



Project no. 018340

Project acronym: EDIT

Project title: Towards the European Distributed Institute of Taxonomy

Instrument: Network of Excellence

Thematic Priority: Sub-Priority 1.1.6.3: "Global Change and Ecosystems"

Component 2.1.5 Test data from test country/ies entered in information service

Due date of component: Month 40
Actual submission date: Month 54

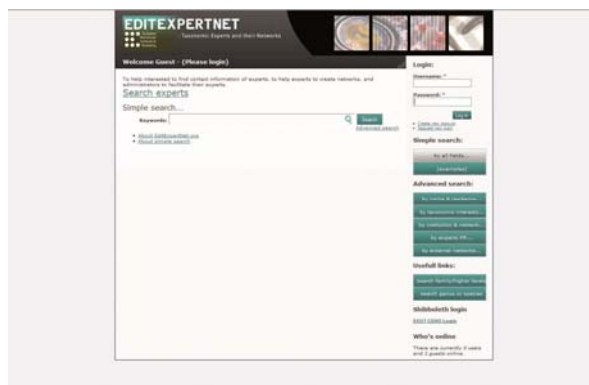
Start date of project: 01/03/2006

Duration: 5 years

Organisation name of lead contractor for this component: 3 - UKBH

[Version 2]

Figure 1: Welcome Page of EditExpertNet



Introduction

EDIT has chosen Denmark and Norway as the countries for testing the possibilities of having the taxonomic expertise of single countries register in EditExpertNet. This is done in order to check the progresses of such a process. Originally, it was thought that the experts should encompass the whole taxonomic environment in the test countries, which meant including both the professional and non-professional taxonomic experts. However, as we had previously contacted the Danish professional taxonomists (C2.1.4)¹, this time we only contacted non-professional experts in Denmark. We send out request to the natural history societies in Denmark, asking them if among their members there were persons who could be considered taxonomic experts and if we could have their contact information. In our approach, we pointed out that we defined taxonomic expertise in its broadest sense (*sensu lato*) according to the list of activities set up by Enghoff, H. and Seberg, O. (2006)². To the Norwegians we send out request to register in EditExpertNet through the Norwegian Faculty of Natural Sciences and Technology. Of course, this meant reaching only the professional taxonomic society of Norwegian taxonomists. However, we decided on this restricted approach to shorten the process, as we had already contacted non-professionals in Denmark and therefore thought that this would make a full complement of professionals and non-professionals.

Results

We received answers from only three of the Danish natural history societies. They replied with the names of nine taxonomists. Unfortunately, none of these followed up on registering in EditExpertNet.

Resulting from our contact to the Norwegian experts we received the names of fifteen experts in fungi and lichens from six different Norwegian scientific institutions. Only one among these fifteen has followed up on our request to register in EditExpertNet.

Conclusion

As taxonomy is a small field of research and both Denmark and Norway are countries with small populations the number of taxonomists we were able to retrieve from this procedure is not very high. This is evident as the returned requests cover only a fraction of the taxa that is dealt with by specialists in these countries. Furthermore, we have learned that it proved very difficult to have the specialists registering in the database.

Visit EditExpertNet at: <http://www.editexpertnet.org/>

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Dissemination Level		
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)	

References

1. EDIT Component 2.1.4 Data on EDIT taxonomic experts entered in information service.
2. Henrik Enghoff and Ole Seberg. A Taxonomy of Taxonomy and Taxonomists. *The Systematist* 2006 No. 27, pp 13-15.