



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"

C.1.3.4 First implementation of action plan for promotion of Taxonomy towards decision-makers

Due date of component: Month 47

Actual submission date: Month 47

Start date of project: 01/03/2006

Duration: 5 years

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

Final

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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 intervene in due time and place to promote the value and the role of modern taxonomy in research programmes, at the European and national levels.

Situation

Science policies and related programmes, such as the Framework Programme of the EC are the results of a long consultation and decision process which span over several years, larger than the formal EDIT duration.

At national level, taxonomists with the biologist community are quite well organised and informed about the processes but suffer from the competition with other biologists, notably molecular biologists and geneticists.

At EU level, in the current FP7 which is running till 2013 there is only a single place where taxonomy can be supported “as such” and that is in the Biodiversity programme...the one which currently supports EDIT.

For the following programme (FP8), supposed to be adopted for the period 2014-2019 some legal consultative bodies will be consulted in the preparatory phase which will be not yet formally started by the time EDIT ends. Till then, the EC Officers in charge of drafting the next programme are very well informed about EDIT and fully aware of the so-called taxonomic impediment. There is thus no way to launch any lobbying campaign towards the EC directly and it could be counterproductive.

Methodology

1) Messages

A position paper on taxonomy is currently under preparation for the BoD under the responsibility of the WP7 Leader. This should be the absolute first basis to develop any kind of targeted messages.

EDIT-PA (WP8) has started a production of success-stories, notably portrait of taxonomists which can be powerful tools to show the human dimension of taxonomy and the necessity to support job creation in this field.

Recommendation : translate, gather and edit the position paper with some taxonomy success stories.

2) Targets (see C1.3.3 for exhaustive list).

With a questionnaire submitted three times to the BoD, the NSC and the Team-Leader Group from November 2009 to February 2010 we have tried to identify at the national level some active people who could be targeted to promote modern taxonomy.

Unfortunately, within the EDIT community, only 3 countries have provided such information.

We can deduce of this weak result that EDIT partners are not yet in situation to share their privileged contact at national level because such data are managed by individuals rather than by institutions.

3) Conclusion

Stimulate a decentralised promotion of taxonomy at national level, allowing EDIT partners to keep their contacts for their own and to define the best way to make them aware of the value of modern taxonomy.

WP1 has to ensure that all EDIT partners have access to the common ground text (position paper) and when necessary are able to translate it and diffuse it in their country according to the diffusion strategy presented in C1.3.3.

Ensure that during the EDIT final event, key EC Officers inside and outside DG Research are contacted to be presented with the numerous EDIT results as an illustration of what the position paper is claiming.