

The Argument Visualisation Tool - AVT

Instructions and Help Information

Introduction:

The **Argument Visualisation Tool** (AVT) displays arguments about policies as browsable *debate maps* where users can browse the maps and follow links from the visual summaries of the arguments back to the source policy document. The AVT takes its arguments from the **Argument Reconstruction Tool**

Issue Maps support usability and readability of large consultations by providing a realistic entry point for new users so that they can quickly gain an overview of the issues and contributions so far submitted, providing the ability to browse maps at different levels of granularity. These colour-coded rectangular blocks depict issues within the debate. The different sizes of the rectangles indicate the comparative number of questions and arguments associated with each issue and clicking on a rectangle takes the user to the arguments addressing that issue.

Argument Network Maps with typical interactions such as zooming and panning - just like Google Maps. Argument network maps support transparency and sense-making by linking arguments not only to their source text but also back to the issue they address in the consultation document.

Within the argument network maps there are *pop-up justification text boxes* to provide the justification for the arguments and the results from the **Structured Consultation Tool**.

The **AVT** allows you to:

- gain an overview of the green/white policy paper and an appreciation of the arguments contributed so far in response to the specific issues raised;
- navigate through the debate maps from high level to deeper level of detail;
- zoom in and out of specific arguments showing more or less detail;
- gain an appreciation of the underlying evidence for the arguments;
- trace back to and view the source document where an argument is located.

To start click “Start now!” in the “Argument Visualisation” box.

The Argument Visualisation tool first shows an “issue map” - an overview of the issue at stake and the sub-issues and questions associated with it.

In the case of the copyright consultation, there are three sections on the top level that have been derived from the Green Paper: 2 – General Issues; 3 – Exceptions: Specific Issues; 4 – Call for Comments. You can explore them by clicking on the text links. This will lead you to the sub-sections and, on your next click, to the issues raised in the form of questions.

To navigate between levels and to go back in your browser use the breadcrumb navigation line - do not use your browser back button.

To get back to the upper level of the issue map, click on the text link in the top left corner of the map: this “breadcrumb navigation” indicates the level where you are as

well as the upper order level up to the top level of the map and lets you get there by clicking on the respective link.

The *issue map* is designed in a way that the size of each box shows the relative weight of each section in terms of the number of sub-sections, issues or responses relative to the overall number. Thus, you can grasp where the debate focuses on at any point in time. The colour-coding allows the you to see how issues relate to the same sub-topic.

To enter an *argument network map* click on a question.

For example, clicking on a question Q9 in the issue map, takes you to the detailed map of arguments related to individual issue. Here, you can see which arguments have been put forward in response to the question and, importantly, how they have been justified.

The *argument network map* centres on the main question.

To zoom in and pan around the map:

Any text box in the argument network map can be moved to another position by dragging and dropping it. The links between the boxes will adjust automatically. The whole map can be moved by dragging and dropping the background of the map-just like Google maps!. You can zoom in and out of the map by either using the scroll wheel of your mouse or by double clicking on the map (to zoom in) and holding the shift button when double clicking on the map (to zoom out).

To go to related source documents click on the text.

Placing your mouse pointer over the text of the question (as well as over the texts of the other statements), the font style changes to italic, clicking on the text displays the source document for that text passage in a new window.

To see the justification for an argument click on the small circle at the top left corner of the node.

This opens a new text box showing the premises of the statement, together with an indicator of their relation to the statement (the classes are derived from the argumentation scheme), i.e. the full formal argument supporting the statement. To reduce complexity, you can collapse the justification by clicking the same small circle.

To view the user feedback from the Structured Consultation Tool:

If the argument text box has a bold outline, then there is user feedback from the Structured Consultation Tool. In this case, clicking on the small blue circle will not only provide the justification but also show how many users agreed or disagreed with the premises. These results come directly from the SCT tool.

To save the consultation information contained in the AVT to a file, click 'Click to download summary of responses' which is next to the consultation title on the first page of the AVT.

This downloads a file in rtf format containing all the information input into the AVT for that consultation. The filename reflects the consultation name and the date and time the file was downloaded.

To get back to the start screen of the IMPACT toolbox click on the “Home” icon at the top of the right bar of icons.

Known Limitations:

- The AVT works with the web browsers Firefox and Chrome, it does not work with Internet Explorer.
- The colour schemes for the Issue Maps needs to be improved.
- The font colour and size for the text boxes in the argument network maps need to be improved.
- Clicking on the text in a node in the argument network map currently takes the user to the start of the relevant source document. It would be better if it went directly to the relevant paragraph in the source document.