



Work Package 2: Integrating and Reshaping the Expert and Expertise Basis

EDIT: Kick-off meeting, Muséum National d'Histoire Naturelle, Paris, 28-29 June 2006

MINUTES, WORK PACKAGE 2 (WP2) WORKSHOP, JUNE 29

Location: Auditorium, Grande Galerie de l'Evolution

Time: 14:00 – 17:30

Chaired by Henrik Enghoff ; Assisted by Isabel Calabuig

Participants list: See end of document

<p>1. Welcome and outline of the meeting (HE)</p>	
<p>2. Presentation of content and main objectives of WP2 (HE)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • See attached MS PowerPoint presentation by Enghoff & Calabuig • Plan is to publish small paper on <i>A taxonomy of taxonomy and taxonomists</i> in <i>The Systematics Association Newsletter</i> (http://www.systass.org/) – see specific PowerPoint slides on this subject. • Enghoff noted that on the question on whether <i>Mobility of researchers</i> activities will be fundable by EDIT in the period after the first 18 months, Martin Sharman had answered YES, if visit serves to integrate research!
<p>3. Round-table presentation of partners and clarification of roles and future contact persons within WP2</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • See participants list below
<p>4. Interactions with SYNTHESYS Network Activity B (Complementarity)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Enghoff: Activities on Complementary in SYNTHESYS primarily concerns collections, but also relates to the work force of specialists (gap analysis) which relates strongly to the work of WP2 – hence collaboration on this task has been agreed upon. • M.Ramos: Maybe even combine budgets? Y.deJong: We need more details on this, let's talk later.... • Enghoff: Modus operandi between SYNTESYS and EDIT WP2 naturally has to be elaborated upon.

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5. Presentation and planning & allocation of tasks relating to the programme of activities for the first 18 Ms	
<p>a) DoW item 2.3: Taxonomic societies and networks (Edo Stloukal)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • See attached MS PowerPoint presentation by Edo Stloukal – note especially: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ First meeting: May – June 2007, Smolenice castle, Slovakia (http://www.kcsmolenice.sav.sk/?lng=sk&charset=&doc=basinfo&lng=en&chart=ascii and http://ups.savba.sk/parcom/sephp/info/smolenice.html – we have to clarify how many participants are feasible with a Euro 20.000 budget (+ WP2 partner travel money). ○ Consider how to involve e.g. smaller / local societies without direct funding for this through the EDIT budget. ○ Inventory of taxonomic institutions is being offered to be carried out by Bratislava without extra budget – Such an information service would be extremely useful and needed, we should probably even consider to include WP3 in this task! THE OFFER WAS GLADLY ACCEPTED. ○ WP2 could hence gain from previous efforts of both BioCASE and of the “New Accession States” extension to Fauna Europaea, FaEu-NAS www.zoology.fns.uniba. • J-Y.Rasplus: We could build the experts and expertise database by starting with a list of institutions and of amateurs, but we have to set priorities on how to do this! <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Y.de Jong: Get info through GBIF nodes ○ A.Navas & E.Stloukal: Different strategies should be applied for different countries. ○ Enghoff: Also draw on other initiatives such as GTI focal points . ○ J-Y.Rasplus : The WP2-Secretariat should compile a draft experts & expertise database structure, based on previous efforts, and circulate for review among WP2 members – THIS SUGGESTION WAS AGREED UPON. ○ Enghoff: We could organise the 2nd general WP2 meeting back-to-back with the WP2.3 Societies and Networks meeting in Slovakia – THIS SUGGESTION WAS AGREED UPON.
<p><i>Agenda item 5.a continued - Including WP2 task components relating to Species2000 (Paris), Euro+Med Plantbase (Berlin), and Fauna Europaea (Naturalis, Leiden).</i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Introduction to Species 2000 Europa was given by Cyril Gallut (Secretary of European GSDs¹ for Eurocat): <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Sp2000 is a distributed system of GSDs. The goal of the Sp2000 Europa is to have all the European-based ones included! Hence from previous work, Sp2000 Europa has large experience with collaboration with and information on experts and networks, data custodians etc., to share with WP2. THE IMPORTANCE OF CLOSE COLLABORATION WITH SP2000 WAS CONFIRMED. • Sp2000 is looking for sustainability through EDIT for the survival of specialist network and information gathered by the Species2000europa/Eurocat project, at least for the funding of a meeting on how to achieve this, but only very limited EDIT funds for Species2000 are available through WP2 and WP3. • (Yuri Roskov (Species 2000, Reading) enters.)
<p>b) DoW item 2.1 Information service</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Enghoff: We have lists on taxonomic experts already – Build on them, elaborate and KEEP UPDATED, since they are needed for EDIT.

¹ Global Species Databases

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<p>on taxonomic experts</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Enghoff: WE HAVE TO DETERMINE THE EXPERTS&EXPERTISE DATABASE STRUCTURE, ITS LEVEL OF DETAIL, HOW OFTEN IT SHOULD BE UPDATED ETC., AND FROM WHERE IT SHOULD BE AVAILABLE? WE ALSO HAVE TO PLAN A PROPER EXPOSURE! • BELOW IS A DISCUSSION ON VARIOUS IDEAS ON HOW TO POPULATE, KEEP UPDATED AND PROVE USEFUL A DATABASE OF TAXONOMIC EXPERTS , THEIR EXPERTISE AND TAXONOMIC PROJECTS <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. The database will be populated by data from previous efforts and through a questionnaire. 2. It will be a common questionnaire for all WP2 activities to gather information rather than separate ones, and will probably include items relevant to WP 4 (Research in Taxonomy) and WP8 (Training). 3. Enghoff: We have to find out how to obtain the information – e.g. through previous efforts such as Fauna Europaea. 4. Enghoff: If we can specify what kind of taxonomy the experts are doing, it will be immensely useful. I.Calabuig: Yes, e.g. to feed into finding exemplars for WP6 (Unifying Revisionary Taxonomy) 5. J-Y.Rasplus: Yes, also to identify what taxa we are going to need experts for within the shorter and longer term (e.g. because of retirement) 6. Enghoff: If we can present an interesting database to the EDIT BoD, they can require that taxonomists employed in their institutions deliver the necessary information. 7. J-Y.Rasplus: We have to make people aware of the profit they can gain by entering their data and thereby enter new projects that might even have funding. 8. N.P.Kristensen: Fill in all the information we already have on a person, to make completing easier. CLEARLY STATE who is the sender of the message, and why, with co-signature of well-known, respected taxonomic expert for each taxon. – AGREED! 9. E.Stloukal – use the database for the ATBI approach – here the experts don't know each other because it's area-based and not taxon-based – hence include that people state what area they work with. 10. C.Gallut – You must have the database in different languages!!! Especially the end-user part. Species 2000 can help with this 11. J-Y.Rasplus – You need the FRONTPAGE in different languages, telling why and what it contains. Then enter a database in English for database population 12. German GTI focal point has had several good workshops, including one where it was decided to provide a translation service of common biodiversity terms in European languages. 13. J-Y.Rasplus – It will be more complicated to get info on amateurs – but encourage them with pointing out that we need them to complete the list of experts. Send them a good professional list. 14. Y.Roskov has negative experience with self-register databases. Instead: initiate the list yourself from web-snapshot of publications 15. Enghoff + J-Y.Rasplus: Doesn't work anymore with the multi-author approach where coauthors may not be taxonomists.
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	<p>16. We need a multilayered version of the database which includes what kind of taxonomist you are.</p> <p>17. J-Y.Rasplus: Three layers of information. Make a taxonomic chain-letter.</p> <p>18. WP2-Sec. will start by taking a look at existing databases of experts in August – BE PREPARED TO PROVIDE INPUT TO I.Calabuig.</p>
<p>c) DoW item 2.2 Information service on ongoing taxonomic projects</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • WP2-Sec. will start by taking a look at ongoing projects during August– BE PREPARED TO PROVIDE INPUT TO I.Calabuig. • Enghoff: The questionnaire (see agenda item 5.b.) will ask for information (e.g. project name and description) for not only larger projects which may be based on specific funding but also small project by individual taxonomists. • J-Y.Rasplus: A page of the questionnaire could include optional fields for <i>Yes/no</i> on whether the project has obtained a funding grant and for project ACRONYM. AGREED. • Include in accompanying letter that EDIT wants to obtain the goal that Taxonomy will be recognised as a Science! AGREED! • I.Calabuig: In fact, we could include all the main objectives (of the WPs) of EDIT and rephrase into a coherent letter to get people encouraged to participate in the questionnaire. Get this pep-talk letter reviewed by all EDIT partners and BoD!!!! AGREED! • A.Navas: Who owns the databases? • J-Y.Rasplus: We should work towards making such a useful and needed database that institutes will take over hosting and updating it after the termination of EDIT, and this task could goes as turns among institutes (as tax. societies do already with member lists etc.). AGREED!
<p>d) DoW item 2.4 Mobility of researchers</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Not discussed due to time limits.
<p>6. Outline / planning of interaction with other WPs of EDIT – including how to optimise WP2 products for maximum benefit of all EDIT partners</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Not discussed further due to time limits, but see above in agenda item 5.b. regarding important interactions with WP4, 6 and 8!
<p>7. Summary of decided post-meeting actions by partners</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Due to the limited number of participants of the workshop, it was decided that these current minutes would suffice for the group of workshop participants.

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ANNEX

PARTICIPANTS LIST, WP2 WORKSHOP JUNE 29 2006, PARIS

	Institution	Inst. Team Lead.	Name	Email	WP2 design. person	Attend Kick-off
1	UKBH	X	Henrik Enghoff	henghoff@snm.ku.dk	X	X
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3	UKBH		Niels Peder Kristensen	npkristensen@snm.ku.dk	X	X
4	CSIC-MNCN (Madrid)	X	Marian Ramos	mramos@mncn.csic.es	X	X
5	CSIC-MNCN (Madrid)		Alfonso Navas	anavas@mncn.csic.es		X
6	CSIC-MNCN (Madrid)		Xavier Eekhout	xeekhout@mncn.csic.es		X
7	SMNS (Stuttgart)		Fabian Haas	haas.smns@naturkundemuseum-bw.de	X	X
8	CUB (Bratislava)		Edo Stloukal	stloukal@fns.uniba.sk	X	X
9	INRA (Montpellier)		Jean-Yves Rasplus	rasplus@ensam.inra.fr	X	X
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11	SMEBD / Univ. of Amsterdam	-/X	Yde de Jong	yjong@science.uva.nl	X	X
12	BINRAS (St. Petersburg.)	X	Dmitry Geltman	geltman@binran.ru		X
13	ZINRAS (St. Petersburg.)		Sergei G. Medvedev	fleas@zin.ru		
14	FUB-BGBM (Berlin)		Eckhard Raab-Straube	e.raab-straube@bgbm.org		X
15	Species 2000		Cyril Gallut	gallut@ccr.jussieu.fr	X	X
16	Species 2000		Yuri Roskov	y.roskov@reading.ac.uk		X