



Project no. 018340

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Instrument: Network of Excellence

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

D23 – Operational Pilot Information Service on European Taxonomic Workforce

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Revision 1

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Dissemination Level ("X" in the relevant box)		
PU	Public	X
PP	Restricted to other programme participants (including the Commission Services)	
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)	

Components

The deliverable consists of several Components within WP2 and one in WP5.

The list of mapped components can be found at the bottom of present document.

1. The Information Service: EditExpertNet

WP2 made the EditExpertNet database available for public online access in May 2009. The database is presently located at www.EditExpertNet.org. The objective of the database is to provide an efficient online information service on European Taxonomic experts, their expertise and ongoing and planned taxonomic research projects. It provides searchable information on the taxonomists' expertise down to family level, their research activities, methods used and geographical and environmental distribution of research organisms. At present, the scope of the taxonomic expertise covers fungi, plants and animals. In addition to providing information on the main institutional affinity of the expert, the database also lists taxonomic societies and networks in which the taxonomist participates. Furthermore, it is possible to conduct a search for experts by articles, presentations or published news.

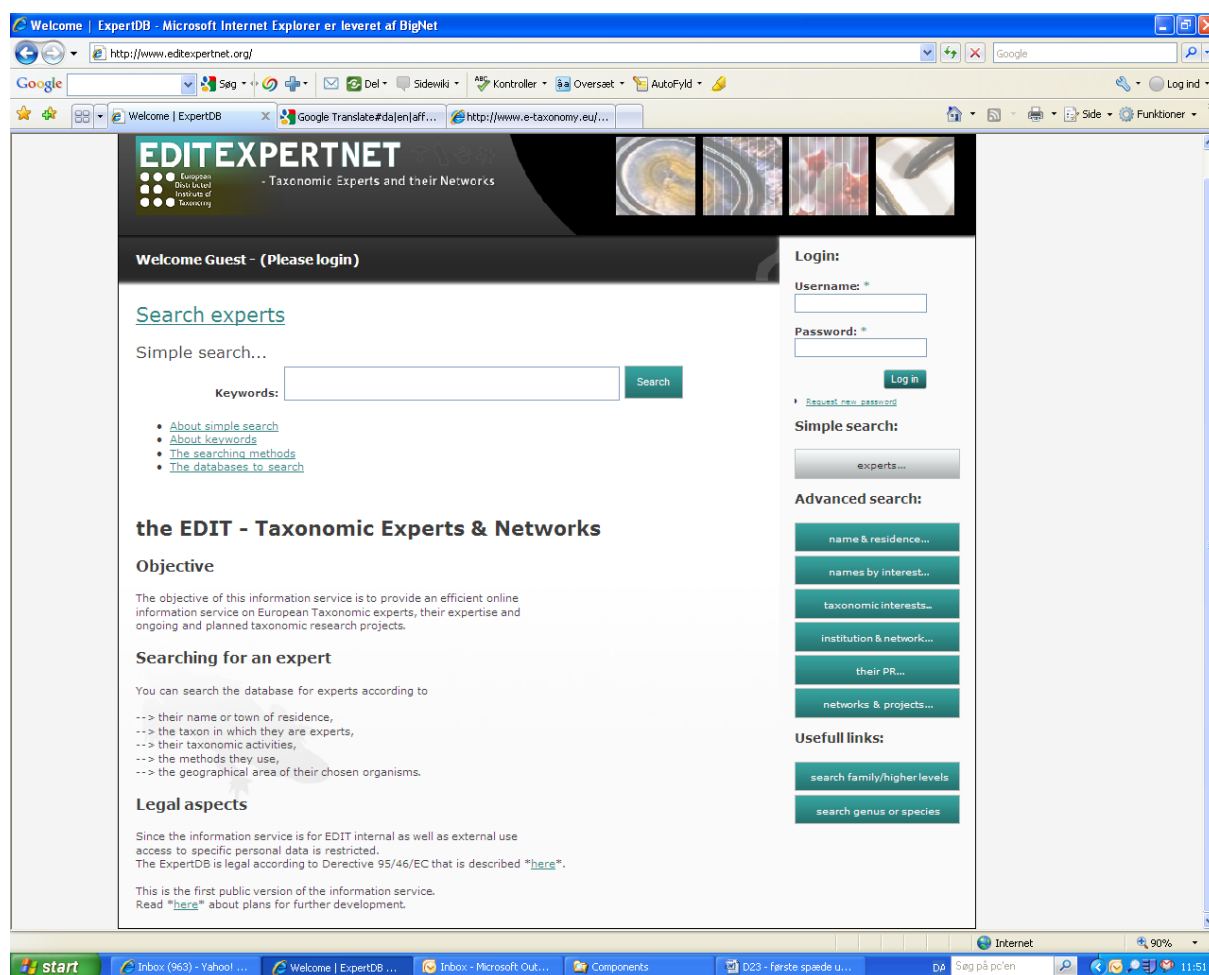


Fig 1. Frontpage of the EDIT database, the EditExpertNet (simple search)

2. Content of the EditExpertNet

Presently, the database holds the names of experts representing close to all EDIT partner institutions. In close collaboration with PESI, thirteen hundred taxonomic experts originally registered in the European species database (FaunaEuropaea, SMEBD, Euro+Med Plantabase,

ERMS, WORMS, Index Fungorum and Algaebase) have now been included in EditExpertNet.org database.

Taxonomists participating in different EDIT activities have been invited to the EDIT database. Some of the taxonomists included in the EditExpertNet database result from requests sent out by WP2 to relevant European participants of DEST (Distributed European School of Taxonomy). WP2 requested names of students within taxonomy attending the expert-in-training program and other taxonomists known by the DEST participants. These DEST participants were identified and contacted through information gathered in a survey of taxonomic training providers conducted by EDIT WP8 on existing training resources for taxonomy in Europe (C8.1.1). Of these seventy-four taxonomists thirty-eight were DEST participants, and they in turn suggested the thirty-six other taxonomists. However, eleven were already registered due to EDIT partner institution membership.

In order to reach more EDIT-related taxonomists (professionals as well as non-professionals), members of the WP6-developed tool, the Scratchpads, have also been invited to enter their data into the EditExpertNet database. Each Scratchpad manager received an invitation letter, encouraging him or her to distribute the letter to all members of the Scratchpad in question. Until now, few members of the Scratchpads have replied. However, it is an ongoing process and more Scratchpad members are expected to join the EditExpertNet database during the next few years.

A total of one hundred-twenty-eight ATBI+M participants have been registered in the EditExpertNet database. More than half of these participants visited the collection sites in the natural parks of Mercantour/Alpi Marittime and the rest Gemer in Slovakia during the years 2007 and 2008.

In order to invite the taxonomists involved in the three EDIT WP6 demonstrator groups, we contacted the administrators of the demonstrator groups and asked them to invite all the participants of the respective groups. The topics of the three groups are Cichorieae, Palms and Milichiidae. More scratchpads continuously develop and WP2 continuously send out requests for names and e-mail addresses of taxonomic experts, and we therefore expect to invite new taxonomists who should join one of the demonstrator groups in the future.

3. Content in numbers and figures

Presently 2897 experts have entered their data. Some have filled in their data more exhaustive than others, but every expert is searchable by name and e-mail and the majority is also searchable by taxon of interest, institution and county.

300 different taxonomic societies are also contained in the EditExpertNet database. Originally they were gathered in a Society Database, developed by Comenius University of Bratislava (CUB). For several practical reasons, however, it was decided to merge the Society database with the Expert database, which now forms the EditExpertNet.

The final part of entries is the Networks, which can be argued also contains the taxonomic Societies. However, excluding the societies, the database presently contains approximately 90 Networks.

The taxonomic experts, - societies, and networks come from 38 different countries which obviously are mainly European countries. Moreover the experts entered in the database are affiliated to 28 different institutions.

4. Security - CSSO

"CSSO" stands for Community Single Sign-On and has been integrated in the database to provide security infrastructure within the platform.

The CSSO enables the various EDIT service providers to protect their services and resources defining individual access control policies, while users can access different services using only one identity. The security infrastructure is based on the Shibboleth single sign-on framework which relies on the SAML protocol family. In particular, Shibboleth provides a federation concept to realize the community aspect.

The development and implementation of the CSSO identity provider is done by WP5 (C2.1.13 = C5.84) and WP2.

5. Functions of the EditExpertNet as a tool

"Search" as the main function the EditExpertNet offers the user of the database to search for experts (within name, taxon of interest, etc.) within and outside the EditExpertNet database. Furthermore it is possible to search for taxonomic societies within Europe as well as several Networks within and outside Europe. However, the EditExpertNet provides the user more useful functions.

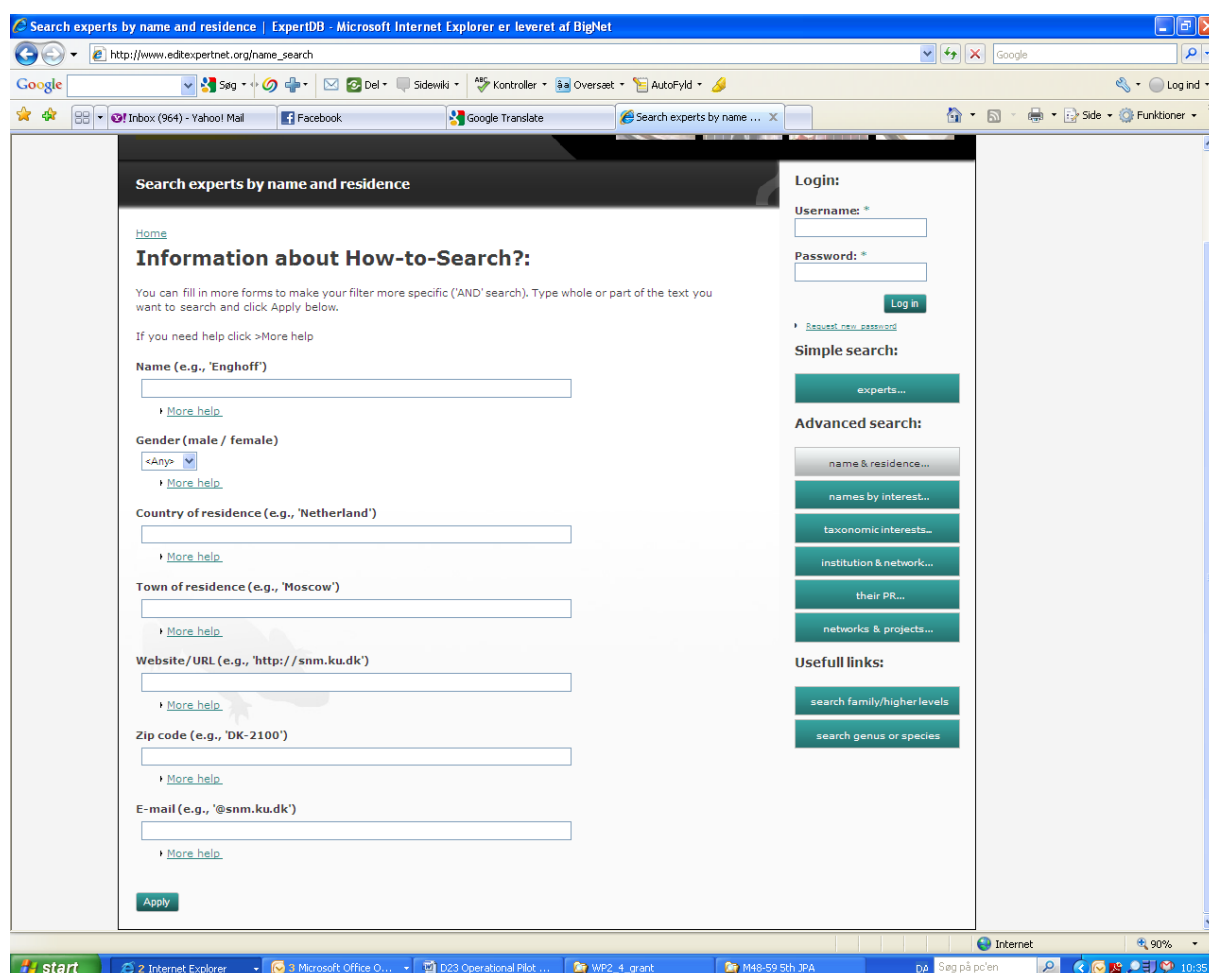


Fig. 2 Searching page for advanced search

Networking tools The EditExpertNet has a feature which makes it possible to create new networks among experts (and societies and other networks) in the database. This function still needs to be

further developed to become more user-friendly. Presently there are two options for creating networks.

The Permanent network is, as the name indicates, when a new permanent network is created; initiated by an administrator. This network will exist and can be used as long as the administrator allows.

The Ad-Hoc network (also called the Temporary network) is a network which is also created by an administrator; however, this network will be closed automatically after a period of two months when left unused.

User-friendly setup A Google-like simple- and advanced search for all entries and easy access to the new facilities for experts, institutional editors, society leaders, focal point leaders and checklist administrators gives the user a choice on how many filters are taken into account in each search.

6. Future content and functions

Within the final year of EDIT the database will have even more functions, namely as a management tool.

As stated in C2.1.8 “Gap analysis on taxonomic expertise in EDIT (M50)” a Gap analysis on the taxonomic expertise in EDIT will be carried out, based on the entries in the EditExpertNet. This will reveal which taxa are covered by expertise from EDIT experts, and which taxa are yet to be covered or where expertise are needed from outside EDIT.

These findings are closely related to an additional task of the EditExperNet which is the function of a management tool for EDIT directors. The institutional editor management tool, will help the institutional editors (directors or other announced persons) to manage their scientific staff with regard to taxonomic areas covered and retirement/new employments. Milestone 2.1.4 (Adoption by BoD of information service as the system for EDIT institutions to catalogue their human taxonomic resources), will be covering this topic.

Components mapped to D23

- C2.1.8 Gap analysis on taxonomic expertise in EDIT (M50)
- C2.1.9 A business plan for WP2 information service on taxonomic experts, their expertise and projects, in collaboration with the EU PESI (M58)
- C2.1.10 Report on legal aspects in relation to making expert data available (38)
- C2.1.11 MoU for information service database on European taxonomic expertise (M47)
- C2.1.12 Collaboration with the PESI project on integrating expert information from the European species databases in the EDIT WP2 information service on taxonomic experts, their expertise and projects (M47)
- C2.1.13 = C5.84 Integrate the CSSO identity provider component with the Experts-DB (FUB-INF with FUB-BGBM & WP2) (M49)
- C2.1.14 Inclusion of relevant data from WP8 database on taxonomic training resources in WP2 information service (M42)
- C2.1.15 Inclusion of data on experts associated with (selected) WP6 scratchpads in WP2 information service (M47)