



Redesigning Equality and Scientific Excellence Together



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RESET aims to address the challenge of Gender Equality in Research Institutions in a diversity perspective, with the objective to design and implement a user-centred, impact-driven and inclusive vision of scientific excellence.

Consortium partners



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D3.2 GE Data Collection and Processing Pipeline

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Abbreviations

GE	Gender Equality
GEP	Gender Equality Plan
HR	Human Resources



Executive Summary

Deliverable “D3.2 GE Data Collection and Processing Pipeline” is part of WP3 “Supporting data-driven GE and diversity policy-making in designing qualitative assessment tools and processes”, and is produced as the outcome of the work accomplished mainly under Task 3.3 “Establishing a strong GE repository and dashboard to support policy-making”, concerning the development of the platform, and under Tasks 3.1 “GE data harvesting throughout RESET activities” and 3.2 “Text and statistical analysis to design GEPs”, concerning the data collection and processing activities. In D3.2 we document: (a) an outline of the environment, functionalities, and architecture of the RESET GE Awareness Platform; (b) the GE data collection and processing pipeline; and (c) a presentation of the back- and front-end developments of the platform.

Table of contents

1.	Introduction	5
2.	The RESET Gender Equality Awareness Platform	5
2.1	Platform Environment Overview	5
2.2	Platform Requirements and Functionalities	6
2.2.1	Dashboard Level	7
2.2.2	Forum Level	7
2.3	Platform Architecture	8
3.	Data Collection and Processing Pipeline	10
3.1	HR Data	10
3.2	Open Data	11
3.3	Dynamic Data	12
4.	Development of the Platform	13
4.1	Data Dashboard	13
4.1.1	Homepage	14
4.1.2	Step Progress Bar	14
4.1.3	Institutional Data Visualisation & Filtering	16
4.1.4	Country Data Visualisation & Filtering	17
4.1.5	Dynamic Data Visualisation	19
	<i>Generic Statistics</i>	19
	<i>Word Cloud</i>	19
	<i>Sentiment Analysis</i>	20
4.2	Forum	21
4.2.1	Registration / Login Page	22
4.2.2	Homepage	25
4.2.3	Topic Creation	31
4.2.4	Comment Creation	33
4.2.5	Comment Upvoting & Reply	34
4.2.6	Poll Creation	37
4.2.7	Event Creation & Interaction	38
4.2.8	Admin Panel	40
5.	Conclusions and Future Work	44

List of figures

Figure 1: Platform Architecture	8
Figure 2: JSON response schema	9
Figure 3: Dashboard Architecture	10
Figure 4: HR data pipeline	11
Figure 5: Open data pipeline	12
Figure 6: Dynamic data overview	13
Figure 7: Dashboard Homepage.....	14
Figure 8: Step Progress Bar	16
Figure 9: Institutional Data.....	16
Figure 10: Institutional Data - Comparison.....	17
Figure 11: Country Data - Gender Employment Gap	17
Figure 12: Country Data - Gender Employment Gap – Interaction (1)	18
Figure 13: Country Data - Gender Employment Gap – Interaction (2)	18
Figure 14: Dashboard dynamic data visualization - Generic Statistics	19
Figure 15: Dashboard dynamic data visualization - Word Cloud.....	20
Figure 16: Dashboard dynamic data visualization – Overall Sentiment Analysis and Sentiment Analysis in the most replied posts	21
Figure 17: Forum homepage before login/registration	21
Figure 18: Forum registration button	22
Figure 19: Forum registration page.....	23
Figure 20: Forum new account activation	23
Figure 21: Forum login button.....	24
Figure 22: Forum login page	24
Figure 23: Forum reset password page	25
Figure 24: Forum homepage after logging in – latest topics	26
Figure 25: Forum homepage after logging in - top topics.....	26
Figure 26: Forum homepage after logging in - topics by categories.....	27
Figure 27: Forum generic search	27
Figure 28: Forum advanced search button	28
Figure 29: Forum advanced search	28
Figure 30: Forum dropdown menu	29
Figure 31: Forum user notifications	29
Figure 32: Forum user bookmarks	30
Figure 33: Forum user messages.....	30
Figure 34: Forum user preferences.....	31
Figure 35: Forum topic creation button	31
Figure 36: Forum new topic creation popup	32
Figure 37: Forum minimized draft topic	32
Figure 38: Forum topic preview.....	33
Figure 39: Forum comment creation button	33
Figure 40: Forum new comment creation popup	34
Figure 41: Forum comment upvoting button	35
Figure 42: Forum comment upvoting result	35
Figure 43: Forum comment reply button	36
Figure 44: Forum reply to comment	36

Figure 45: Forum poll creation button	37
Figure 46: Forum build poll popup.....	37
Figure 47: Forum build poll popup with advanced options.....	38
Figure 48: Forum event creation button	39
Figure 49: Forum event creation popup.....	39
Figure 50: Forum browse events popup	40
Figure 51: Forum event in the calendar	40
Figure 52: Forum navigation to account summary	41
Figure 53: Forum admin panel button	41
Figure 54: Forum administration panel through menu button.....	42
Figure 55: Forum administration panel - Dashboard	43
Figure 56: Forum administration panel - Settings	44

List of tables

Table 1: RESET platform user stories	6
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1. Introduction

The design and implementation of Gender Equality Plans (GEPs) in the context of the RESET project is being supported by a targeted Gender Equality (GE) awareness platform that is anticipated to assist institutions in gender equality policy making. The platform constitutes a GE database and dashboard hosting RESET's meaningful data and insights, enriched with useful information (i.e., relevant tags, knowledge and trends visualization etc.) that enables instant support and data-driven policy-making.

Specifically, the platform consists of two components, namely (a) the Data Dashboard and the (b) Forum. The Data Dashboard is expected to support the qualitative and quantitative evaluation of the project's activities as well as the planning of the new GEPs, while the Forum concerns the participation of groups and institutions in discussions concerning GE subjects, good practices, experience sharing, promotion of ideas and initiatives, impact evaluation and results validation.

The aim of this document is to present both the GE data collection and processing pipeline, and the design and implementation of the aforementioned RESET Gender Equality Awareness Platform. In particular, the rest of the deliverable is structured as follows:

- Chapter 2 presents an overview of the platform's environment, the requirements and functionalities of the platform concerning both the data dashboard and the forum, and the platform architecture.
- Chapter 3 refers to the processes of data collection and processing, regarding (a) institutions' Human Resources (HR) data, (b) open data, and (c) dynamic data obtained from the forum component.
- Chapter 4 provides a presentation of the development of both components of the platform.

2. The RESET Gender Equality Awareness Platform

2.1 Platform Environment Overview

The RESET platform can be reached through the current website of the project (wereset.eu). The website is continuously populated with new information and could be used as an appropriate landing page for the platform. The home page of the platform hosts the dashboard environment and is enriched with two extra hyperlinks, one for the forum (forum.wereset.eu) and one leading back to the project's webpage.

The data dashboard is user-friendly and enables the user to navigate through different sets of data, such as institutional gender disaggregated data, several country indices, national data on gender and academia, and data on the progress of the partner's GEPs implementation process. Moreover, the dashboard will be fed by dynamic data exported from the discussion and comments posted on the forum.

On the other hand, the forum is set up in the environment of “Discourse”, which is a widely-used open-source discussion forum platform. In this context, the user can set a new discussion topic or participate in an existing discussion and interact with other users, in a simple and practical interface that incorporates the modern features of social websites, e.g., dynamic notifications, mentions, likes.

2.2 Platform Requirements and Functionalities

During the 1st period of the project two workshop sessions (May 2021 & December 2021) were held by AUTH with all partners to decide on the data that will be presented in the dashboard and define the user requirements. In these sessions some user stories (Table 1) were designed to feed in the development of platform requirements and functionalities.

Table 1: RESET platform user stories

Stakeholder	Action	Goal
<i>Who is going to visit/use the platform</i>	<i>How they are going to use it</i>	<i>for which reason, what is their goal</i>
I am responsible for policy making of a Research and Technology Organisation	and I would like more information	related to Gender Equality Plans.
I am a top-level manager at a University of interest/or GEB (Gender equality Board) member	and I would like to track the progress of the 1st version of the Gender Equality Plan implementation in my organization	to make changes towards the 2nd version.
I am a member in the community of practitioners/staff/professor/researcher	and I would like to discuss with other members of CoPs	topics related to the implementation of the Gender Impact Assessment.
I am a member in the community of practitioners/staff/professor/researcher	and I would like to have access to available data	related to the implementation of Gender Equality Plans.
I am a top-level manager at a University of interest/or GEB (Gender equality Board) member	and I would like to have access (and/or download) to GE related graphs and reports	to understand the current situation in my institution.
We are the Community of Practitioners	and we would like to run a poll	to collect perceptions on a topic of interest.
We are the local RESET GEP implementation team	and we would like to promote a local event	targeted to specific stakeholders.
We are the GEB of an institution	and we would like to host an online event	to achieve dissemination goals.
We are researchers/practitioners interested in the GE topic	and I would like more information	to understand the current situation of GE.

We are researchers/practiitioners interested in the GE topic	and I would like to have access to available data	to collect updated info on the topic.
We are researchers/practiitioners interested in the GE topic	and I would like to have access (and/or download) to GE related graphs and reports	to collect updated info on the topic .

2.2.1 Dashboard Level

The dashboard allows the visualisation, presentation and exploration of the data collected. In particular, for the static data i.e., the data collected from the partners and the generic data collected from various sources, a visual form representing the data is shown. The form was selected depending on the characteristics of each dataset. The user can interact with the data, performing actions such as filtering and sorting. Moreover, additional information and conclusions are presented at each page in order to help the user to obtain a better understanding.

Concerning the dynamic data, i.e., the data collected from the RESET forum, the provided visualisations regard the following statistics:

- Total number of users
- Total number of users per institution
- Total number of users per gender
- Total number of posts
- Total number of topics
- Total 100 topics with the most replied posts

Also, a word cloud, which summarises the forum content, is presented. It represents the posts of the RESET community at the forum. The words are animated and if clicked, a simple word search is performed. Lastly, to give a greater overview of the forum content, results of sentiment analysis performed on comments are demonstrated as well.

Apart from the data visualisation and interaction functionalities, the dashboard provides a step progress bar as well. More specifically, a static number of steps exists and the current active step is highlighted. Users are able to click on the already completed steps and be additionally informed by an explanatory text – in a dropdown form – or a link leading to a relevant external file.

More details and clarifications on the RESET dashboard usage and functionalities can be found in section 4.1.

2.2.2 Forum Level

The main aims of the RESET forum are the promotion of discussions, the exchange of opinions and, generally, the communication between project members regarding gender equality related topics. To achieve the above goals, the RESET forum is developed to serve the following functionalities:

- Topic creation
- Comment creation on topics

- Comment upvoting
- Comment reply
- Poll creation
- Event creation
- Event promotion to a public calendar

For the implementation of the RESET forum, the open-source discussion platform [Discourse](#) has been used. More details and clarifications on the RESET forum usage and functionalities can be found in section 4.2.

2.3 Platform Architecture

The generic architecture of the RESET platform is outlined in the following chart:

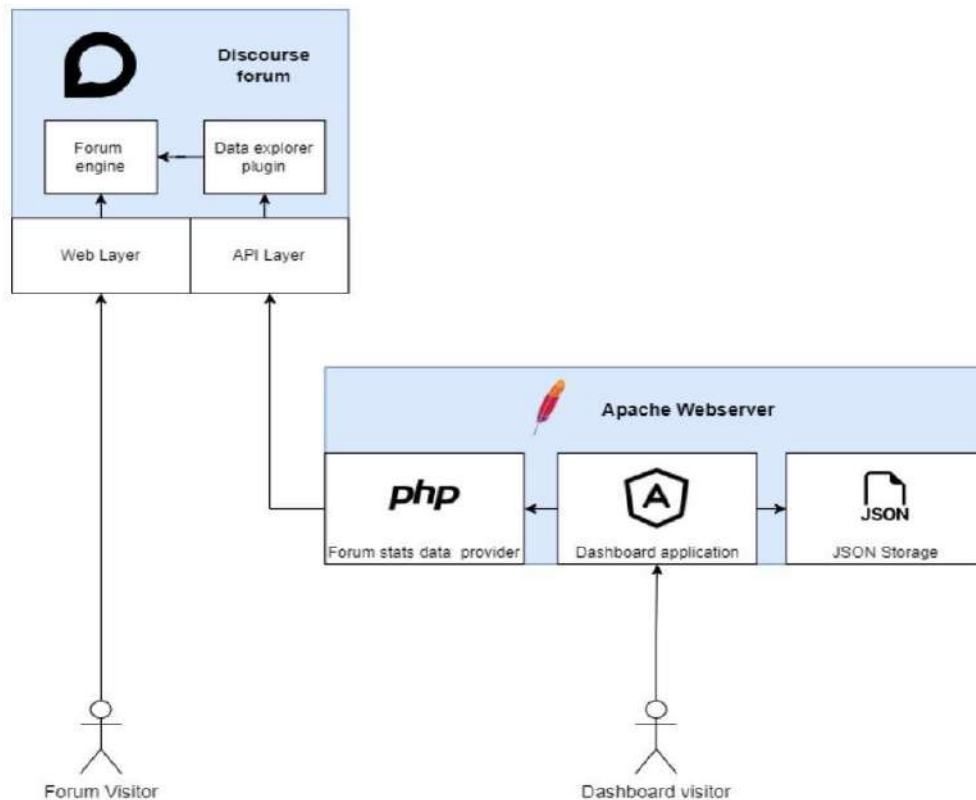


Figure 1: Platform Architecture

Discourse forum: Implements the full functionality of the RESET forum (enhanced with Calendar and other plugins). It is hosted in a distinct subdomain and can be found under <https://forum.wereset.eu/>. The forum also contains the Data Explorer plugin, which allows administrators to create and present direct queries to the database of the Discourse forum. The queries can also be executed via the Discourse API Layer through an authenticated REST call.

Apache web server: The [Apache Web Server](#) is a popular open-source, cross-platform web server used to accept requests from clients (e.g., a visitor's web browser) and then

send the response to that request (e.g., the components of the page that a visitor wants to see). For the RESET platform, the purpose of the Apache Web Server is twofold:

- to provide file serving capabilities, used for serving the Angular Dashboard application and JSON files
- to serve the statistics of Discourse Forum through the forum stats data provider.

Angular Dashboard application: The dashboard and data explorer are implemented as an Angular Single Page Application. The data used by the dashboard are:

- static JSON files, fetched on application load through the Apache web server
- dynamically generated by the discourse forum, through the forum stats data provider.

JSON files: Static files containing the information from HR and Open Data of the platform.

Forum stats data provider: The data provider is a utility application written in PHP engine which handles authorization, data preparation and access to the Discourse forum API. Upon running, the utility returns a JSON with the combined dynamic forum data.

The JSON response schema is displayed in Figure 2, while the specific dashboard architecture can be found in Figure 3 below.

```

{
  "totalActiveUsers": number, //The number of Active forum users,
  "totalActiveUsersPerGender": [
    {
      "gender": string, //Male or Female (customizable)
      "Count": number //Number of active users per gender
    }
  ],
  "totalNumberOfPosts": number, //Total number of Posts,
  "totalNumberOfTopics": number, //Total number of Topics,
  "totalActiveUsersPerInstitution": [
    {
      "institution": string, //Name of institution
      "Count": number //Number of active users per institution
    }
  ],
  "total100TopicsWithMostRepliedPosts": [ //Contains a list of 100 Topics with most replied posts
    {
      "id": number, //Topic id
      "title": string, //The topic title
      "fancy_title": string, //Prettified topic title,
      "slug": string, //Url friendly title ,
      "posts_count": number //Number of posts
    }
  ]
}

```

Figure 2: JSON response schema

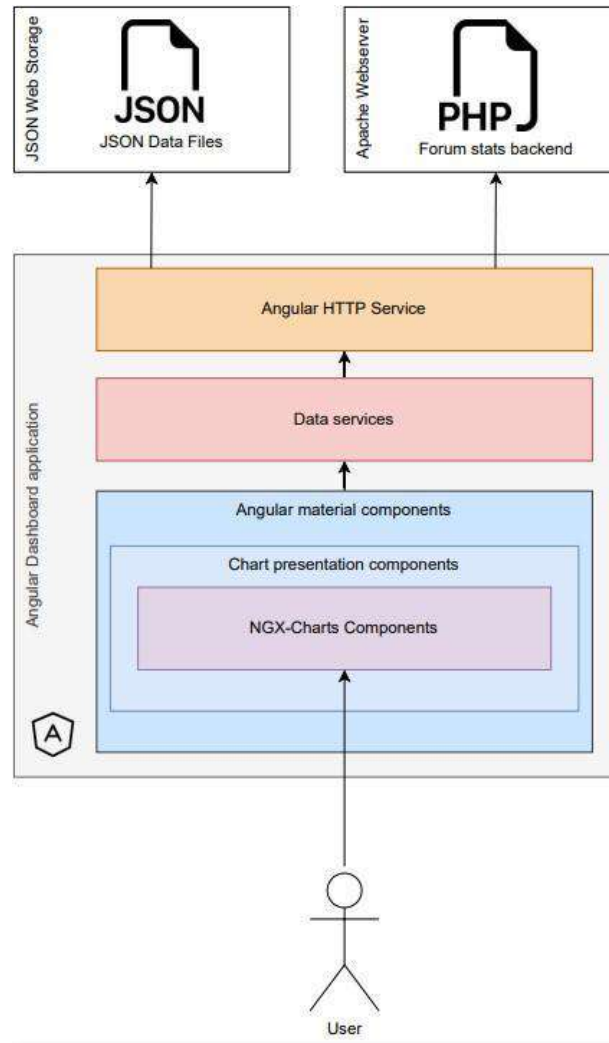


Figure 3: Dashboard Architecture

3. Data Collection and Processing Pipeline

In this section, we provide a detailed presentation of the data collection and processing activities performed under the tasks of WP3 in order to feed the development of the databases for the Data Dashboard of the platform.

3.1 HR Data

AUTH has developed a pipeline to collect and process institutional data concerning GE issues from Human Resources (HR) departments of the GEP implementing partners in order to provide useful visualisation to the platform’s data dashboard. The HR data collection and processing pipeline is presented in Figure 4 and is analysed in detail below.

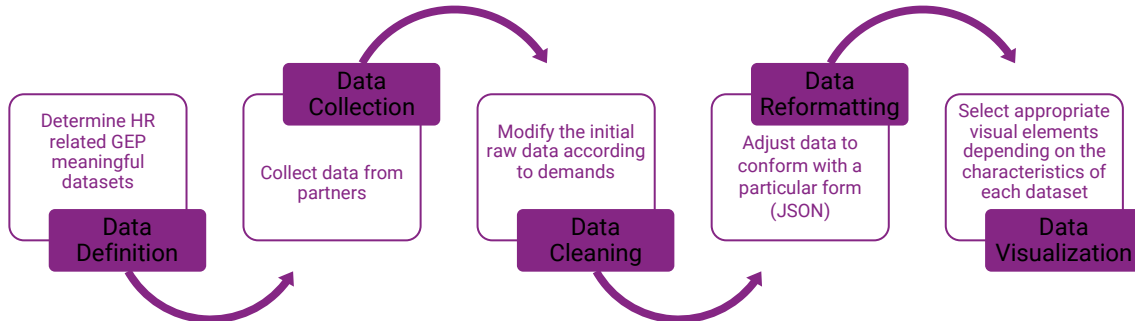


Figure 4: HR data pipeline

Firstly, according to the outcomes of two workshops organised in May 2021 and December 2021, where the partners decided on the data presented in the dashboard, AUTH defined the datasets concerning HR information that would be meaningful for the design of the GEPs and should be required from all GEP implementing partners.

Then, a unified template was sent to UBx, AUTH, LU, and UPorto, to be filled in with all necessary information on anonymized gender disaggregated HR indices. In particular, the data in demand concerned percentages of male/female administrative staff, teachers, researchers per faculty/scientific field, percentages of teachers/researchers per age group, gender, and faculty, sex ratio of teaching/researching staff per scientific field, male/female percentages per rank, proportion of women in top leadership and unit head positions, and percentages of inventorships and patents per gender.

After the completion of the data collection, the need to modify the initial raw data emerged, as data availability varied among the partners' HR departments. As a result, and in order to have the option for several inter-institutional comparisons, the data needed to be transformed into a unified form.

In the next step, the data were stored in the form of JSON files in order to comply with the platform's storage requirements.

Finally, depending on the characteristics of each dataset, the appropriate visualisations to be presented on the dashboard were selected.

3.2 Open Data

Apart from the HR data, open data are also used to feed the data dashboard. The term "open data" is referred to data collected from various open sources, such as Eurostat and SheFigures.

AUTH defined a methodology for handling and processing these data in the optimal way, depicted also in Figure 5.

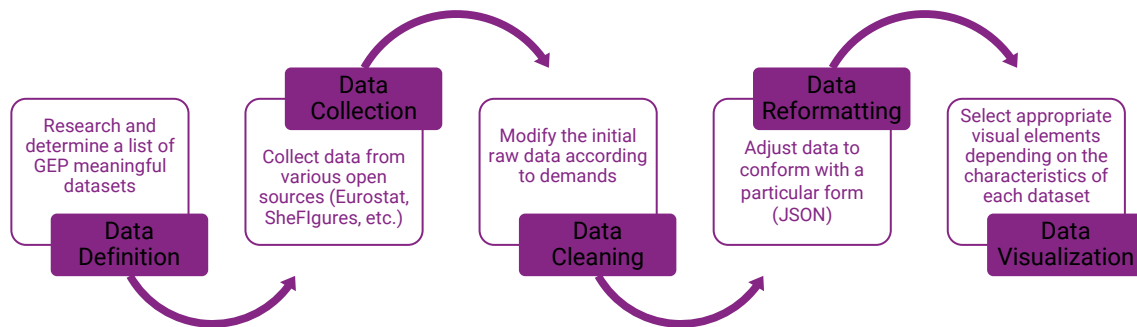


Figure 5: Open data pipeline

1. *Data Definition:* among the countless available datasets, a specific list of GE meaningful datasets had to be determined through extensive research, which would serve in the best way possible to the dashboard goals.
2. *Data Collection:* following the data definition, the particular data were collected in a variety of forms depending on each source.
3. *Data Cleaning:* exploring each dataset led to several modifications, which had to be performed to “clean” the initial raw data according to demands.
4. *Data Reformatting:* in compliance with the platform requirements, a common form for the data storage was chosen (JSON) and all the data had to be stored in this particular form.
5. *Data Visualization:* according to the characteristics of each dataset, an appropriate selection of visual elements had to be defined for their representation, such as charts and graphs. This was done in order to provide an accessible way to identify and understand patterns and outliers of the data.

3.3 Dynamic Data

The data derived from the Human Resources departments of the GEP implementing partners, as well as the various open sources, are static. The data dashboard platform is also fed with dynamic data. The dynamic data are produced by the RESET forum members activities and can be divided into 3 categories: generic statistics, word cloud and sentiment analysis, as shown in Figure 6.



Figure 6: Dynamic data overview

- **Generic Statistics:** specific statistics are constantly generated by the current state of the RESET forum. These statistics are calculated through the RESET forum data provider and are in particular:
 - Total active users
 - Total number of users per institution
 - Total number of users per gender
 - Total number of posts
 - Total number of topics
 - Total 100 topics with the most replied posts.
- **Word Cloud:** the word cloud basically summarizes the RESET forum content. It represents the posts of the RESET community for the main topics, as well as in total.
- **Sentiment Analysis:** it is important to be able to understand emotions behind the texts. Sentiment analysis is performed in the texts of main topics and in total – to calculate a sentiment score for each topic which provides a brief idea about the content emotion.

4. Development of the Platform

4.1 Data Dashboard

The data dashboard is expected to allow the user to navigate through the different datasets and provided visualisations of critical aspects of the data. In this section, we offer a detailed description of the different pages of the dashboard.

4.1.1 Homepage

In the Dashboard's homepage, as shown in Figure 7, the user can navigate through the different datasets of the platform and select among the offered visualisations. The datasets provided by the platform are listed in the menu on the left side of the dashboard. In the centre part of the page, selected data are presented along with links to the main data categories, i.e., data concerning gender gap, academia, and general country indices. Moreover, by using the links in the upper right corner of the homepage, the user can move to the project's webpage or to the forum.

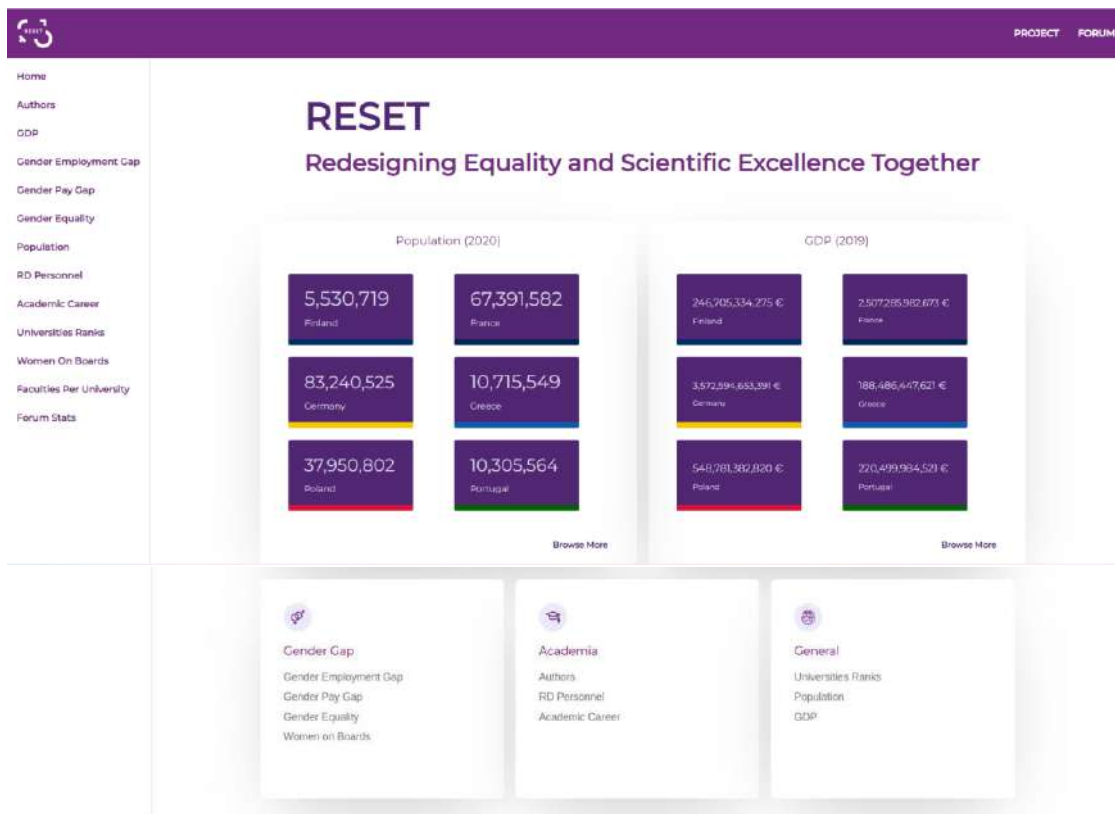


Figure 7: Dashboard Homepage

4.1.2 Step Progress Bar

One of the components of the data dashboard is the step progress bar which represents the GEP implementation process in all GEP implementing partner institutions, i.e., UBx, AUTh, LU, and UPorto. Particularly, the procedure is described through six distinct GEAR steps, as described below:

GEAR tool Step 1: "Getting started"

RESET: Mapping the context of the Universities, identification of key actors and establishment of Gender Equality Boards.

GEAR tool Step 2: "Analysing and assessing the status quo in your organisation"

RESET: Data collection and implementation of gender equality surveys and focus groups discussions

GEAR tool Step 3: “Setting up a GEP”

RESET: Gender Equality Plans developed for the first time in University of Bordeaux, Aristotle University of Thessaloniki, University of Porto and University of Lodz. All GEPs include measures addressing the following areas:

- work-life balance and organisational culture in all over the academia ecosystem levels;
- gender balance in leadership and decision-making by highlighting best practices and promoting role models of gender equality leadership;
- gender equality in recruitment and career progression;
- integration of the gender dimension into research and teaching content;
- measures against gender-based violence including sexual harassment.

GEAR tool Step 4: “Implementing a GEP”

RESET: From June 2021 to October 2024 the University of Bordeaux, the Aristotle University of Thessaloniki, the University of Porto and the University of Lodz will implement the actions and measures of the GEPs developed under step 3.

GEAR tool Step 5: “Monitoring progress and evaluating a GEP”

RESET: Monitoring the progress of the GEPs will be carried out on the basis of specific and measurable indicators, in order to evaluate their effectiveness and adapt the objectives and measures accordingly. These indicators have been specified and are included in the implementation plan of the GEPs.

GEAR tool Step 6: “What comes after the GEP?”

RESET: All 4 RESET GEPs will be updated in October 2024 based on the results of their progress monitoring and evaluation (Step 5)

By selecting the “Step Progress Bar”, the user can get informed on the current active step and also has the option to click on the past steps and get additional information or a link to an external file. In the example of Figure 8, GEAR tool Step 1 is the active highlighted step.

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- GEAR tool Step 1 "Getting started"**
RESET: Mapping the context of the Universities, identification of key actors and establishment of Gender Equality Boards.
- GEAR tool Step 2 "Analysing and assessing the status quo in your organisation"
- GEAR tool Step 3 "Setting up a GEP"
- GEAR tool Step 4 "Implementing a GEP"
- GEAR tool Step 5 "Monitoring progress and evaluating a GEP"
- GEAR tool Step 6 "What comes after the GEP?"

Figure 8: Step Progress Bar

4.1.3 Institutional Data Visualisation & Filtering

The selection of "Faculties per University" on the left side menu of the dashboard allows the user to have an overview of HR gender related data of each GEP implementing institution and compare institutional data among universities.

As shown in Figure 9, on the default tab – Faculties per University – the user can discover the percentages of male/female staff, teachers, and researchers per institution, i.e., Aristotle University of Thessaloniki, University of Bordeaux, University of Porto, and University of Lodz, and per faculty (training unit). The user can select the institution through a dropdown menu, while the default choice is the "Aristotle University of Thessaloniki".

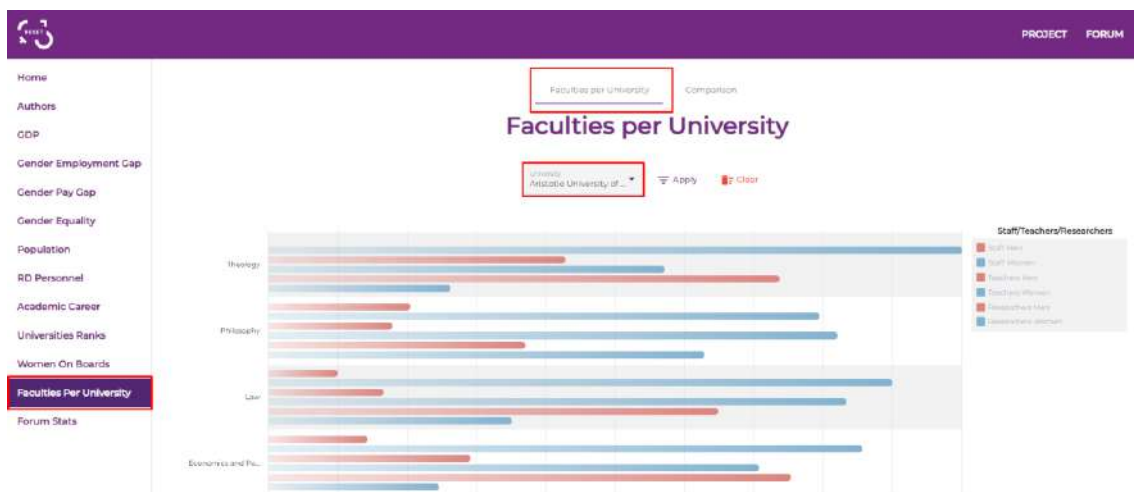


Figure 9: Institutional Data

The selection of the tab Comparison, as shown in Figure 10, offers an opportunity to compare the percentages of male/female teaching and research staff of the four institutions per scientific field. The user can use the dropdown menu to select either the comparison at institution level or among 10 scientific fields, namely Education, Arts and

Humanities, Social Sciences, Journalism and Information, Business, Administration and Law, Natural Sciences, Mathematics and Statistics, Information and Communication Technologies, Engineering, Manufacturing and Construction, Agriculture, Forestry, Fisheries and Veterinary, Health and Welfare, and Services. The default choice here is the “institutional level”.

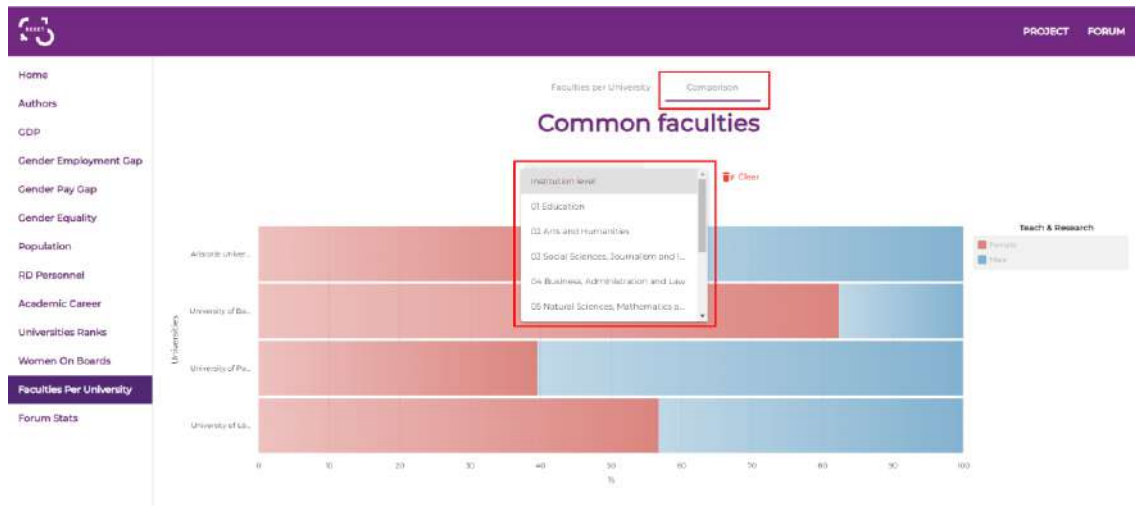


Figure 10: Institutional Data - Comparison

4.1.4 Country Data Visualisation & Filtering

The choice of a country related index on the left sided menu of the dashboard, leads the user to the visualisation of the corresponding dataset. For example, the option of “Gender Employment Gap” opens the page depicted in Figure 11, where the user can select the desired countries in the first dropdown menu and the years in the second one. The selected countries also appear in the legend on the right.



Figure 11: Country Data - Gender Employment Gap

Furthermore, the user can interact with the page, as by hovering over the diagram, they can see the value of the index for every selected country, or by hovering over the legend area, the selected country is highlighted in the diagram, as shown in Figures 12 and 13 below.



Figure 12: Country Data - Gender Employment Gap – Interaction (1)



Figure 13: Country Data - Gender Employment Gap – Interaction (2)

4.1.5 Dynamic Data Visualisation

As stated in section 3.3, the dynamic data pertain to the RESET forum activities and are categorized into: Generic Statistics, Word Cloud and Sentiment Analysis. Due to current lack of the real RESET forum activities data, the current state is shown as a “skeleton” until the forum begins to have the active involvement and participation from all members.

Generic Statistics

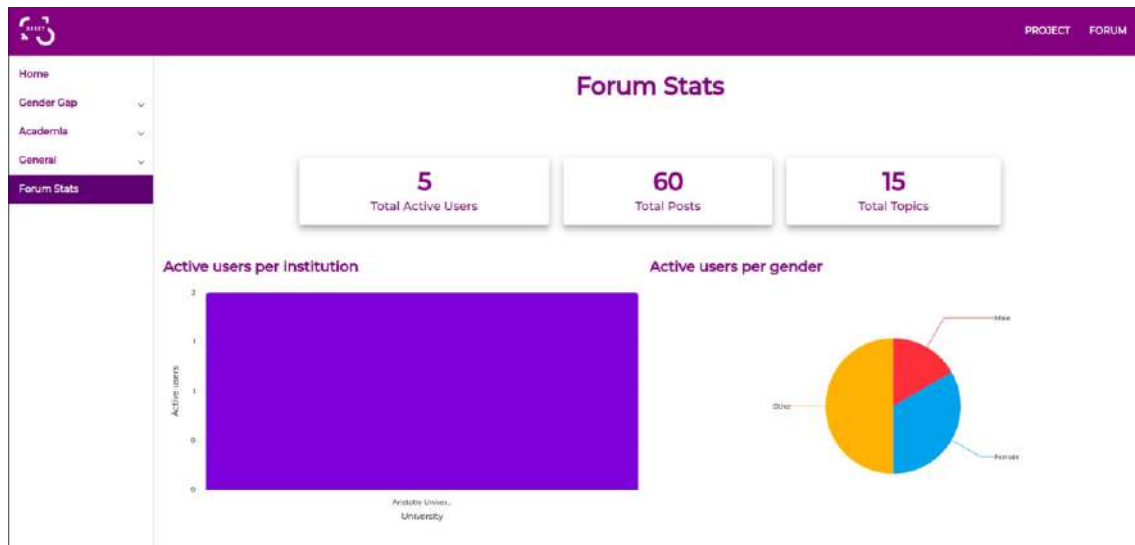


Figure 14: Dashboard dynamic data visualization - Generic Statistics

In Figure 14, the current state of Generic Statistics is presented. The number of total active users, posts and topics can be easily seen in one glance. The active users are also split per gender with the form of pie chart and per institution with a form of a bar chart. Lastly, 100 of the most replied posts are shown with a form of a table which supports filtering, sorting, and pagination. The columns are: the ID of the topic, the title, the replies count and the link to directly open the topic in the forum.

Word Cloud

For correct and accurate representation of a word cloud, actual forum data are needed. However, an example of a word cloud built with the technologies used for the word cloud of RESET forum is represented in Figure 15 below.



Figure 15: Dashboard dynamic data visualization - Word Cloud

Sentiment Analysis

For correct and accurate representation of sentiment analysis, real forum data are needed. However, two examples can be found, one for the overall sentiment analysis of the forum and one made for each of the most replied posts. Green stands for Positive Sentiment, yellow for Neutral Sentiment and red for Negative Sentiment, as depicted in Figure 16.

For the sentiment analysis of the most replied posts, the columns “Sentiment Score” and “Sentiment” reflect the respective results. Sentiment score has 3 values per topic, e.g., in topic with ID 13 in Figure 16, “77% Positive, 5% Neutral, 18% Negative”, where the 3 percentages sum up to 100%. Depending on these percentages and the compound score calculation, the topic is characterized as positive, negative or neutral. The characterization is shown as a value for the Sentiment column, as the example presented below - in Figure 16.

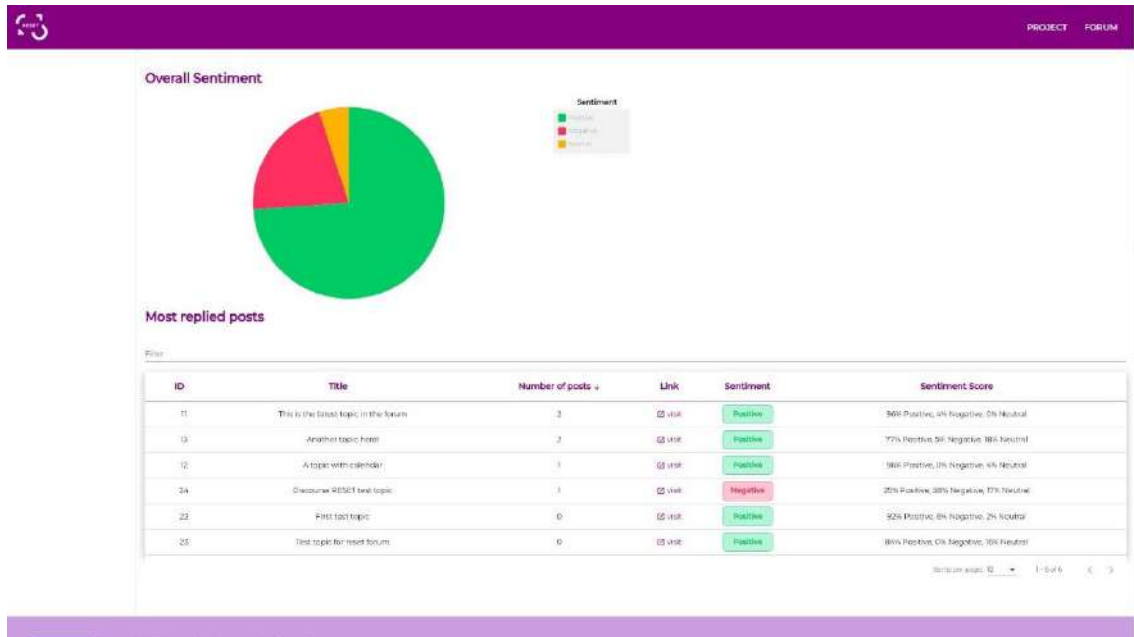


Figure 16: Dashboard dynamic data visualization – Overall Sentiment Analysis and Sentiment Analysis in the most replied posts

4.2 Forum

As stated before, the RESET forum is developed using Discourse, an open-source discussion forum. Only users with institutional accounts of the partner universities are allowed to register on the RESET forum. The forum is currently hosted on servers at AUTH’s premises. Figure 17 depicts the forum state when a user is visiting the forum without having registered or logged in.

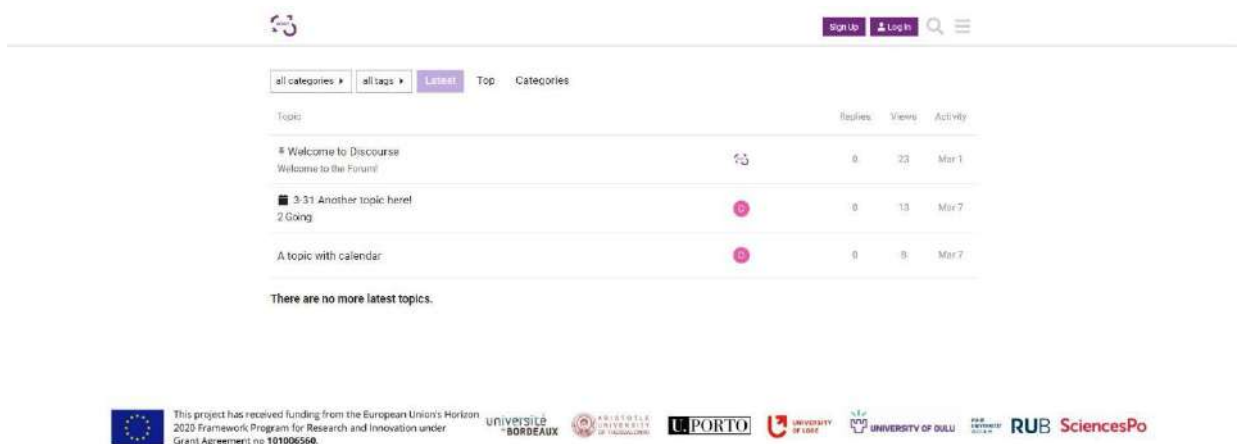


Figure 17: Forum homepage before login/registration

By default, the latest topics are selected to be shown. On the top left corner RESET logo is placed, which onclick reloads <https://forum.wereset.eu/>, while 4 items are placed on the top right corner: a “sign-up” button, a “login” button, a “search” button, and a

“dropdown menu”. The functionalities of the 4 items are analysed in greater detail in the following sections.

4.2.1 Registration / Login Page

A user can create an account in the forum by clicking on the “Sign Up” button in the homepage, as shown in Figure 18 below.

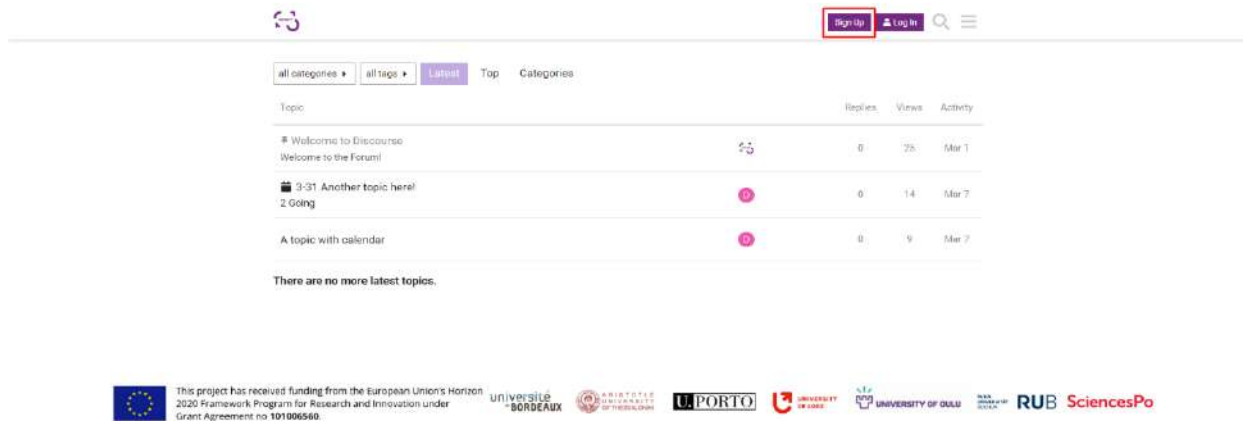


Figure 18: Forum registration button

After clicking on “Sign Up”, a popup including a form appears, as shown in Figure 19. The values that must be filled to complete the registration are the following:

- e-mail of the user (must be the institutional one) – required input
- username (must only include numbers, letters, dashes, dots, underscores and be unique) – required input
- name (user’s full name) – optional input
- password (must be at least 10 characters) – required input
- gender (selection between male/female/other) – required input
- institution (selection among partners universities) – required input

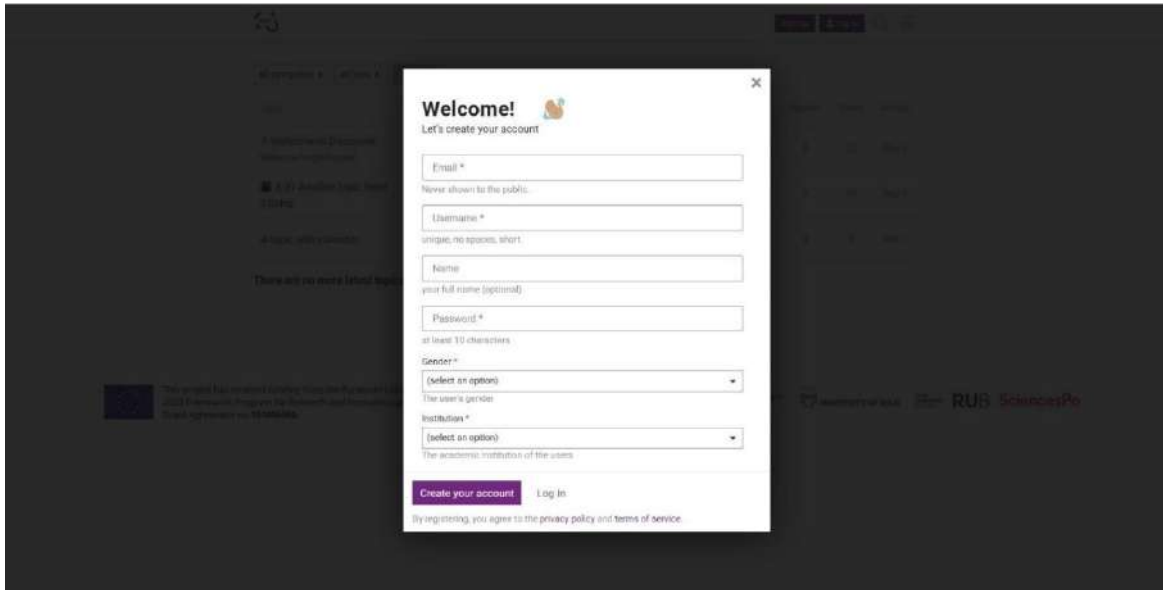


Figure 19: Forum registration page

After filling the form with the required fields, an email containing a confirmation link is sent to the provided institutional e-mail to activate the new account and complete the registration process (see Figure 20).

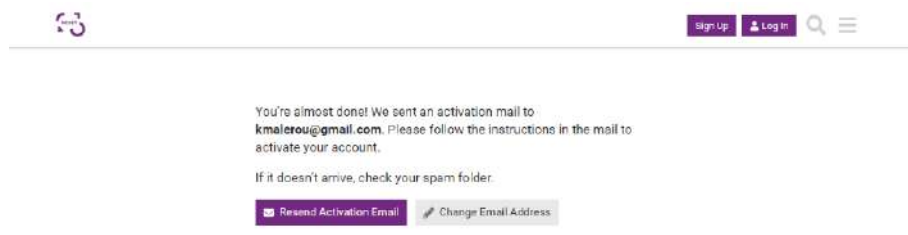


Figure 20: Forum new account activation

If the registration process is fulfilled, then a user is able to login at any time through the login button of the homepage, as shown in Figure 21.

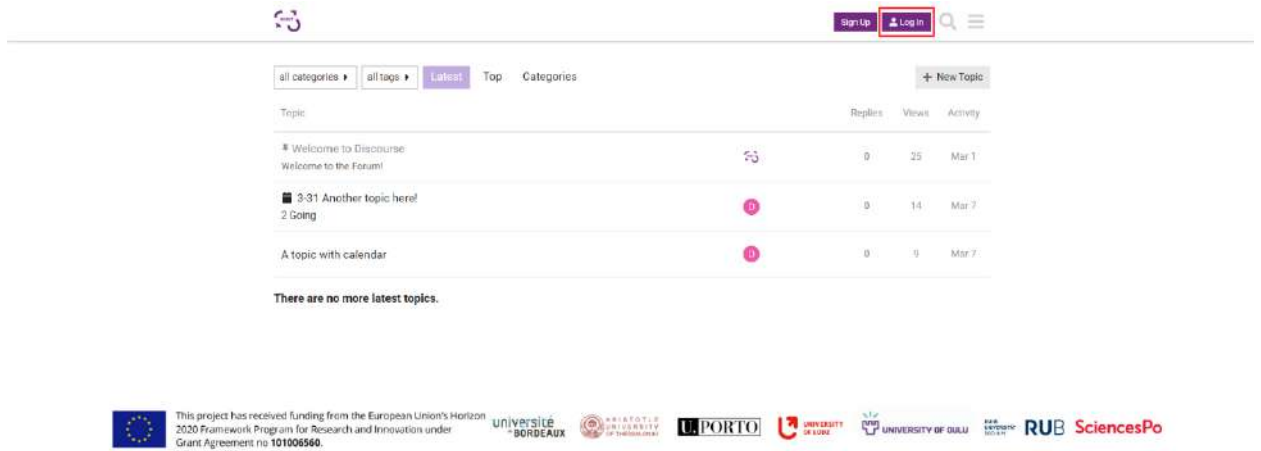


Figure 21: Forum login button

After clicking on “Log In”, a popup including a form appears, as shown in Figure 22. The values that must be filled are the following:

- e-mail or username of the user
- password of the user

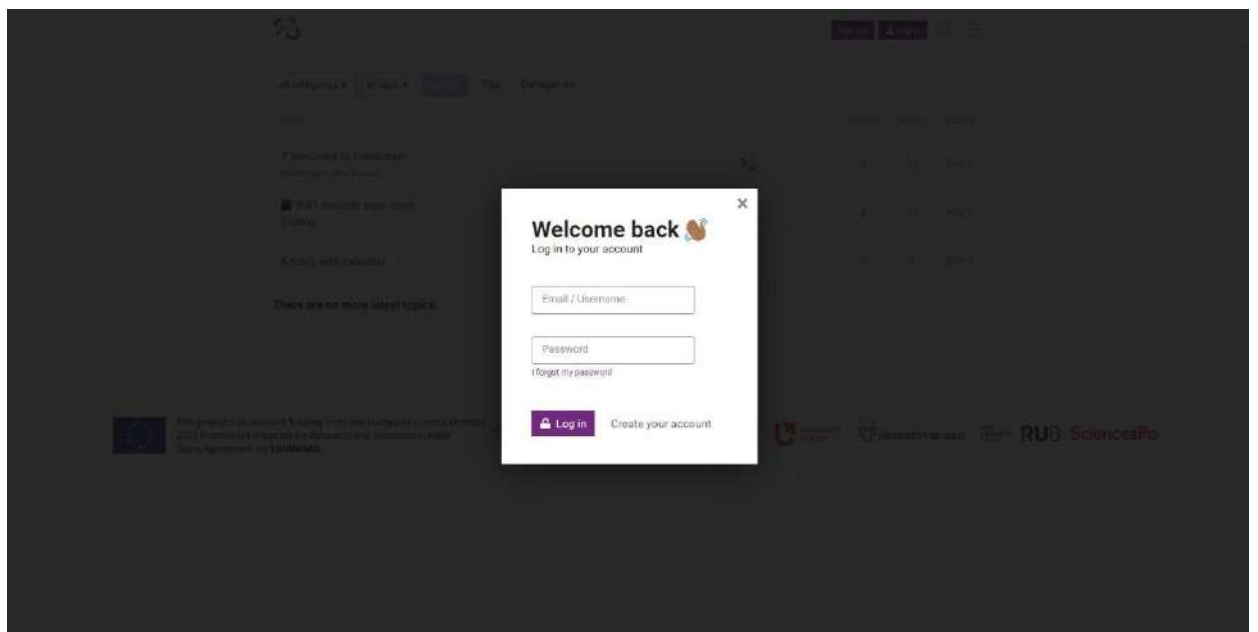


Figure 22: Forum login page

If the credentials are correct, the user will be navigated to the RESET forum [homepage](#).

In case the user has forgotten the password, a “I forgot my password” link appears, which leads to the page depicted in Figure 23.

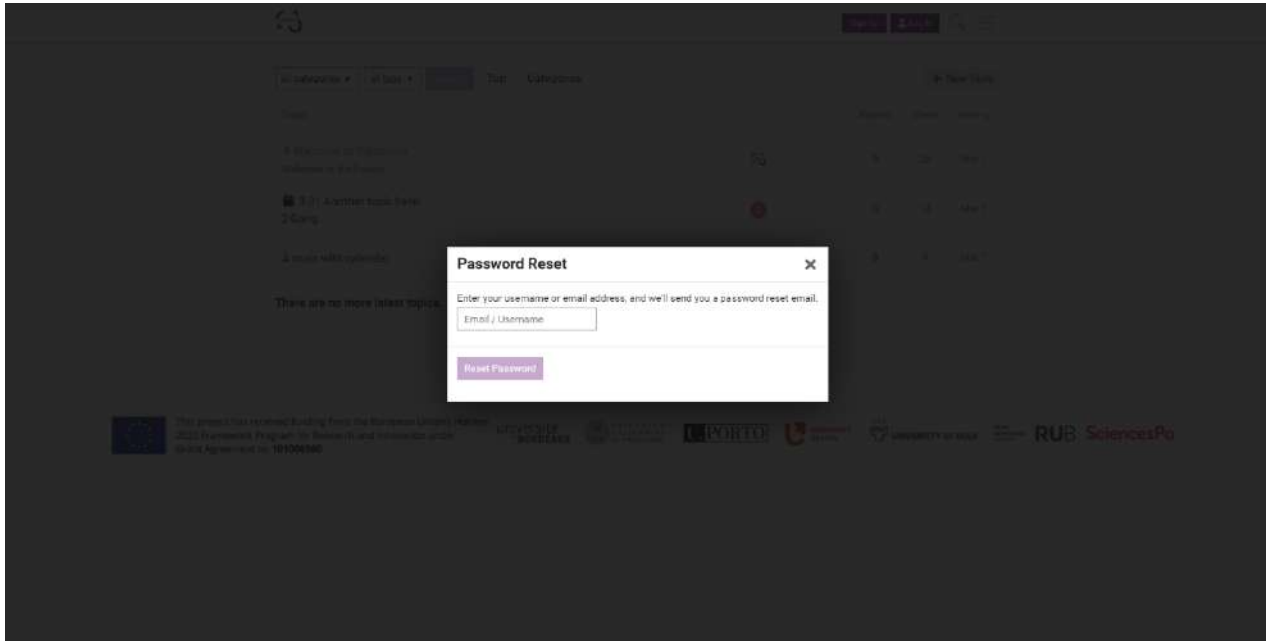


Figure 23: Forum reset password page

The user types the corresponding email/username and after clicking on the Reset Password button, an email containing a link which navigates to a reset password page is sent.

4.2.2 Homepage

Figure 24 below depicts the forum state after a successful login. The greater space is covered by a table representing topics along with their replies, views, and latest activity date. By default, the topics with the most recent posts are shown.

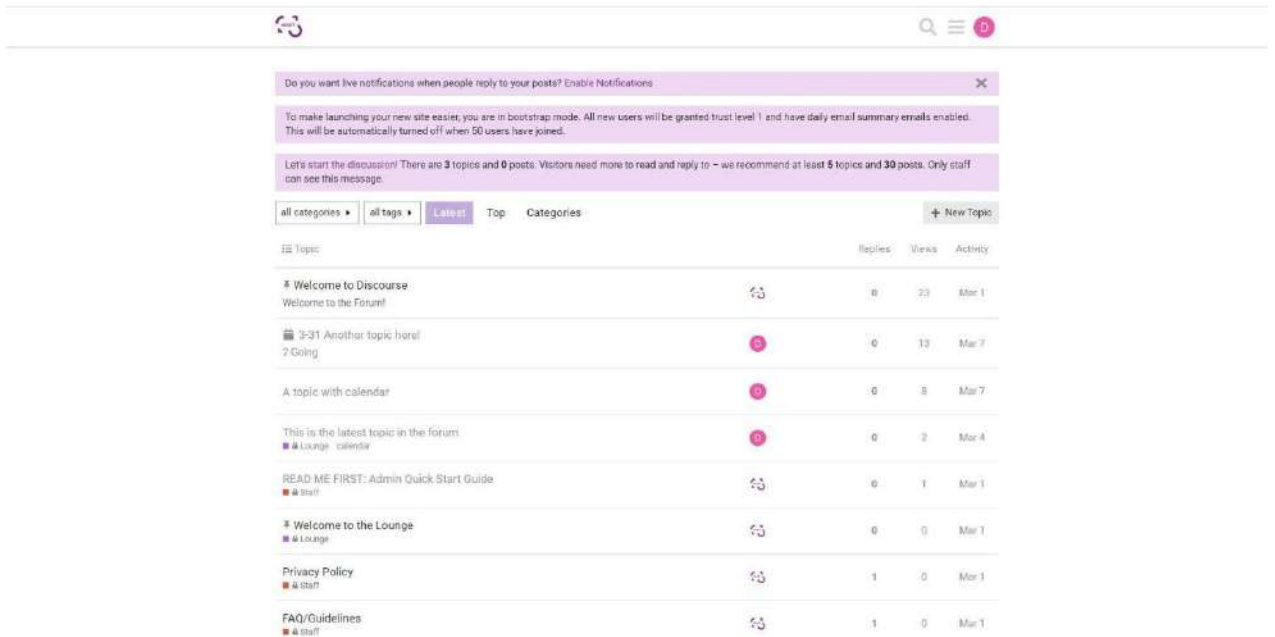


Figure 24: Forum homepage after logging in – latest topics

The user can also select the top topics, i.e., the most active topics in a chosen time range. The time range can be the current day, week, month, quarter, year or all time, as shown in Figure 25.

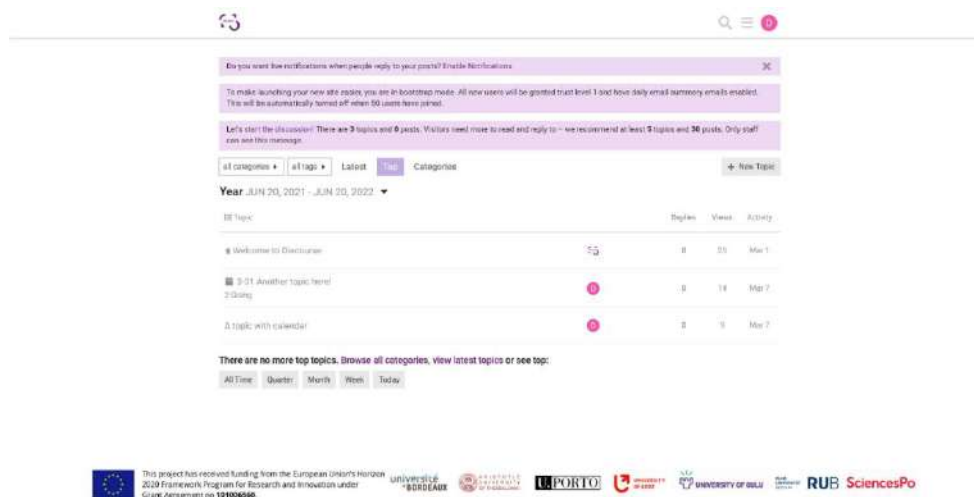


Figure 25: Forum homepage after logging in - top topics

Lastly, topics can be filtered by “Categories” as well. In this case, an additional pincers button appears, from which the user can manage the existing categories or create a new one, as presented in Figure 26.

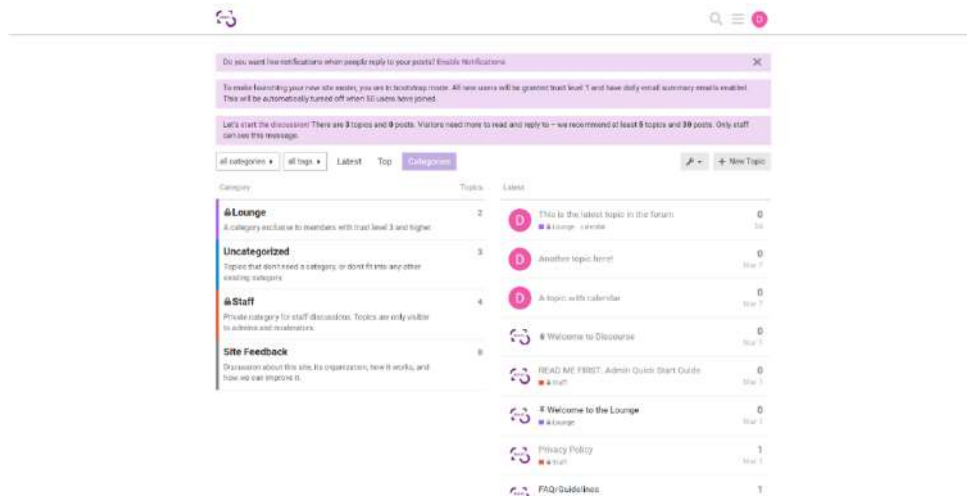


Figure 26: Forum homepage after logging in - topics by categories

Apart from browsing the topics, there are three buttons in the top right corner: a “Search” button, a “Menu” button and a button having the user’s initials as an icon.

The “Search” button triggers a text input. The user can type the preferred text and a global search is carried across all topics and posts.

If the user wants to accomplish a search with more criteria, the advanced search is the optimal way. It can be triggered through the button included in the generic search, presented in Figure 27, or by specific criteria, as shown in Figure 28. Next, Figure 29 depicts the forum’s advanced search page.

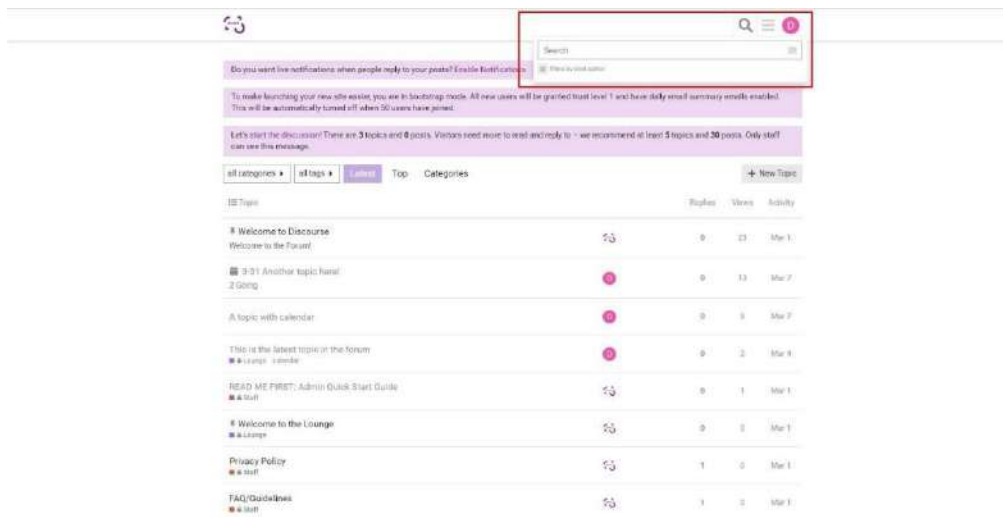


Figure 27: Forum generic search

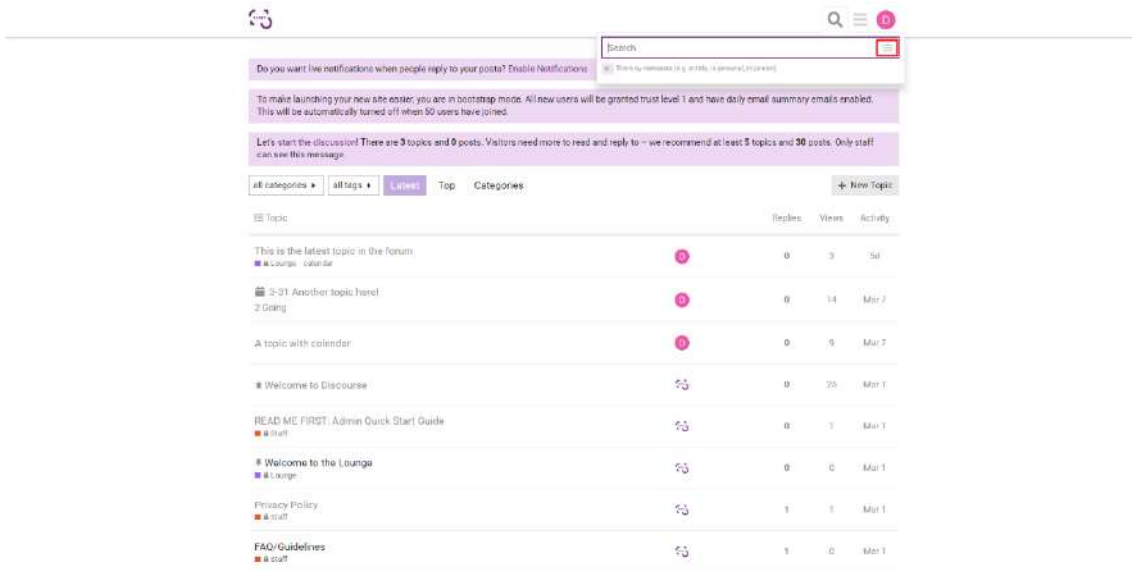


Figure 28: Forum advanced search button

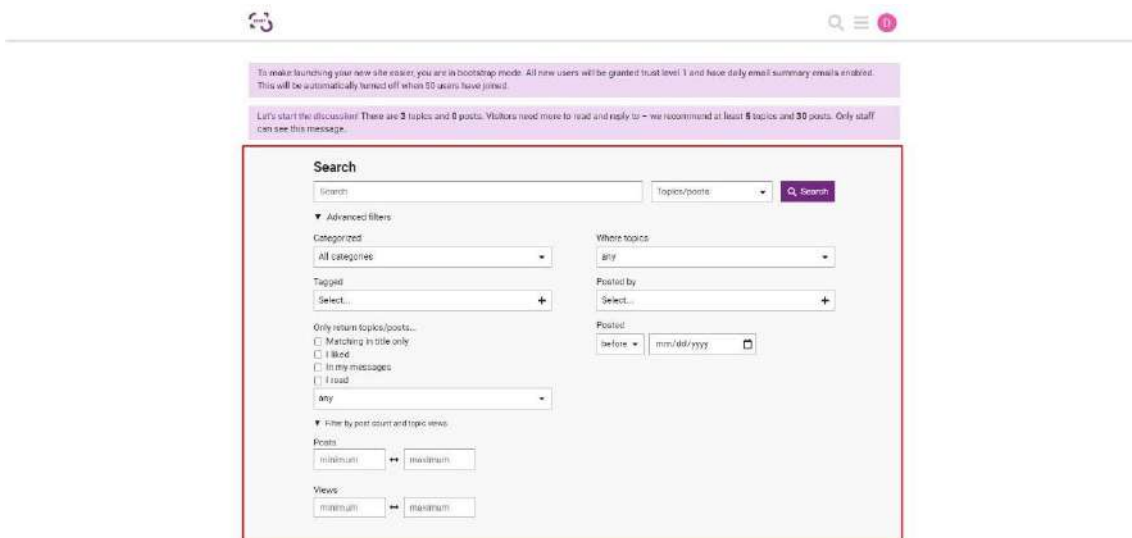


Figure 29: Forum advanced search

Next to the “Search” button, a “Menu” button with multiple options is placed, as shown in Figure 30. By using this menu, the user can, for example, be navigated in the FAQs or the account settings, use defined filters for topics, explore the personal calendar and general upcoming events among other options.

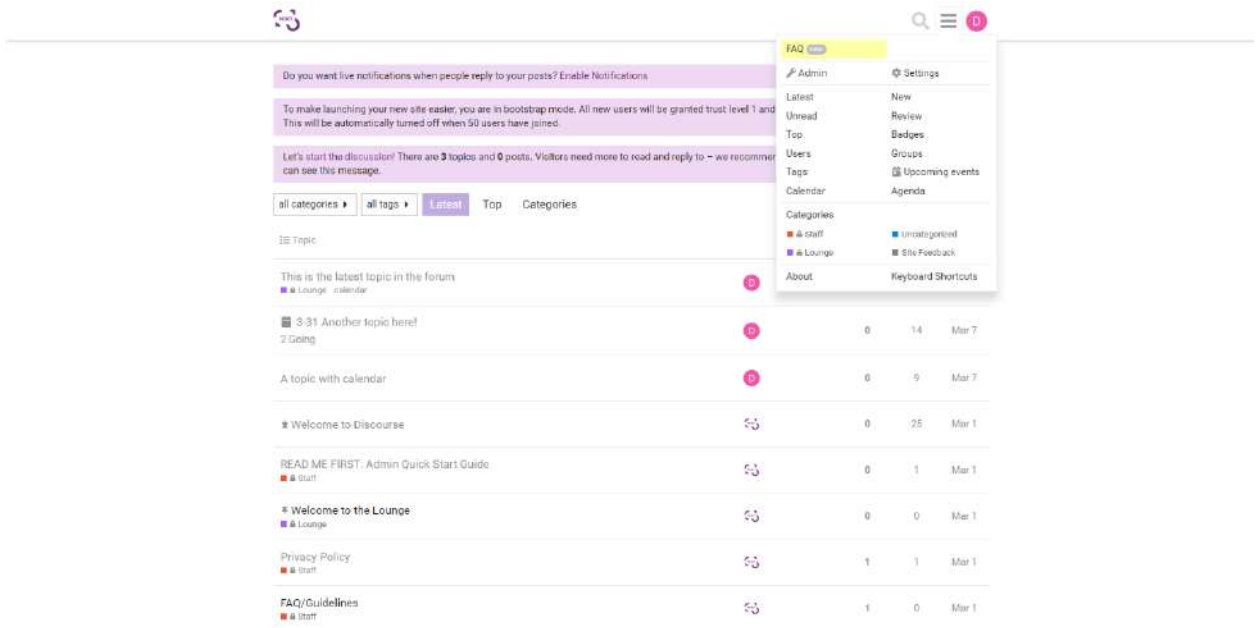


Figure 30: Forum dropdown menu

Lastly, as stated before, the third button has an icon with the user’s initials. On clicking on this button, a dropdown menu appears with 4 tabs available for selection, as described below.

The “Bell” icon tab stands for the user’s various notifications (see Figure 31).

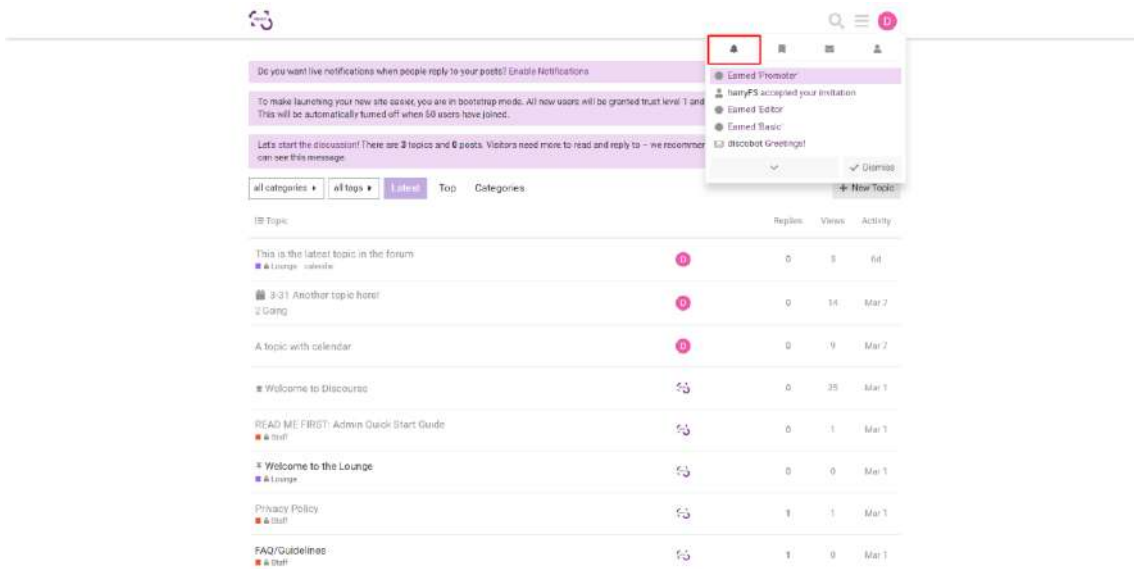


Figure 31: Forum user notifications

The “Bookmark” icon tab shows all the bookmarked posts (see Figure 32).

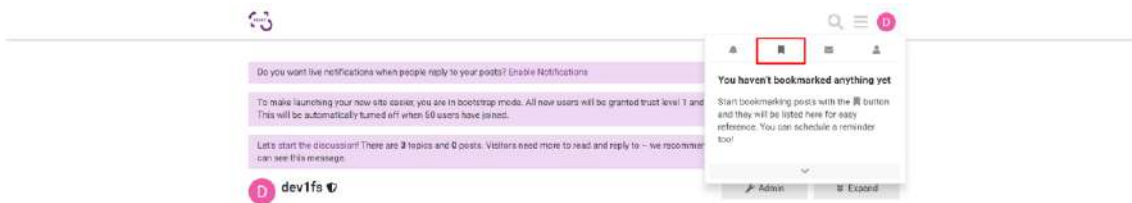


Figure 32: Forum user bookmarks

The “Envelope” icon tab shows the latest messages (see Figure 33).

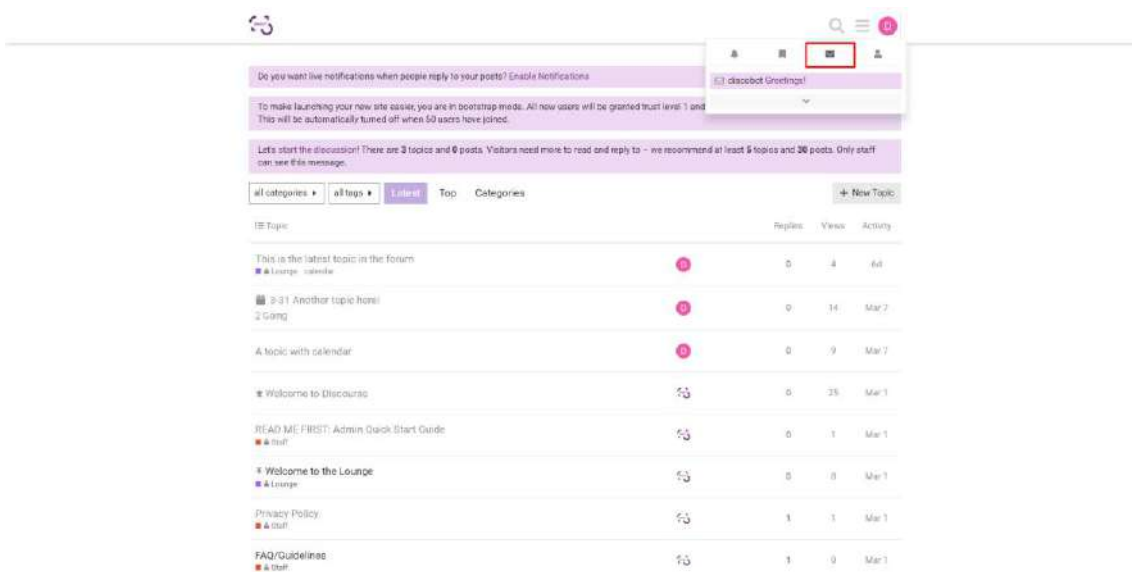


Figure 33: Forum user messages

Finally, the “Person” icon tab is a preferences menu, from which the user can also log out (see Figure 34).

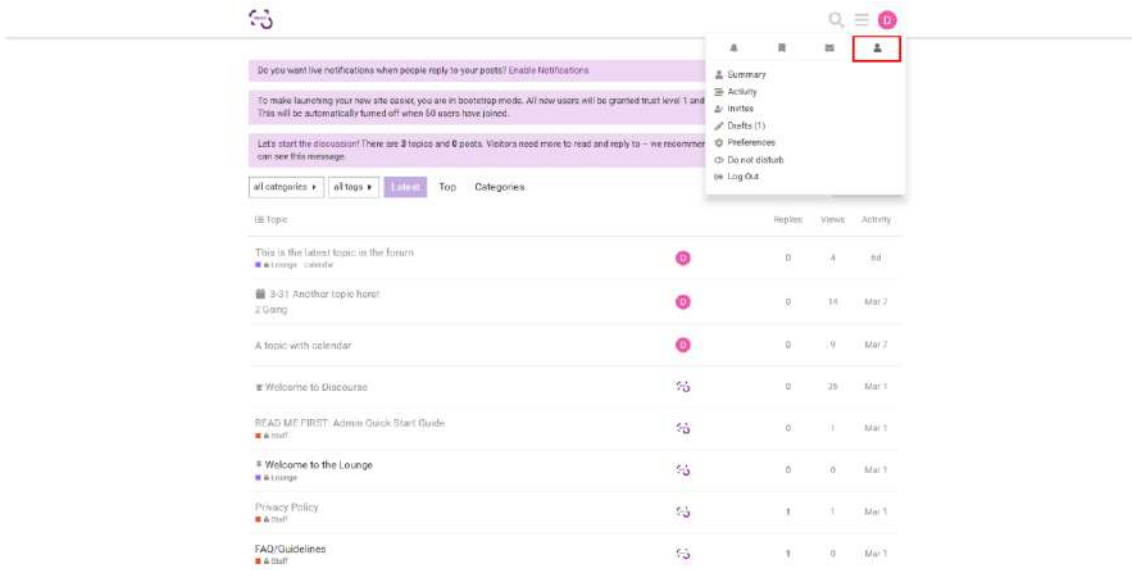


Figure 34: Forum user preferences

4.2.3 Topic Creation

One of the principal functionalities of the RESET forum is the topic creation. To serve this function, a specific button exists in the homepage, as shown in Figure 35.

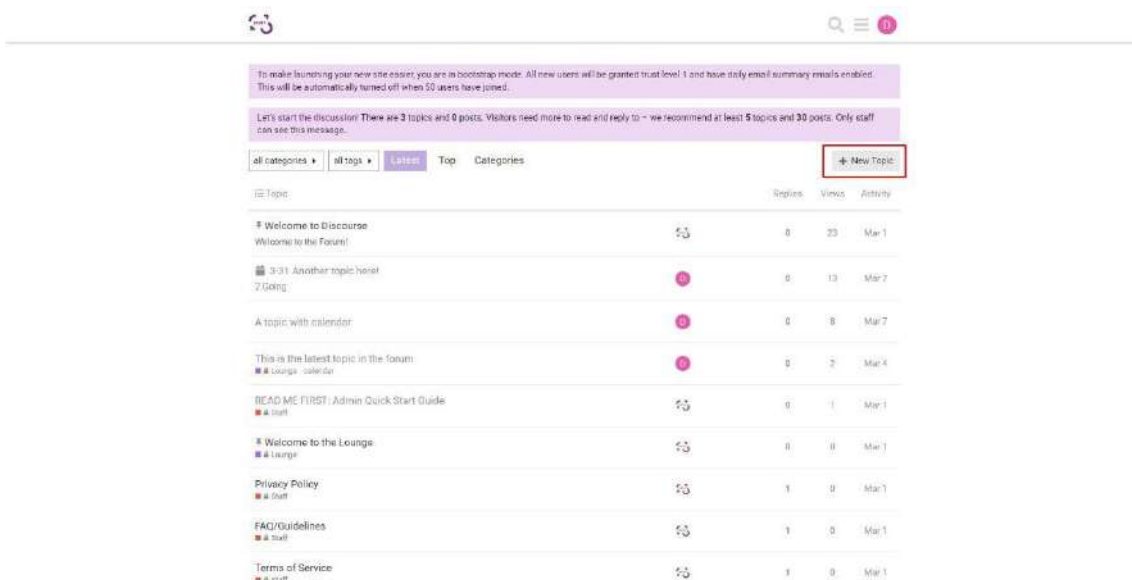


Figure 35: Forum topic creation button

After clicking the “New Topic” button, a popup appears (Figure 36) where the user can enter the title (at least 15 characters) and the content of the topic. There are many additional buttons available for the user in order to style the content and reach the desired result. Furthermore, the user can define the category of the topic and add optional tags as topic keywords.

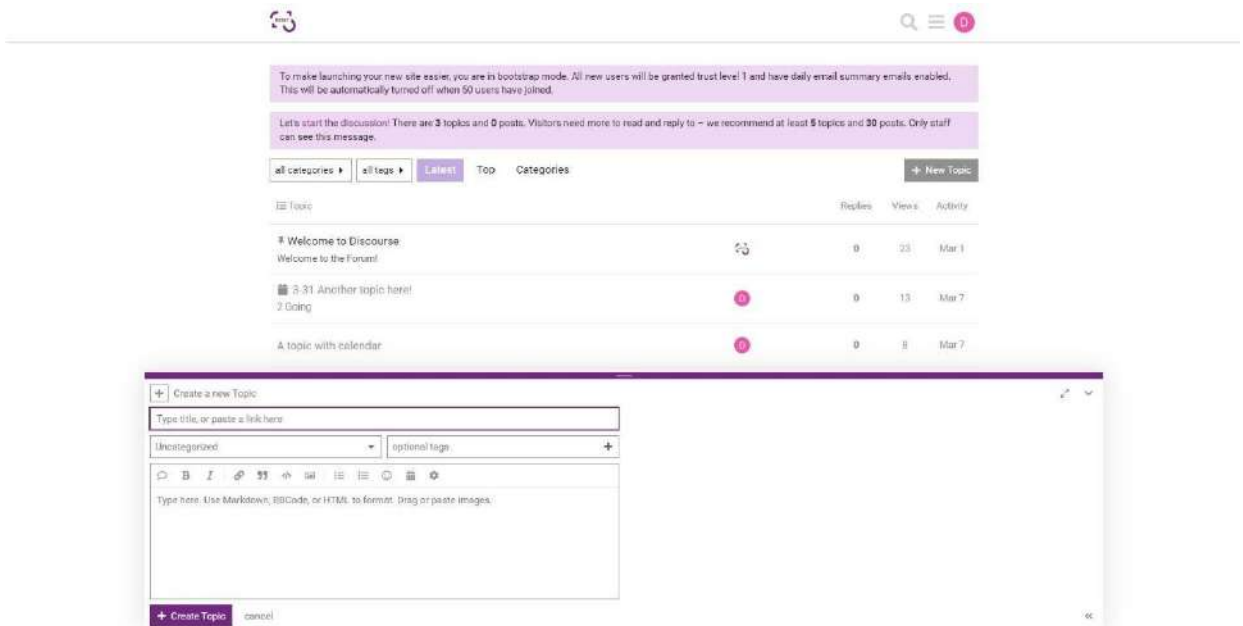


Figure 36: Forum new topic creation popup

The popup can enter a full screen mode or be minimized and maximized again, as shown in Figure 37.

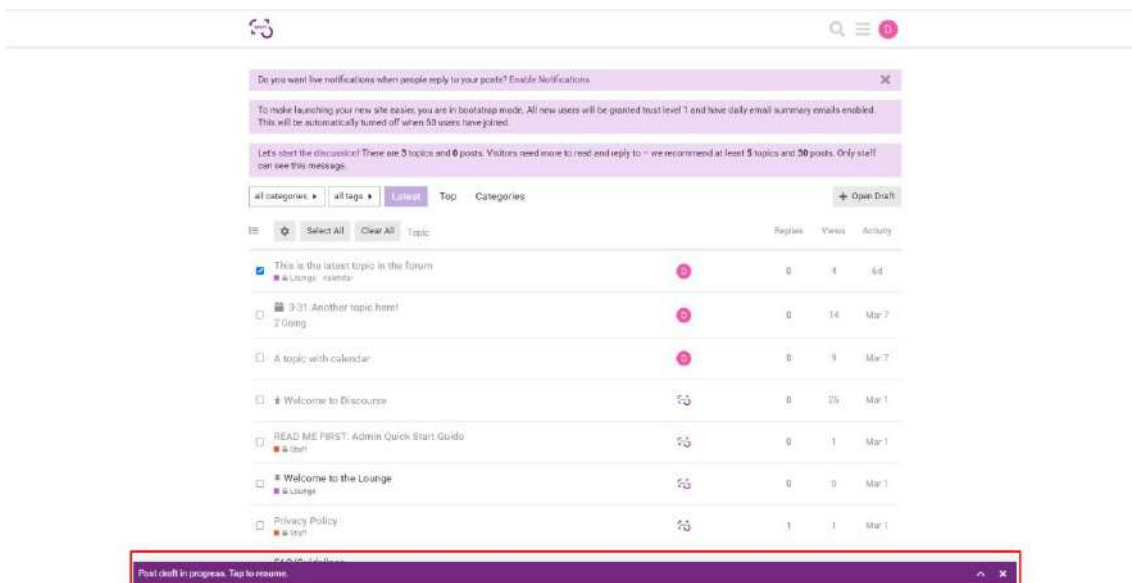


Figure 37: Forum minimized draft topic

The topic preview is displayed on the right area of the popup by default, as Figure 38 shows. However, it can be hidden through the “Hide” preview button placed on the bottom right corner of the popup, depending on the user’s wish. Finally, in order to save and post the topic to the RESET forum, the user must click the purple “Create Topic” button placed on the bottom left corner of the popup.

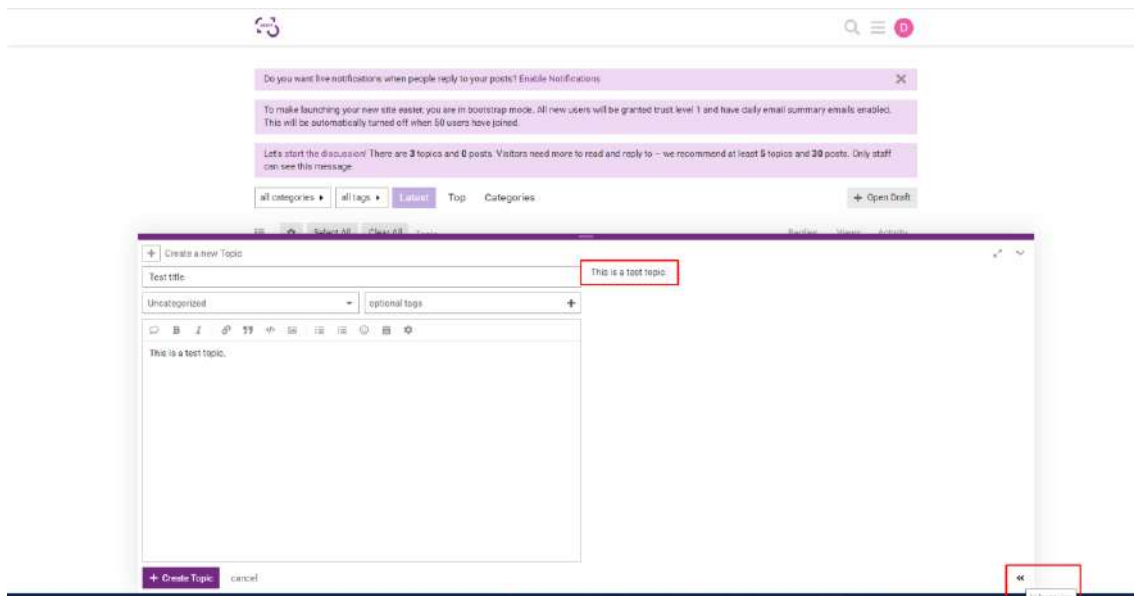


Figure 38: Forum topic preview

4.2.4 Comment Creation

To interact with a topic, post an opinion and contribute to a specific topic-related discussion, users can make comments. Users can comment on a topic of their interest by clicking the “Reply” button placed below the topic content, as shown in Figure 39. The comment must contain at least 20 characters.

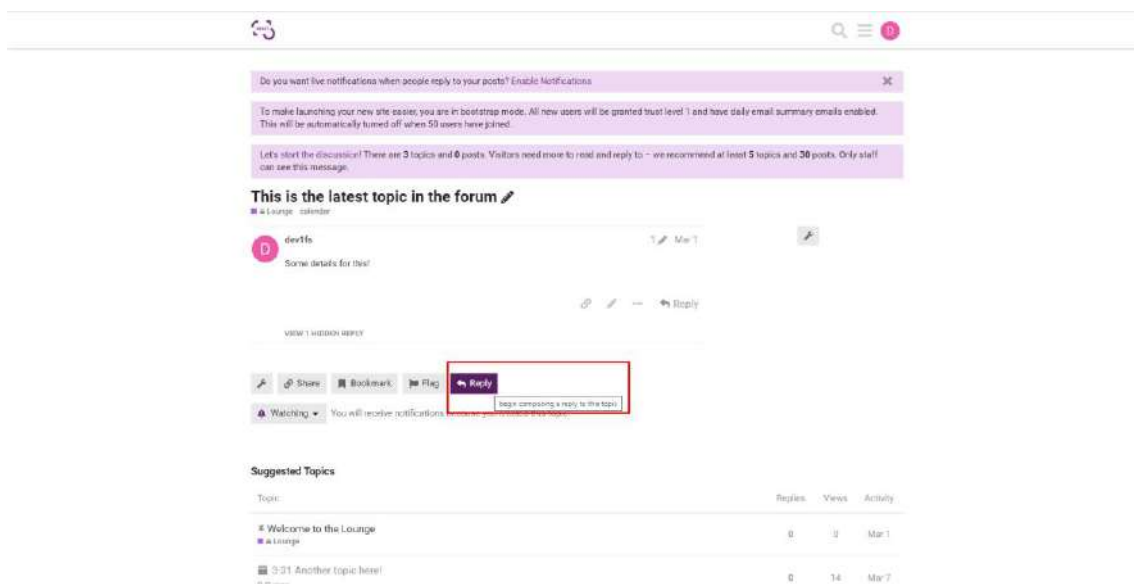


Figure 39: Forum comment creation button

After clicking, a popup containing a large text input appears (see Figure 40) including additional buttons to apply the proper styling. Finally, to save or post the comment to the

specific topic, the user must click the purple Reply button placed on the bottom left corner of the popup. The comment becomes instantly visible under the topic.

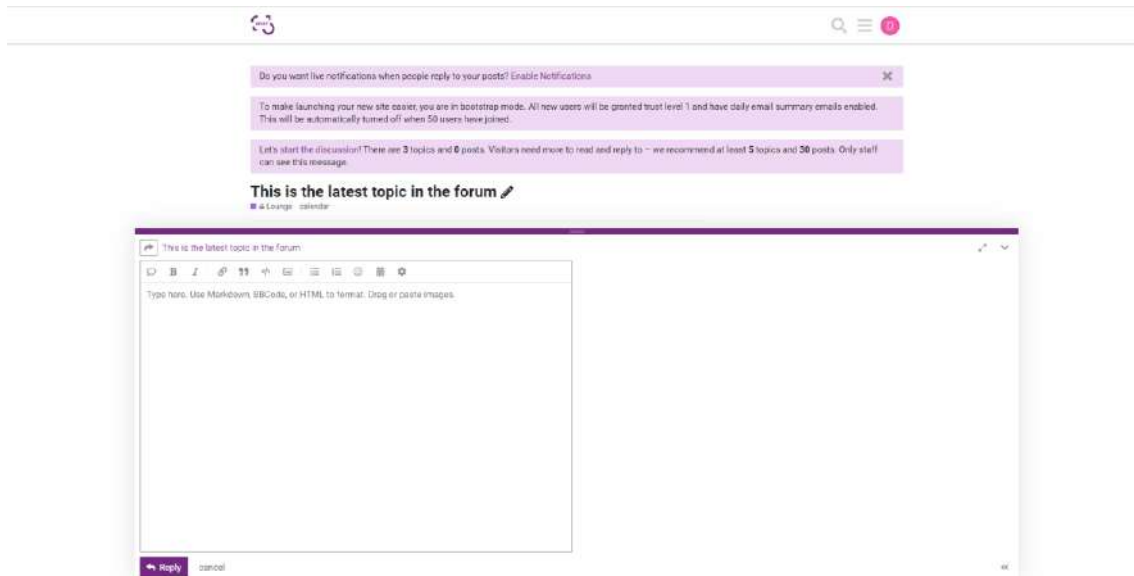


Figure 40: Forum new comment creation popup

4.2.5 Comment Upvoting & Reply

The RESET forum members can interact with each other by expressing their “likes” on other members’ comments or by replying to them. In particular, if the users agree with an opinion posted on a topic and want to support the comment, they can click on “Like” button. After clicking, the number of likes on the comment increases by one (see Figures 41 and 42).

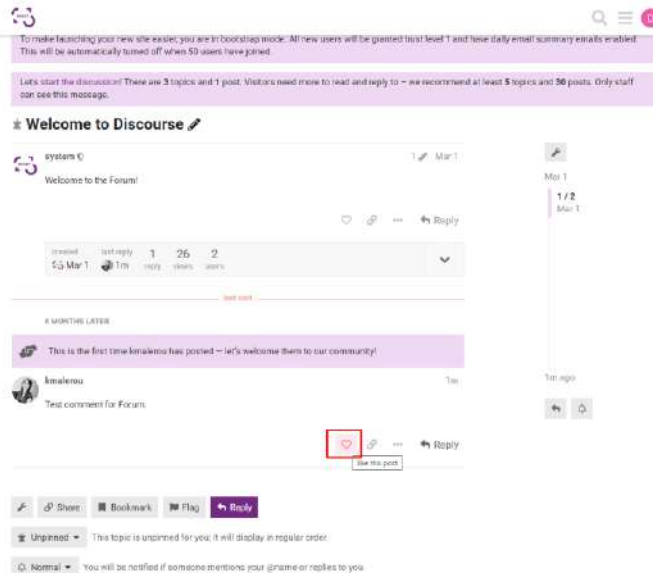


Figure 41: Forum comment upvoting button

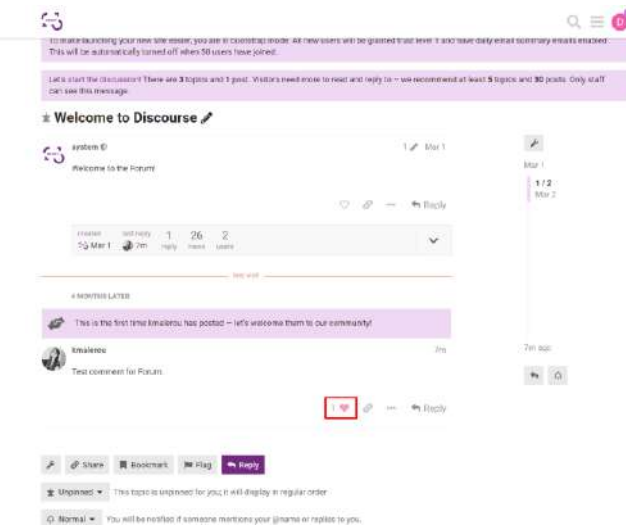


Figure 42: Forum comment upvoting result

Apart from upvoting, users can communicate their thoughts on a comment by posting a reply on the comment. In every comment posted on a topic, a “Reply” button is displayed on the right corner of the comment area, as depicted in Figure 43.

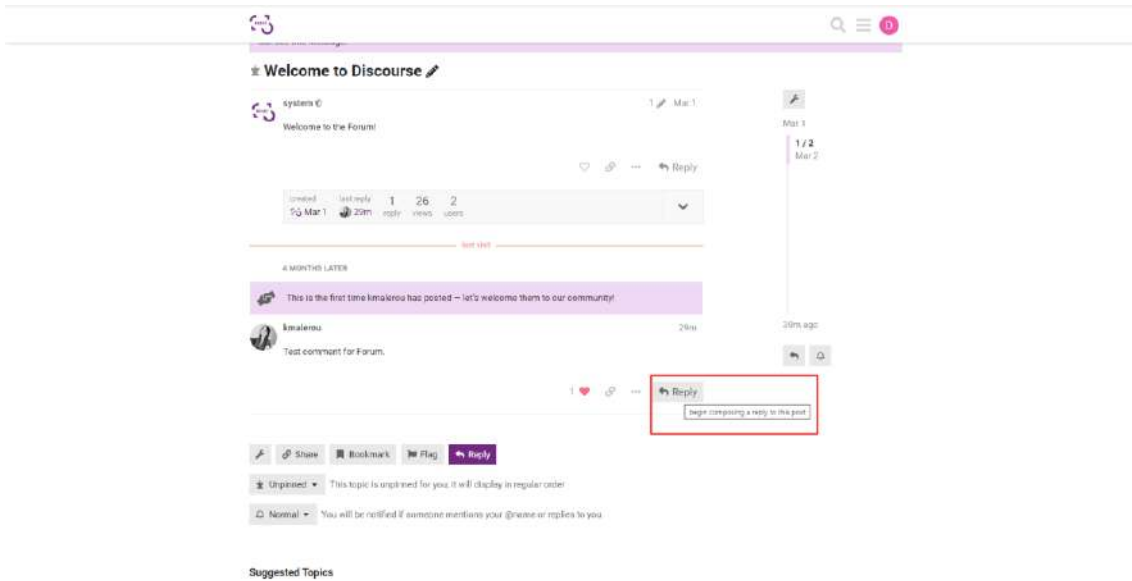


Figure 43: Forum comment reply button

After clicking, a popup containing a large text input appears (see Figure 44) including additional buttons to apply the proper styling, indicating also the creator of the comment, to whom users want to reply. Finally, to save and post the reply, the user must click the purple "Reply" button placed on the bottom left corner of the popup. The comment becomes instantly visible with the topic.

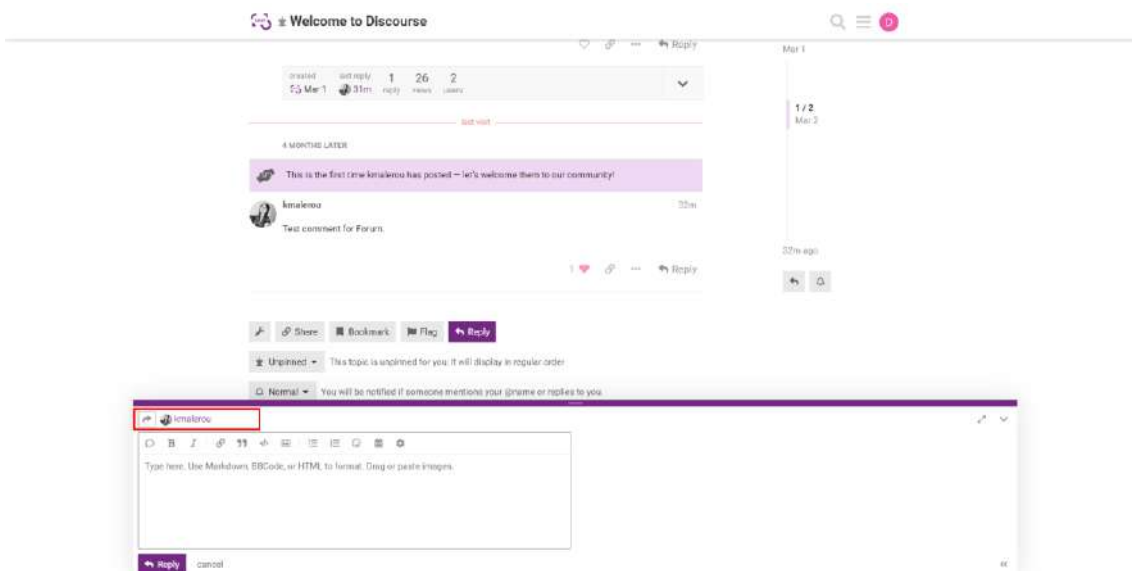


Figure 44: Forum reply to comment

4.2.6 Poll Creation

To extend RESET forum members communication, poll creation is an available feature as well. The easiest way to create a poll is to use the poll builder. The poll builder can be accessed from the “Gear” icon in the topic composer and allows users to make a poll without needing to know the exact syntax (see Figure 45).

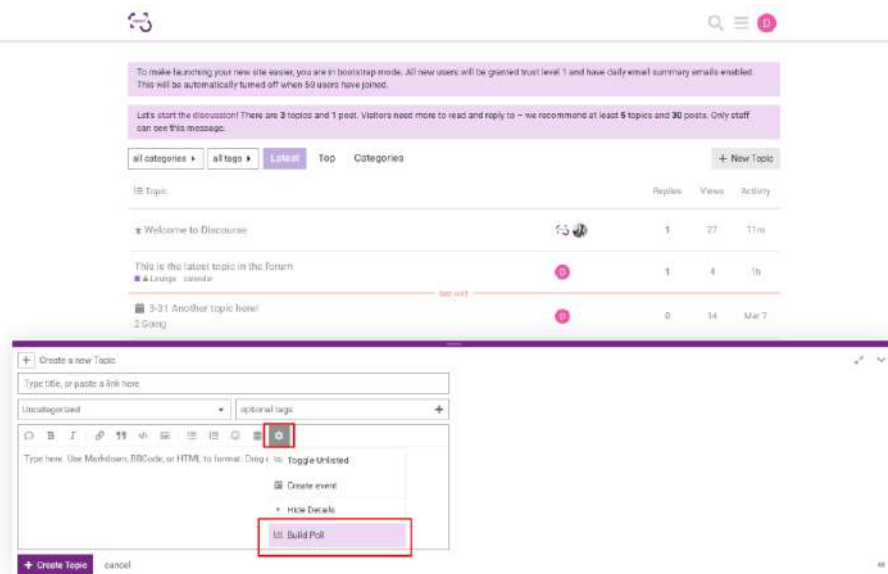


Figure 45: Forum poll creation button

After clicking, a “Build Poll” popup appears, as in Figure 46 below, allowing the user to create either a single choice or a multiple-choice poll. In the multiple-choice poll, the user can also define the min and max number of choices each voter can select.

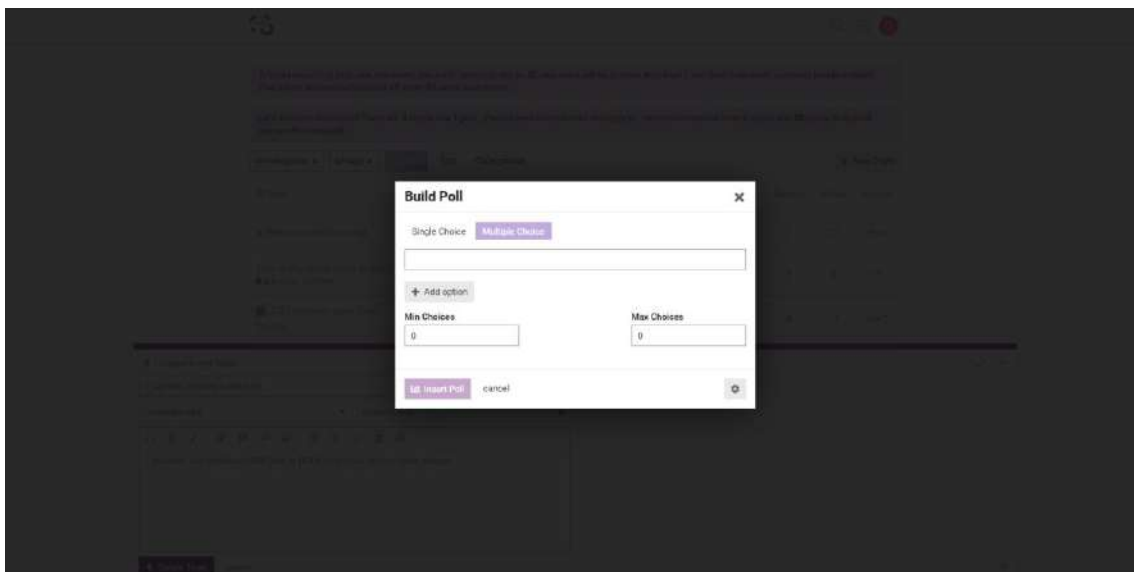


Figure 46: Forum build poll popup

If a user wishes to create a more complex poll, RESET forum also offers advanced options by clicking the gear button on the bottom left corner of the build poll popup, as depicted in Figure 47. Examples of advanced options are limitation of voters to particular groups, date and time of poll closing and format of the results chart. Moreover, through the advanced options users can also create a number rating poll. In order to save and insert the poll into a topic, the user must click the purple “Insert Poll” button placed on the bottom left corner of the popup.

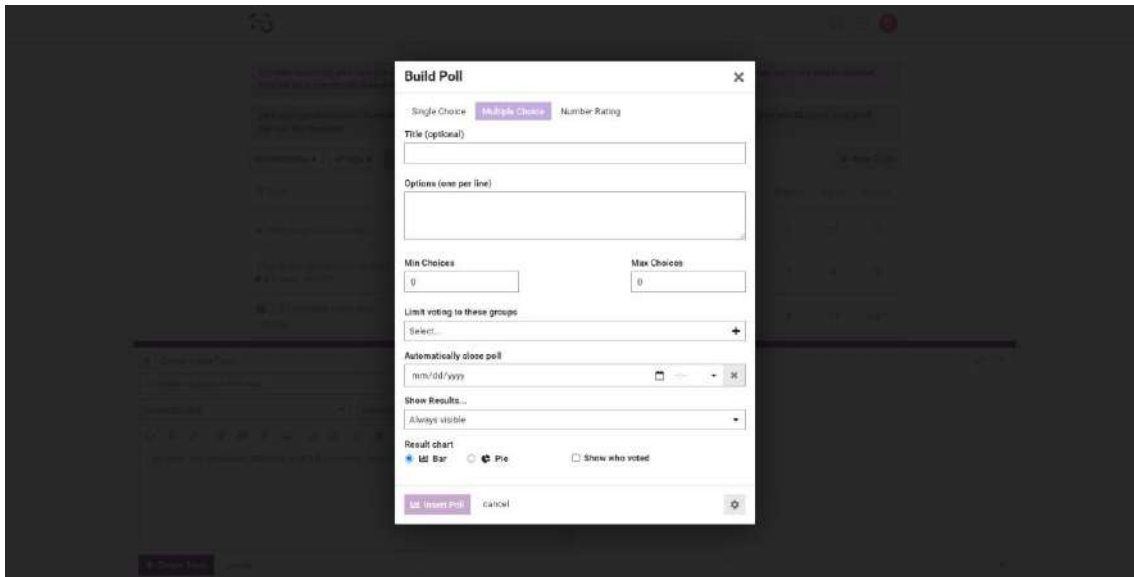


Figure 47: Forum build poll popup with advanced options

4.2.7 Event Creation & Interaction

To enhance communication among forum members and highlight important dates, the option of events is supported by the RESET forum. An event creation can be accomplished through a topic creation/edit. In particular, by clicking the “Gear” icon, the user can find a specific option for the event creation, as show in in Figure 48 below. After clicking, a “Create Event” popup appears, as in Figure 49, allowing the user to fill in all the necessary details regarding the new event. Finally, to save and link the event to the topic, the user must click the purple “Create” button placed on the bottom left corner of the popup.

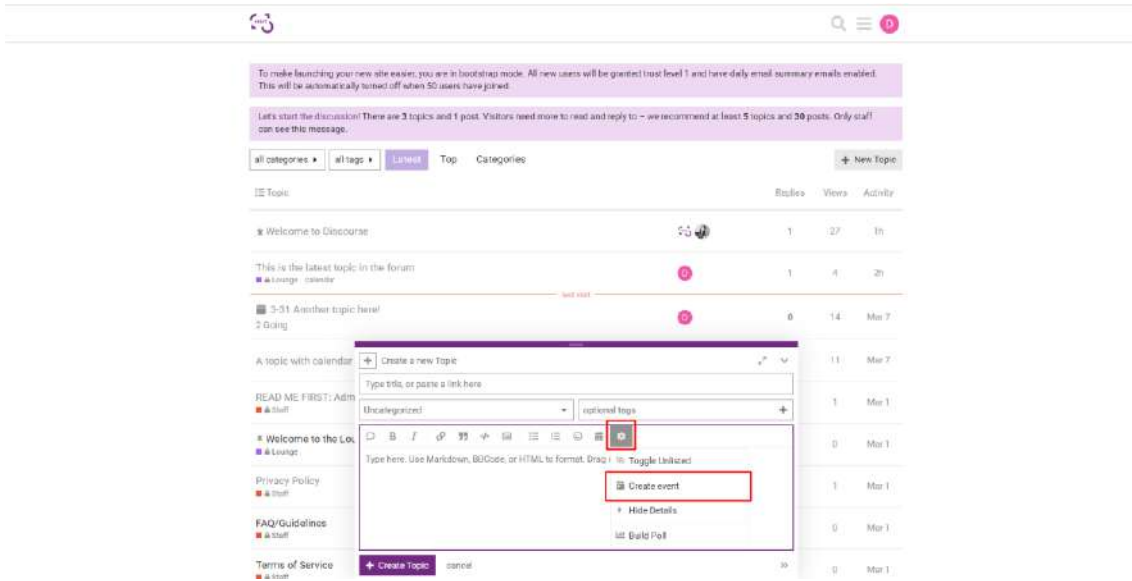


Figure 48: Forum event creation button

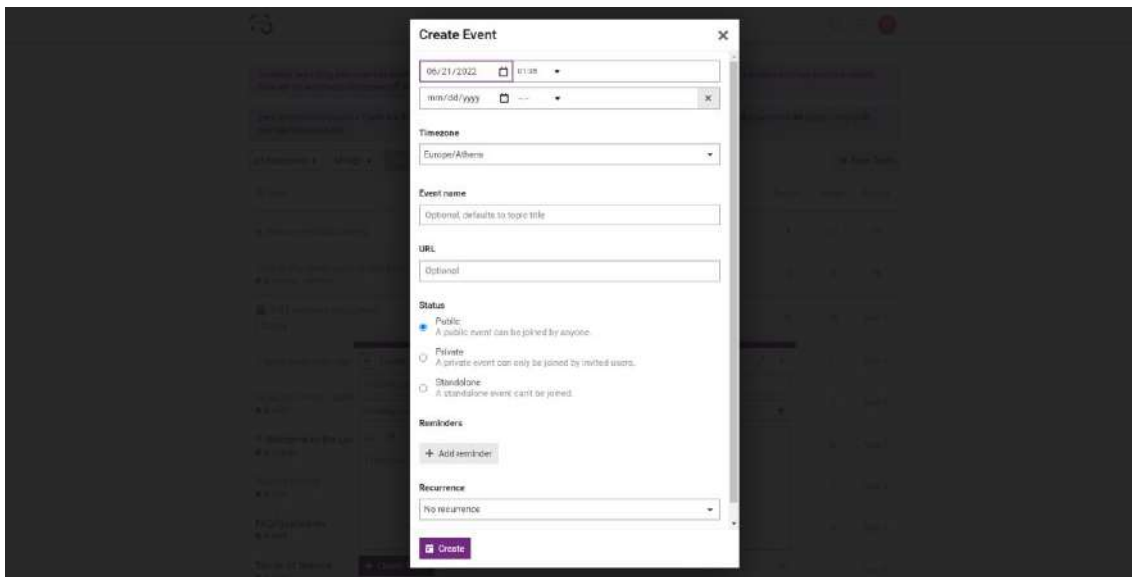


Figure 49: Forum event creation popup

The user can check the upcoming events through the menu button of toolbar by clicking at the corresponding option (see Figure 50), while calendar option contains past events as well. Figure 51 below presents an example of a past event in the calendar.

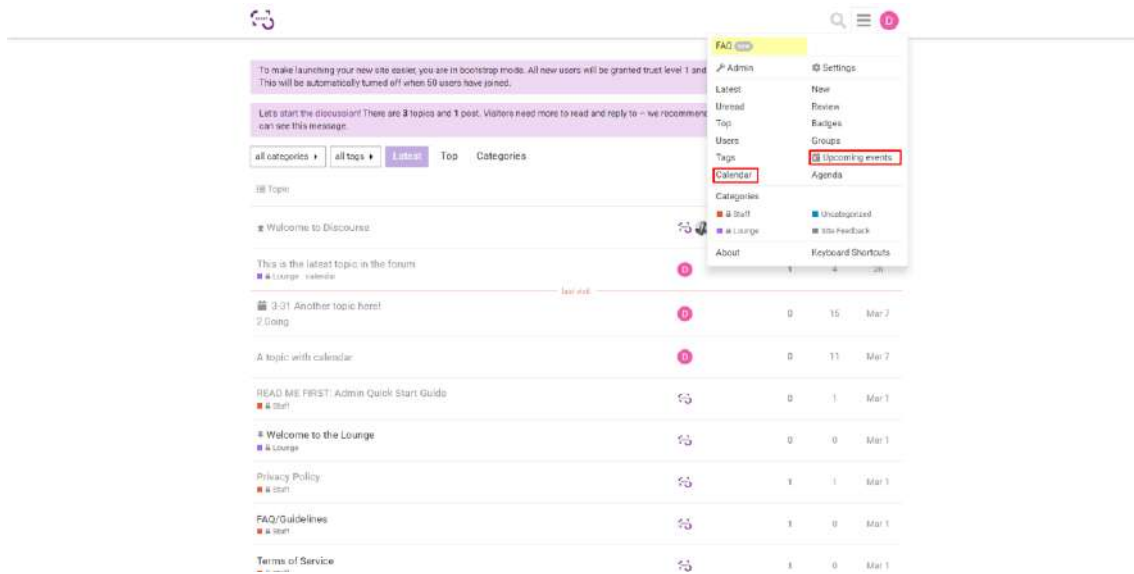


Figure 50: Forum browse events popup

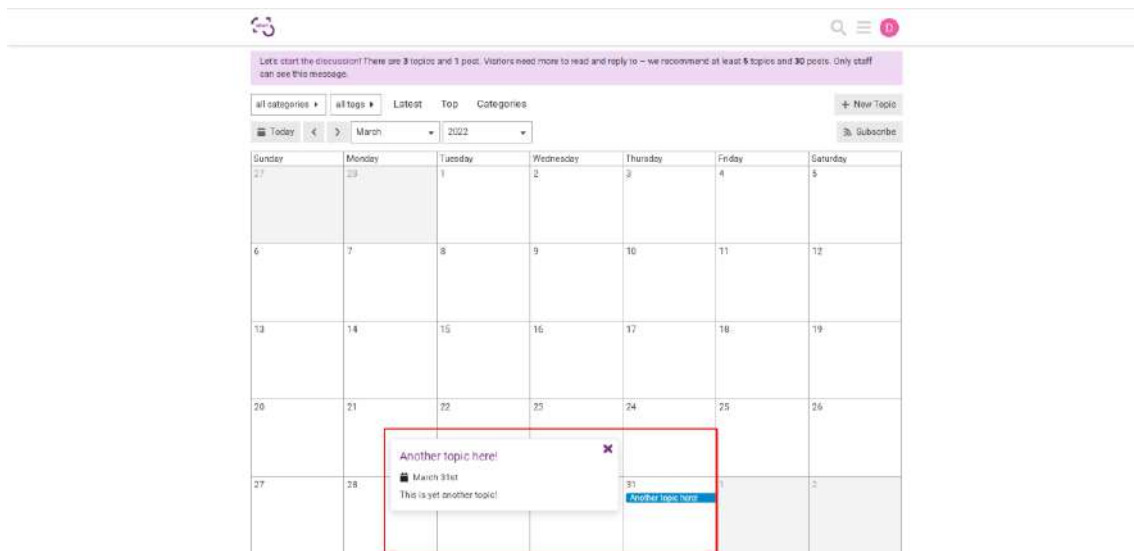


Figure 51: Forum event in the calendar

4.2.8 Admin Panel

Specific users have administration rights to the RESET forum in order to modify and improve the forum settings. The specific users will be determined by the consortium and they will be at least one representative per partner. The admin panel is available only for these users. By clicking on the "Summary" option of the last toolbar button, users are being navigated to their account summary, as shown in Figure 52.

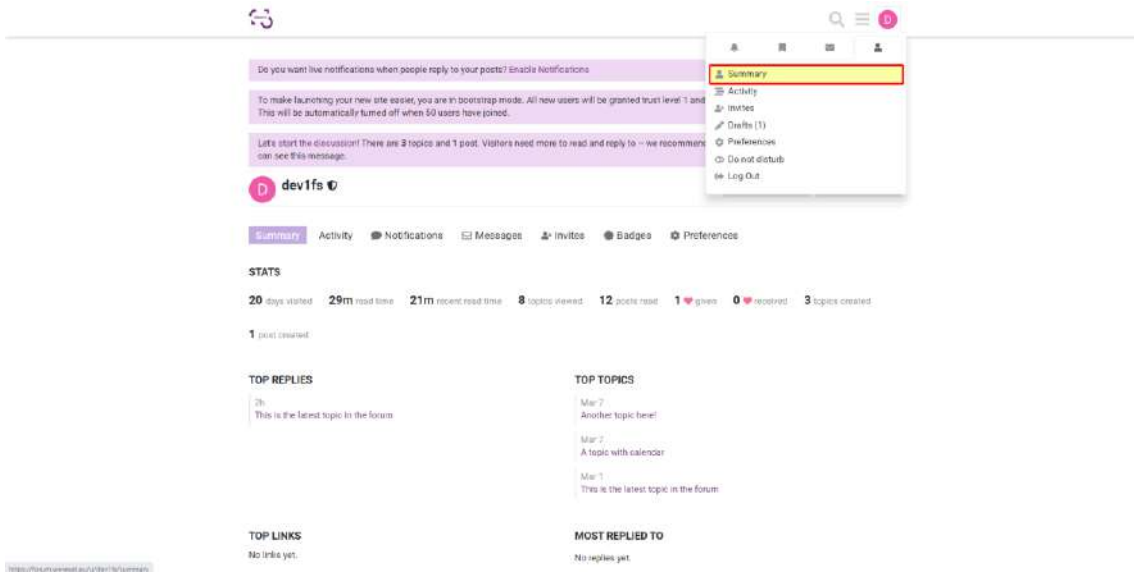


Figure 52: Forum navigation to account summary

If a user has administration rights, an additional “Admin” button is shown, as in Figure 53, while the “Admin panel” can also be accessed instantly from the menu button of the toolbar in the “Admin” option (see Figure 54).

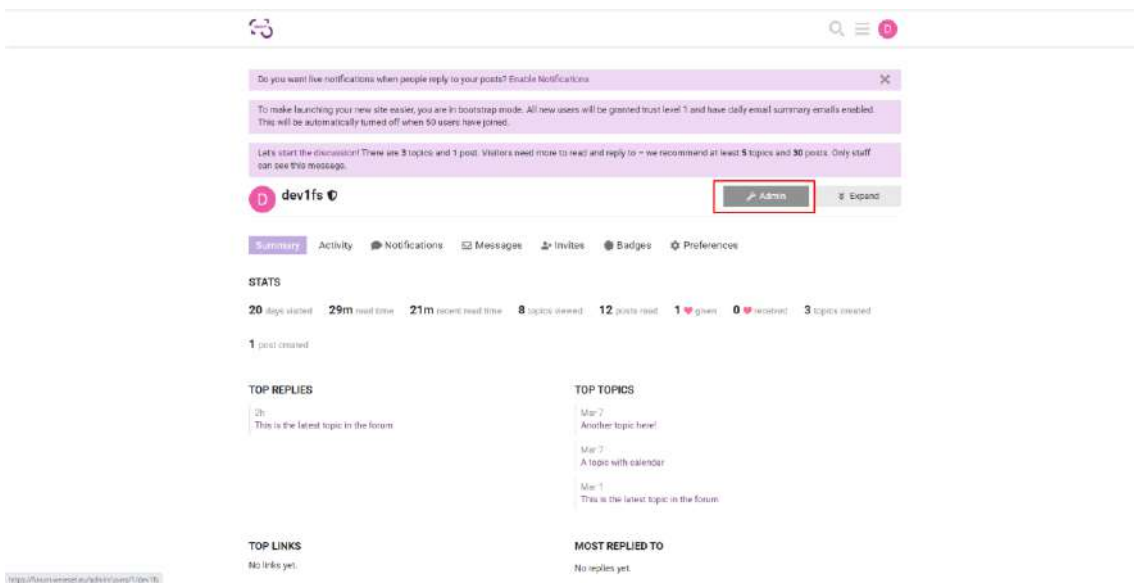


Figure 53: Forum admin panel button

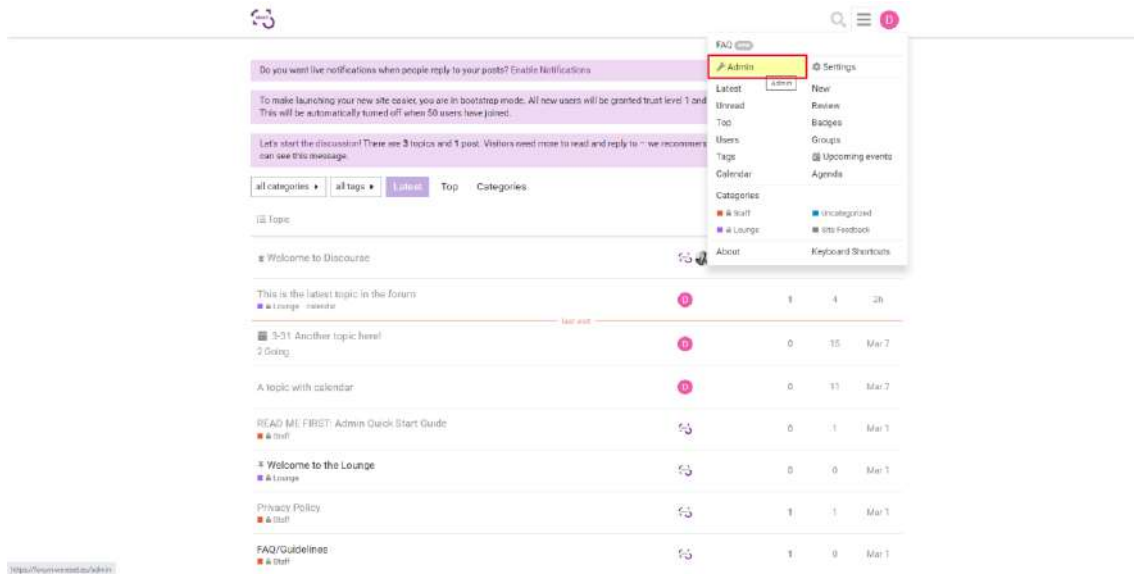


Figure 54: Forum administration panel through menu button

The “Admin panel” contains a wide variety of statistics, settings and information offered only to administrators. Next, Figures 55 and 56 depict “Dashboard” and “Settings” tabs of the administration panel.

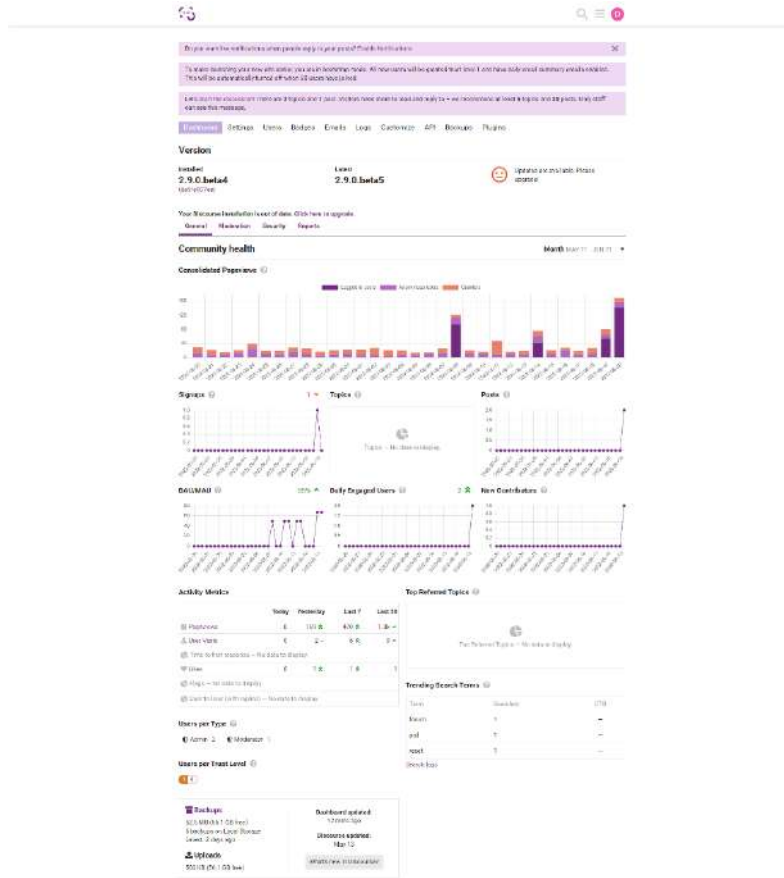


Figure 55: Forum administration panel - Dashboard

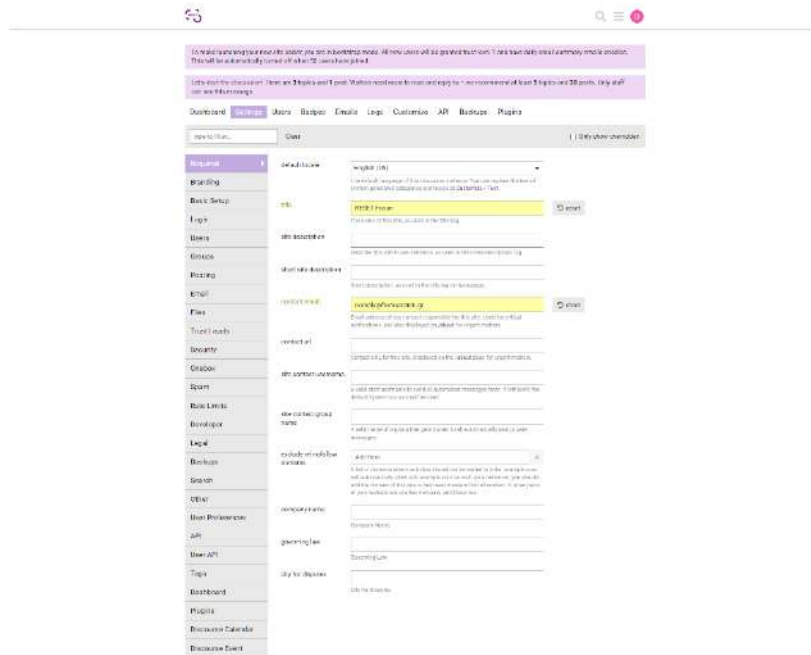


Figure 56: Forum administration panel - Settings

5. Conclusions and Future Work

Under WP3 “Supporting data-driven GE and diversity policy-making in designing qualitative assessment tools and processes”, the RESET GE awareness platform has been developed, consisting of a Data Dashboard and a Forum, as the current document describes in detail. The platform is expected to act as a means of communication and as a supportive tool during the implementation of the GEPs that will provide all the necessary data through this process and towards the design of the second version of the GEPs.

Under this perspective, the platform is a dynamic instrument that will illustrate the current state of the GEPs implementation procedure for all four GEP implementing partners and depict the changes achieved throughout the project. As a result, the platform will support the decision-making on GE and diversity issues and contribute to the design and implementation of respective policies.