



**EUROPEAN DISTRIBUTED INSTITUTE FOR
TAXONOMY (EDIT)**

**MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING
on
EVALUATION CRITERIA FOR TAXONOMIC
WORK**

Version 1.0

Date May 15, 2010

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Paragraph 1 PURPOSE

1.1 The signers of this Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) have decided that the Taxonomy for the 21st Century report (<http://ww2.bgbm.org/EditDocumentRepository/Taxonomy21report.pdf>) should serve as a vision for common endeavours in taxonomy. They consider that to reach these objectives, elements of common science policy is necessary between institutions. One of these elements is a new way to evaluate work done by researchers and other staff of taxonomic institutions, to serve alongside current methods of evaluation.

1.2 The Memoranda of Understanding initiated by the EDIT project are intended to encourage and gradually improve collaboration and integration of the signatory's institutions in the evaluation of taxonomic work. The MoUs may be thought of as a series of public declarations pinned on a noticeboard, to which Participants are invited to append their signatures. They provide evidence of concrete and specific developments in collaboration which build on the general commitment set out in the EDIT contract and Consortium Agreement.

Paragraph 2 GENERAL DEFINITIONS

2.1 EDIT Partner: A legal entity that acceded to the EDIT Contract.

2.2 Participant: Any institution or organisation that has signed this MoU and has expressed its intention to observe the provisions herein.

2.3 EDIT Contract: The legally binding document signed by the Commission of the European Communities, Research Directorate-General, and the contractor (CDC) acting as coordinator of the EDIT consortium. To this contract legal entities (the EDIT partners) acceded as contractors assuming the rights and obligations established by the contract. The EDIT Contract (No 018340 - GOCE) is in the Sixth Framework Programme Sub-priority 1.1.6.3 "Global change and ecosystems".

2.4 EDIT Consortium Agreement: The formal agreement that the EDIT Partners concluded amongst themselves for the implementation of the EDIT contract.

Paragraph 3 GENERAL OBJECTIVES

The objectives of this Memorandum of Understanding are:

- To contribute to the reduction of fragmentation and the transformation of taxonomy into an integrated science

- To strengthen the scientific, technological and information capacities needed for Europe
- To progress toward a trans-national entity by encouraging durable integration of taxonomic institutions
- To promote the spreading of excellence to fulfil the needs of biodiversity and ecosystem research for taxonomy based information

Paragraph 4 AGREEMENT

Where not bound by other agreements, the participants will set up an evaluation or audit policy using the criteria listed in Annex 1. This will be done in accordance to their national requirements for evaluation and keeping in mind the common elements of science policy developed within EDIT. This evaluation is not intended to supersede any other method of evaluation which may be currently in use, but to provide an additional evaluation/audit that is suited to the specificities of taxonomy as a science. The list is not exhaustive and every institution is free to add other criteria to it.

Paragraph 5 BOARD of DIRECTORS (BoD)

5.1 The EDIT Board of Directors (herein BoD) will be the forum in which all matters relating to this MoU will be discussed, preferably by electronic means.

Paragraph 6 AMENDMENTS AND CHANGES

6.1 Paragraph 4 of this MoU may be amended to support textual improvements, updating of nomenclature or any other minor change which does not alter the original intention of the paragraph. Any more substantial changes should be effected by termination of this MoU and its substitution with another.

6.2 An amendment to the text of the MoU is proposed to the Chair of the BoD by a Participant. The proposal is circulated among the BoD and the Participants. Taking into account comments received, the Chair of the BoD issues a recommendation within 6 weeks of the original proposal. The amendment is coming into effect by unanimous vote of the Participants.

Paragraph 7 ASSOCIATION AND DISASSOCIATION OF PARTICIPANTS

7.1 Association of Participants

Association with this MoU is open to all EDIT partners and to any other institution or organisation that may assist EDIT to achieve its goals outlined in this MoU. Such association becomes effective upon signature of this MoU.

7.2 Disassociation of Participants

Any Participant may disassociate itself from this MoU by advising the chair of the BoD in writing of its intention to do so and of the effective date.

Paragraph 8 INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY

This MoU adheres to the provisions with respect to Intellectual Property Rights as specified in Article 14, Annex II, Part C of the EDIT Contract and in the EDIT Consortium agreement (particularly Article 9). Additional provisions may be defined in paragraph 4 of this MoU.

Paragraph 9 DURATION

This MoU covers the period 15 June 2010 to 28th February 2011. Notwithstanding, this MoU will terminate upon termination of the EDIT contract.

For **XXInstitutionXX**,

XXAddressXX,

XXAddressXX

Signed _____ month, day, 2009.

XXX, Director.

EDIT MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING ON EVALUATION CRITERIA FOR TAXONOMIC WORK

ANNEX 1

LIST OF SELECTED CRITERIA

Publications

- Taxonomic Monograph, revision
- Book, chapter in a book
- Papers in peer-reviewed journals
- % of papers in journals with impact factor

Scientific Outreach

- Scientific presentations/posters at international meetings/symposia
- Invited lecture at international meetings/symposia
- Expert opinions provided to stakeholders – number of science enquiries handled
- Organisation, co-organisation of meetings & workshops, incl. learned societies events

Collections

- Number of research loans handled
- Curation of collections – time effort
- Data entry and curation into a (taxonomic/collection-related) database

Funding and projects

- Coordination of a third-party funded project
- Number and value of new grants awarded
- Fieldwork and expeditions (time effort, incl. organisation)

Edition

- Editing of proceedings or book with peer review
- Chief editor of a journal with ISI impact factor
- Chief editor of another scientific journal

Public outreach

- Scientific preparation of an exhibition
- Presentations for the public
- Publications for the public
- Contributions to public media

Teaching

- Lectures, practicals for university-level students and other levels (time effort)
- Textbooks
- Supervision of PhD, Master, Bachelor student or equivalent

Prizes

- Obtaining an international scientific prize