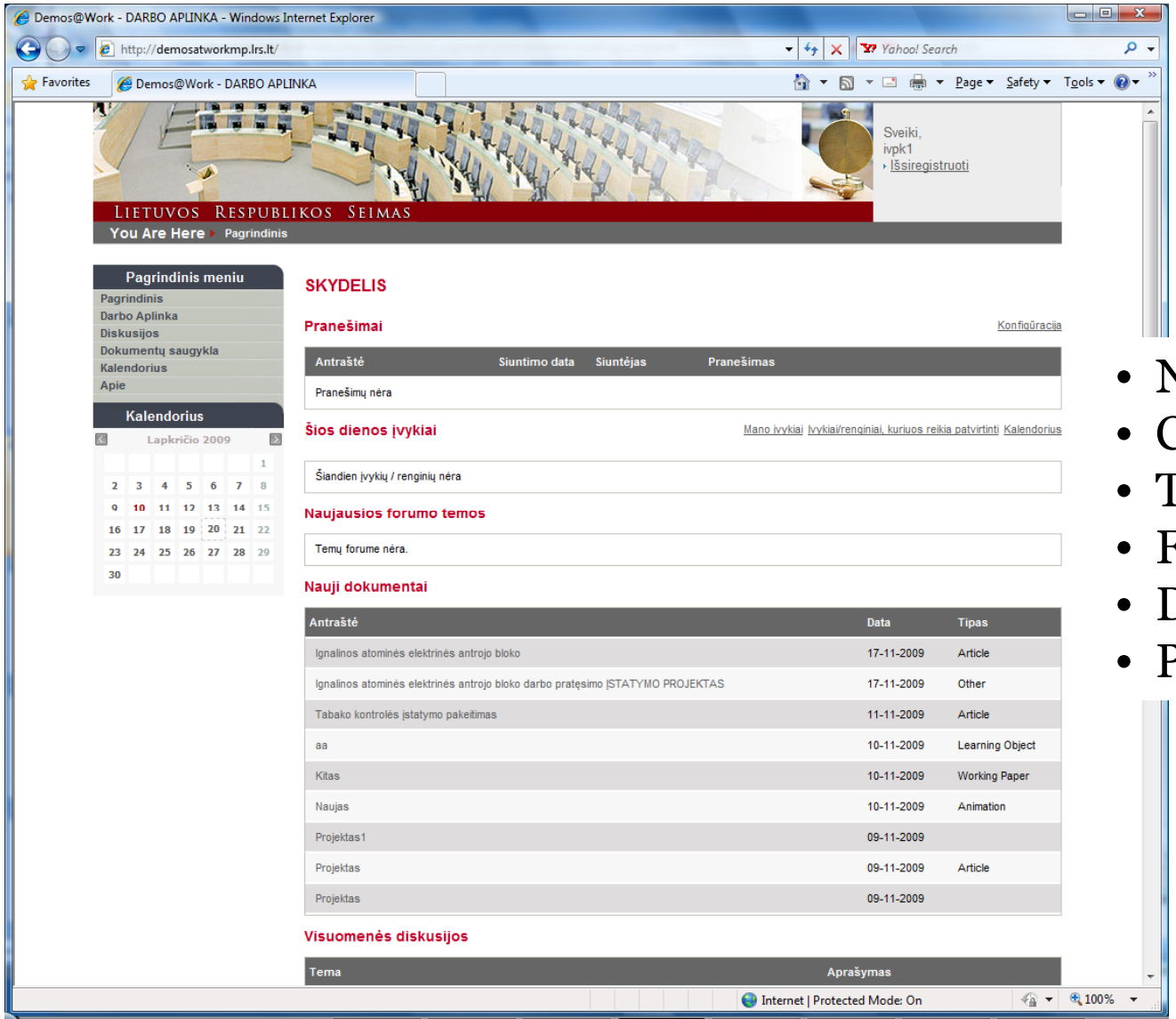
User Panel

- Staff of the Committee of the Development of Information Society;
- Staff of the Department of Information Technologies and Telecommunications;
- Selected people working outside the Parliament.

Test case scenario

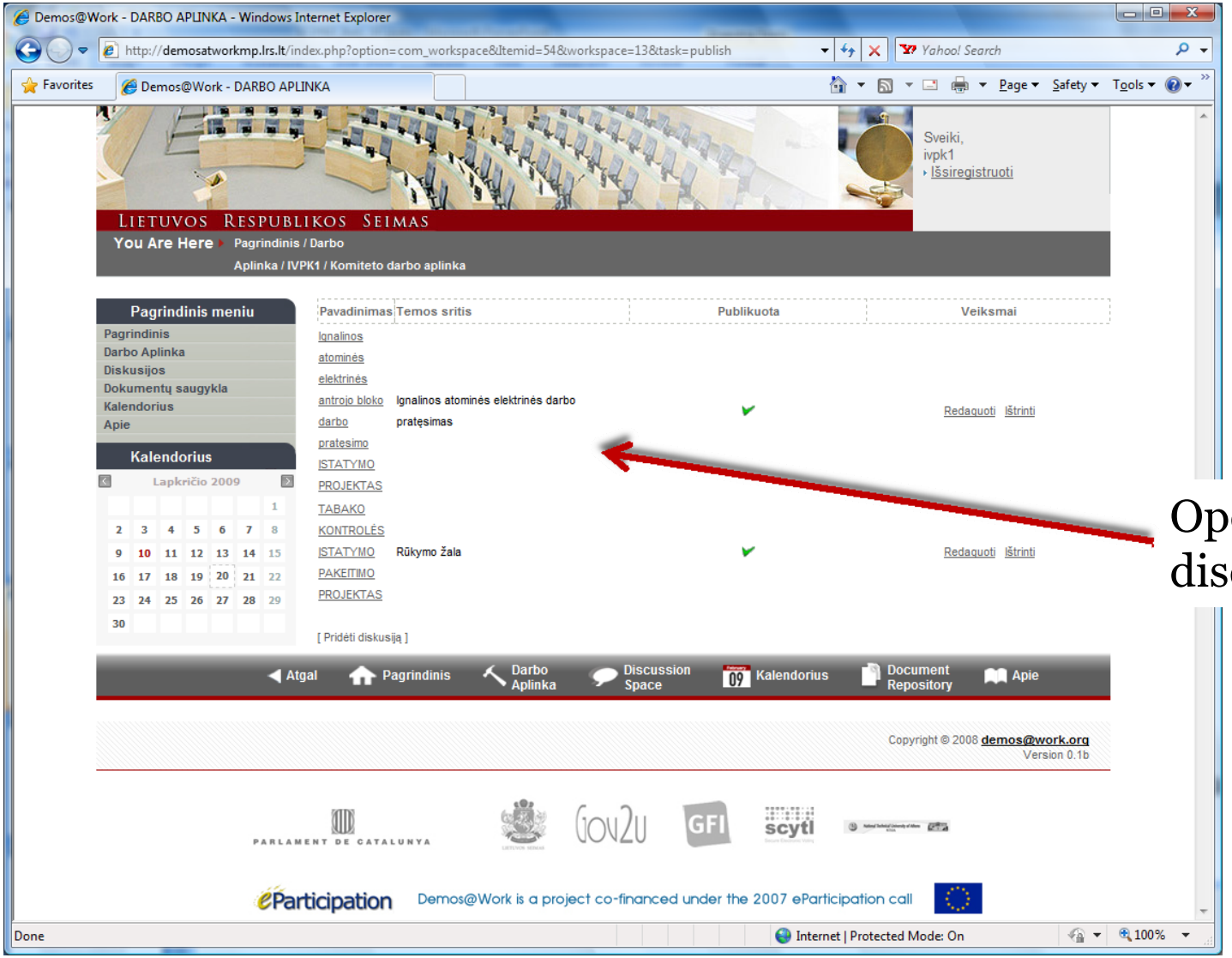
- A draft law about prohibiting of the tobacco usage in the public areas has been registered in the Secretariat of the Plenary Sittings;
- The Draft was submitted to the SEIMAS;
- Consideration procedure was started, principal committee further consideration was set;
- Deliberations in the Principal Committee were launched.
- The subject of the Draft raised many discussions and disagreements during the Committee members, it was decided to ask public opinion about the Draft.

Demos@work MP portal



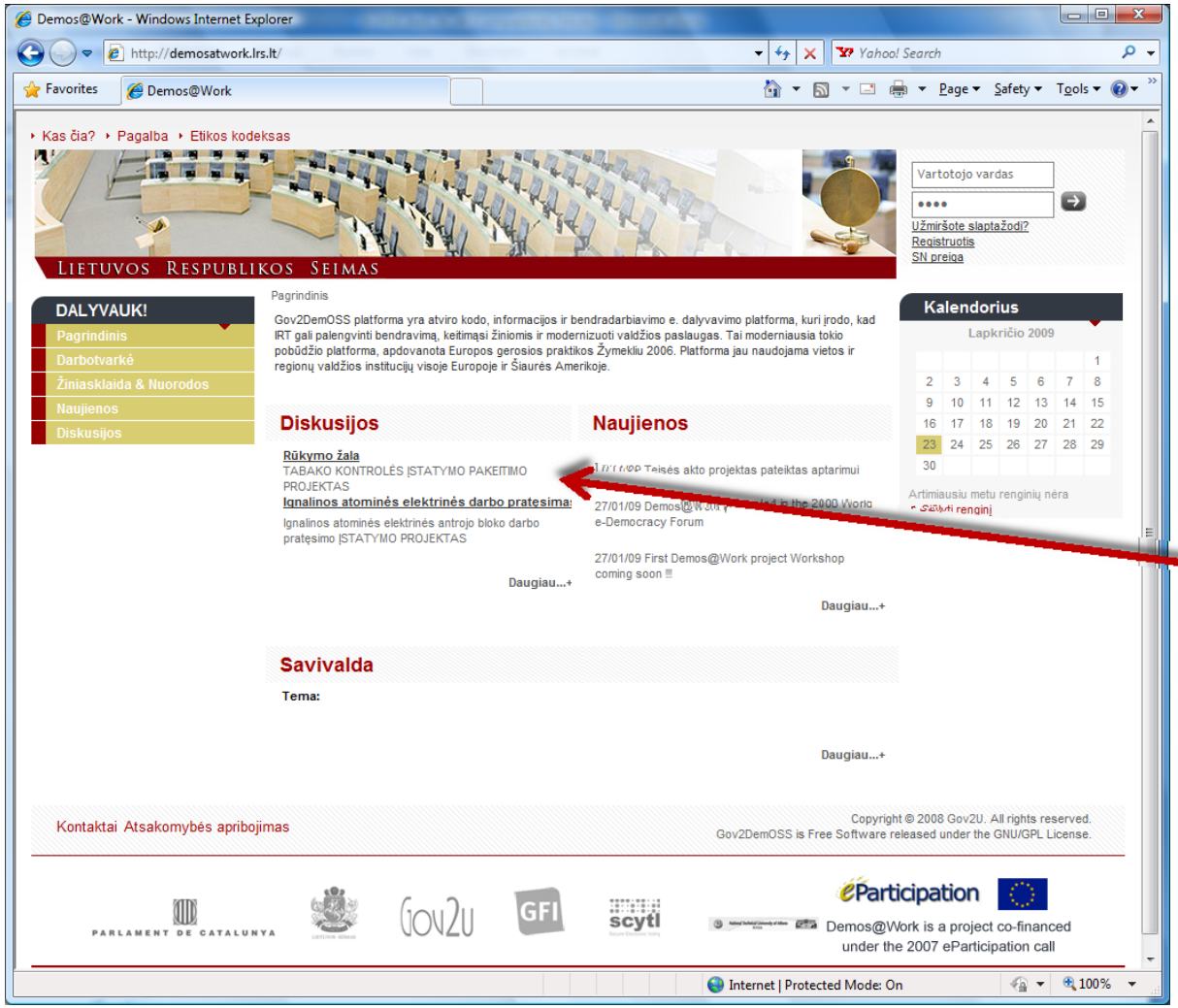
- Notifications
- Calendar
- Today‘s events
- Forum
- Documents
- Public discussions

Public discussion



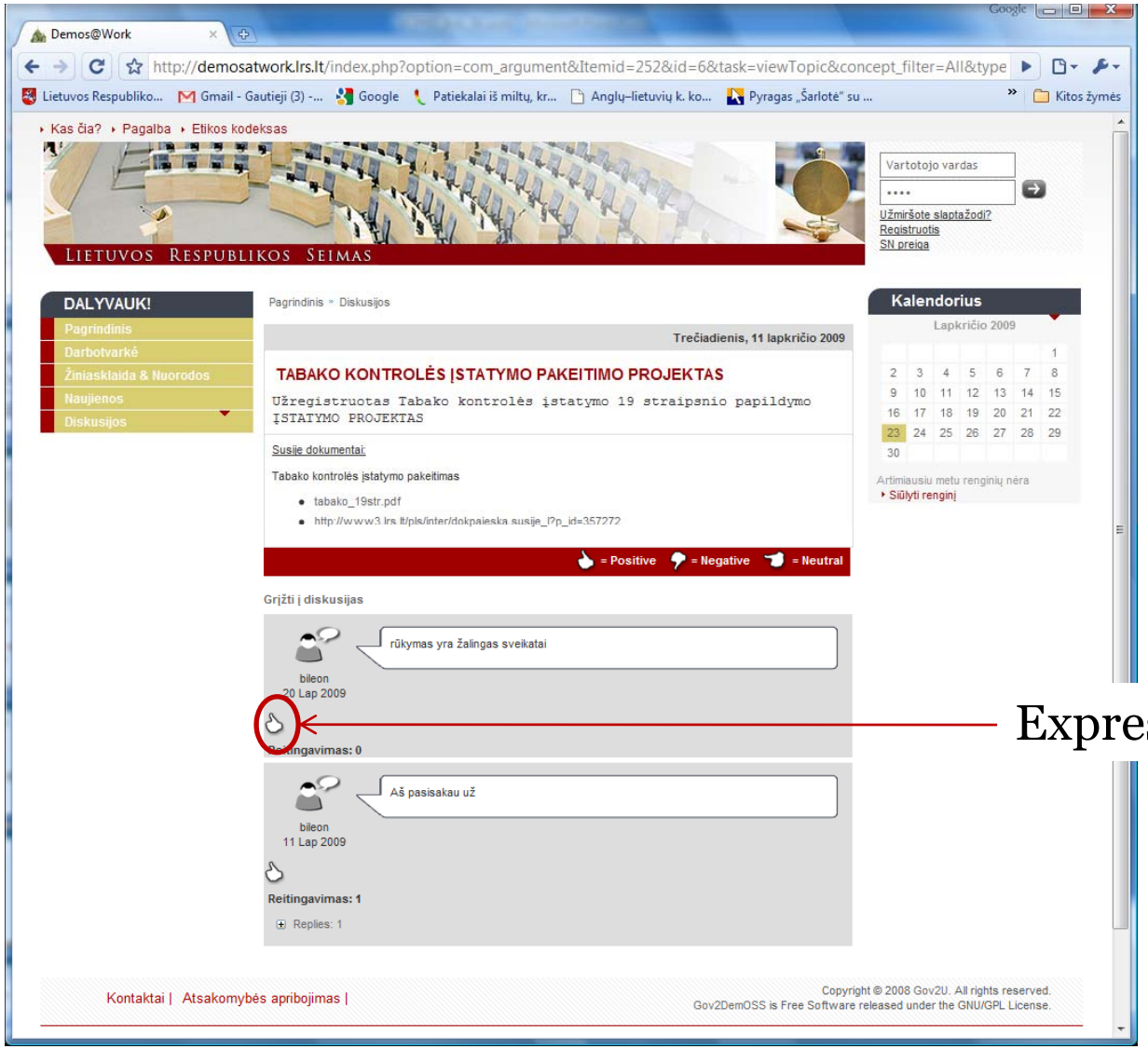
Opened public discussions

Demos@workCitizens portal

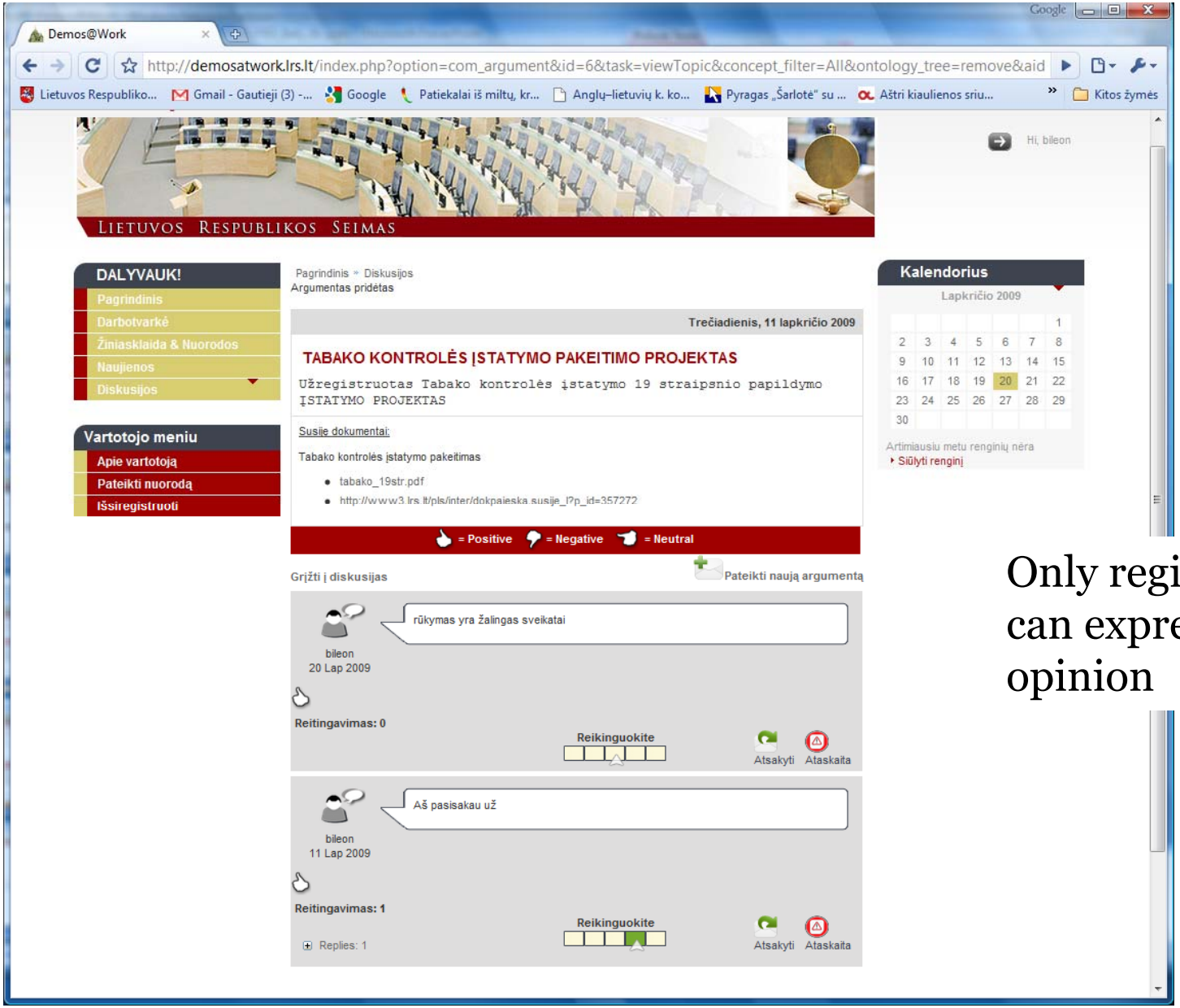


Opened public discussions

Discussions



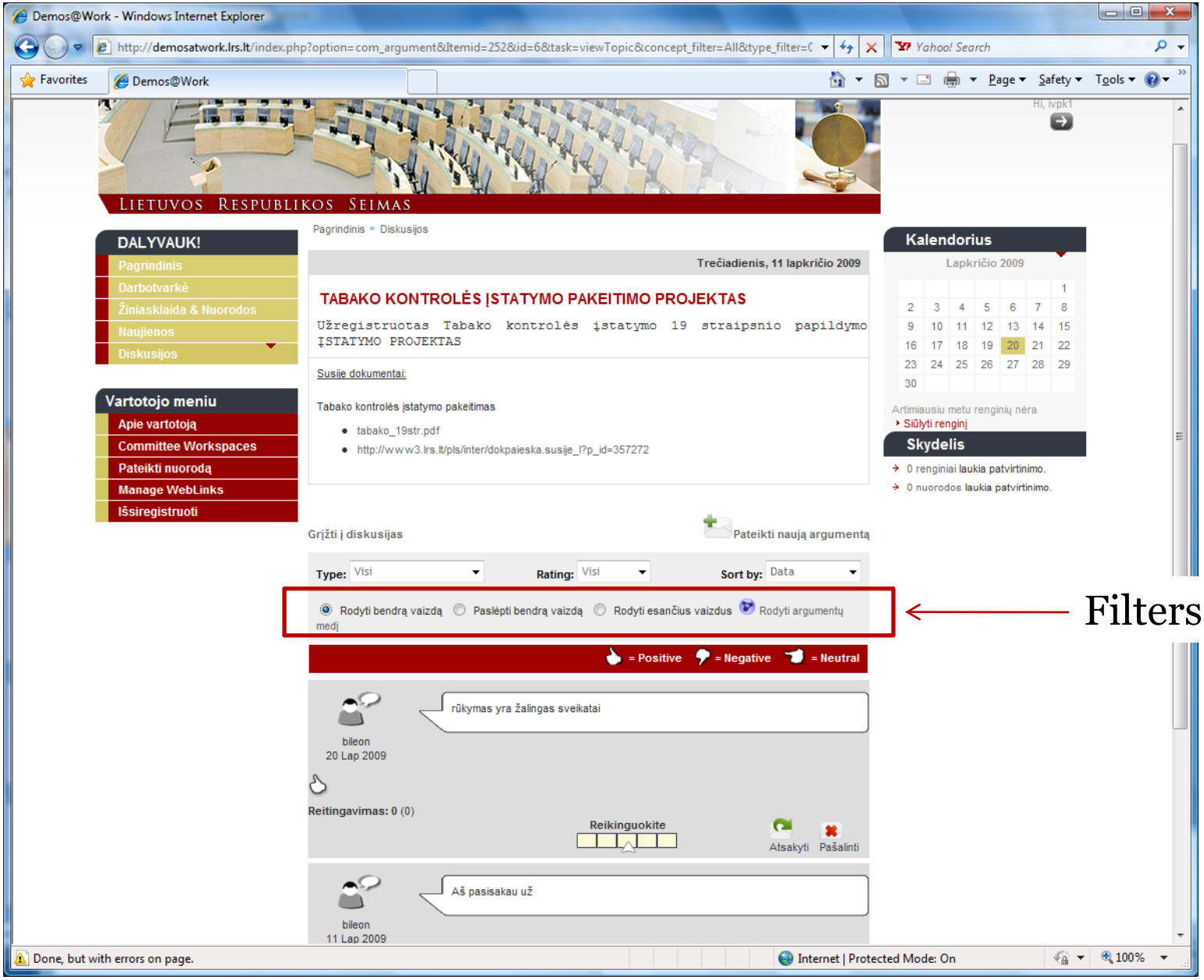
Expressed opinion



Only registered users can express their opinion

Analyse citizens' opinions

- Filter according to their relevant topics.
- Filter by:
  - *Type (Pro/Con/Neutral);*
  - *Rating;*
  - *Sort.*
- Argument tree.

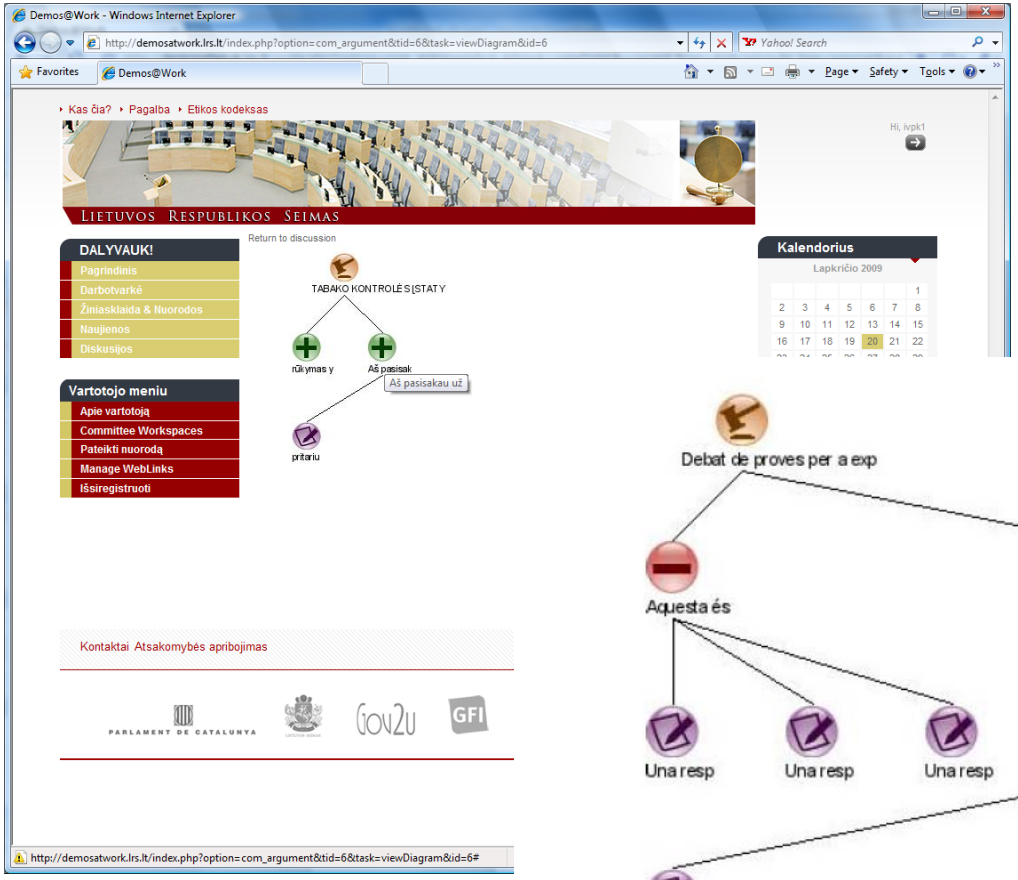

Demos@Work - Windows Internet Explorer
LIETUVOS RESPUBLIKOS SEIMAS
DALYVAUK!
Pagrindinis
Darbotvarkė
Žiniasklaida & Nuorodos
Naujienos
Diskusijos
Vartotojo meniu
Apie vartotoją
Committee Workspaces
Pateikti nuorodą
Manage WebLinks
Išsiregistruoti
Pagrindinis » Diskusijos
Trečiadienis, 11 lapkričio 2009
TABAKO KONTROLĖS ĮSTATYMO PAKEITIMO PROJEKTAS
Užregistruotas Tabako kontrolės įstatymo 19 straipsnio papildymo ĮSTATYMO PROJEKTAS
Susiję dokumentai:
Tabako kontrolės įstatymo pakeitimas
tabako_19str.pdf
http://www3.lrs.lt/pls/inter/dokpaieska.susije_l?p_id=357272
Kalendorius
Lapkričio 2009
Skydelis
Grįžti į diskusijas
Pateikti naują argumentą
Type: Visi
Rating: Visi
Sort by: Data
Rodyti bendrą vaizdą
Paslėpti bendrą vaizdą
Rodyti esančius vaizdus
Rodyti argumentų medį
= Positive
= Negative
= Neutral
rūkymas yra žalingas sveikatai
bileon
20 Lap 2009
Reitingavimas: 0 (0)
Reikinguokite
Atsakyti
Pašalinti
Aš pasisakau už
bileon
11 Lap 2009
Done, but with errors on page.
Internet | Protected Mode: On
100%

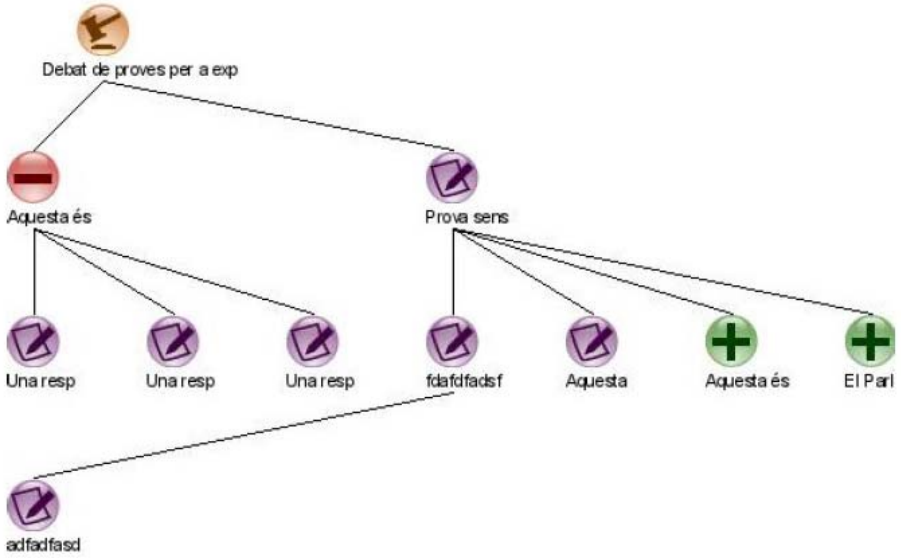
Filters

Concept tree

Relevant Topics tree contain all the topics that the platform can automatically understand and classify.
Topics depend on the used ontology.

Argument tree





Graphical way to show the comments within the discussions.
Designed to give you a good understanding of the discussions orientation.

Conclusions

- It's a very good idea and proposed solution for citizens' engagement in decision making process.
- Geographical location has no significant influence.
- It was encountered language issues.
- Administrative work was easy and manageable.
- The platform works well, with some minor issues.
- Citizens' participation is low due limited number of topics.
- Include new topic of interest: budget, nuclear power, environment, etc.

Thank you for attention!

?

demos@work

eParticipation