

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

Internet Platform for Cybertaxonomy

MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING

on

**The use of existing European and global
organism name and classification services**

Version 1.0

Date 14 July 2009

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Paragraph 1 PURPOSE

1.1 The signers of this Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) have decided that a co-ordinated international effort is needed to create an Internet Platform for Cybertaxonomy, i.e. a distributed computing platform that assists taxonomists to do revisionary taxonomy and taxonomic field work jointly/collaboratively, efficiently and expediently.

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 field of cybertaxonomy. 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

4.1 The participants recognise the value of existing authoritative European and global organism name and classification services, for instance

a) nomenclators such as IPNI, Index Fungorum, MycoBank, AlgaeBase, ZooBank and ION/Zoological Record.

b) European classifications provided by PESI/EU-nomen (proceeding from Fauna Europaea, ERMS and Euro+Med PlantBase).

c) global classifications and name services such as those provided by GBIF-ECAT, uBio and Catalogue of Life and their content providers e.g. Kew World Checklists.

Where not bound by other agreements, the participants will support and make use of these services.

4.2 Where the existing services have shortcomings, participants will, wherever feasible, seek to collaborate with the service providers to overcome these shortcomings and so to improve the services. Should it be necessary to develop entirely new services, these will be exposed as soon as possible to the global community through an appropriate standards-based API.

Paragraph 5 INFORMATION SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY COMMITTEE (ISTC)

5.1 The EDIT Information Science and Technology Committee (herein ISTC) will be the forum in which all matters relating to this MoU will be discussed.

5.2 Further details on the ISTC are laid down in the ISTC Rules of Procedure (RoP), which form part of this MoU.

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 ISTC by a Participant. The proposal is circulated among the ISTC and the Participants. Taking into account comments received, the Chair of the ISTC

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 ISTC 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 1st March 2008 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.