



Project no. 018340

Project acronym: EDIT**Project title: Toward the European Distributed Institute of Taxonomy**

Instrument: Network of Excellence

Thematic Priority: Sub-Priority 1.1.6.3: “Global Change and Ecosystems”

C1.3.3 Action plan to promote “modern taxonomy” towards European policy makers

Due date of component: Month 35

Actual submission date: Month 36

Start date of project: 01/03/2006

Duration: 5 years

Organisation name of lead contractor for this component: 13 RBINS,
Dr. Olivier Retout

FINAL

Project co-funded by the European Commission within the Sixth Framework Programme (2002-2006)		
Dissemination Level (“X” in the relevant box)		
PU	Public	
PP	Restricted to other programme participants (including the Commission Services)	x
RE	Restricted to a group specified by the consortium (including the Commission Services)	
CO	Confidential, only for members of the consortium (including the Commission Services)	

Objective

The aim of this activity is to promote in due time and place the value and the role of the modern taxonomy in the European research programme and policy.

Situation

The Framework Programme of the European Commission (EC) is the result of a comprehensive consultation and decision process.

The current FP7 is active until 2013 and its successor (FP8) is supposed to be adopted for the period 2014-2019.

Such a wide programme (FP7 = EUR 5.5 billion incl. 1.9 for Environment) is governed by the Co-decision process between the European Commission (proposition) and the European Parliament (EP) / European Council (co-decision).

Legal bodies such as ERAB or CREST are consulted in the preparatory phase and the EP is able to organise any hearing to define its own point of view.

Modern taxonomy corresponds to many current priorities and the main entry door is:

- Cooperation Specific Programmes theme 6: Environment and climate change
 - o Activity 6.2 : sustainable management of resources
 - Sub-Activity 6.2.1 : conservation and sustainable management of natural and man-made resources and biodiversity
 - Area 6.2.1.4 : biodiversity

Other themes in the Cooperation sector (Food, Agriculture and Fisheries, and Biotechnology ; Health) or in Ideas or under International Cooperation should easily cover or integrate taxonomic research and expertise.

Agenda

The FP8, to be adopted in the fall of 2013, has to be a formal Communication of the EC presented to the Council and the Parliament at the end of 2011. The internal consultation and writing process will start in the DG Research early 2010 but not before, the FP7 still being operational.

In April-May 2009, the EC DG Research will present a FP7 Mid-Term review which is a first opportunity to check if “modern taxonomy” can be inserted in further comments and proposals. A work-programme for 2009-2010 has been issued (end of 2008) and a new one covering the last Call (2011-2012) can be expected in 2009.

Methodology**1) Messages**

EDIT Officers from WP1 (PR) and WP8 (PA) shall set up a compilation of short texts, reference articles, contact data of selected experts to be used to inform policy-makers on particular and relevant aspects of modern taxonomy regarding their expectation and duties (for instance, people in charge of science education who promote the enquiry-based method can be interested to learn from the various ways of using collection specimens to trigger the sense of inquiry and observation).

EDIT Team Leaders will provide information and reference of success stories and best practices in taxonomy, notably examples of concrete societal application easy to use by politicians.

EDIT Team Leaders should indicate (as needed) national contact persons such as Ministry representatives in the Programme Committee.

Some Biodiversity research projects (such as AlterNet, Biostrat, Daisie, Eumon, etc.) will be contacted to share a common message towards policy-makers.

An official statement (conceived as a text to be sent as a letter to selected targets) will be endorsed by the Board.

2) Targets

- EC Officers in charge of drafting the FP8
- The most sensitive (to biology) of the 22 ERAB experts
- As many as possible of the CREST Committee composed of high-level civil servant of all EU Member States
- The life sciences experts in the ERC
- Representatives to the Environment Programme Committee
- The STOA Committee of the European Parliament
- Members of some other “Life sciences / Environment” committees in the EP, the ESC and the Committee of the Regions.

3) Diffusion

Material : customization of existing PR material enriched with new results, successful examples of the usefulness of taxonomy. Extracts from SAC reports.

Mailing : according to the precise target, official letters (endorsed by the BoD) are sent to some targets to pave the way for a more formal stimulating approach (direct meeting).

Meetings : small meetings of half a day can be organised in Brussels to focus on some significant aspect of the current situation of taxonomic research in the EU.

Invitations : when feasible and in time, some EDIT partners would welcome policy-makers in their institution and present their collections and their taxonomic research. Id. with ATBI and similar field operation where policy makers can be invited.

Website : all material useful for policy-makers is posted on the EDIT website and targets are informed with personalized messages.

EDIT Final Conference : during the final restitution event of the network a “Round-Table” with high level policy-makers and special invitations to some specialised science journalists will be organised with the objective to highlight the tremendous value of taxonomy, as demonstrated during the IBY-2010

4) Planning

2009 - April-July : data collecting (organisation, people, rules and procedures; official reports; agenda).

2009 - Sept-Dec : analysis of data and setting up of various target lists (notably the newly elected MEP's). Gathering of relevant material produced by WP1 (PR) and other WP (ATBI for instance).

2010 - January-June : sending of letters, organisation of small meetings, organisation of visits of collections-labs; organisation of meetings with media and/or NGO. Collection of draft text of targeted programme and circulation within EDIT community.

2010 - July-December : preparation of final events : publication of an official statement from EDIT on “the need to include a taxonomic dimension in any research aiming to preserve the biodiversity”.