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Mobilkommunikation
Research Foundation
Mobile Communication

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Context
National [1] and international [2] studies have shown that level of public knowledge about mobile communications technology and possible health implications is rather limited. In Switzerland, this level of knowledge has steadily declined in recent years. The studies referred to above have shown that the highest credibility concerning the provision of information is attributed to the medical profession and to scientific institutions.

Very often, interested persons seeking factual information about NIR (Non-ionising Radiation) do not have the technical knowledge required or time available e.g. on the Internet, to screen and evaluate the existing information. There are a wide range of websites available, some of them strongly interest-driven e.g. telecommunications industry or activists, whilst others are expert-oriented and difficult for the public to understand.

Project Goals Based on this, the project should establish an NIR Portal to support and ease those seeking information about NIR, as well as serving as a dialogue platform. Target audiences of the portal are civil servants (at both local and regional levels), teachers/pupils, journalists and members of the general public seeking both general information as well as details of the current state of scientific research.

The portal will not duplicate existing information. Its aim is to make existing information more easily accessible and widely available. The main objective of the project is to ease access to scientific literature for non-scientists. In order to attain this goal, common questions and topics of general interest will be linked to the relevant publications. Existing data bases will be used for the links, i.e. resources such as ELMAR, the new database of the Centre for Biomedicine of the University of Basle, FEMU, WHO or IEEE. Amongst the relevant literature original work published in peer-reviewed journals as well as scientific reports and evaluations will be found.

In addition, the NIR-Portal will be designed as a dialogue platform and thus add value to its offer of information. Registered users can exchange messages on concrete scientific questions or exchange experiences.

Approach
The project comprises two phases. Phase 1 is dedicated to assess the needs and requirements of the potential users. Tools: qualitative, semi-structured interviews. The material will be used to assess the demand for the planned NIR Portal services and as a basis for its realisation and implementation in conceptual, technical and graphical terms. In phase 2, the portal will be implemented according to the specifications defined in phase 1.

Literature
[1] Bieri, U. et al. (2007): Mobilfunktechnologie wieder stärker über Nutzen definiert, Bern: gfs.bern
[2] European Commission (2007): Electromagnetic Fields, Special Eurobarometer 272a/Wave 66.2.