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Project acronym: EDIT

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C5.167 Integration of users from Fauna Europaea and Euro+Med communities

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Dissemination Level		
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)	

C5.167 Integration of users from Fauna Europaea and Euro+Med communities

Apart from its role as a software environment supporting the day-to-day work of taxonomists and taxonomic communities, the EDIT Platform for Cybertaxonomy provides advanced technologies for hosting checklist information systems at an international scale. The Pan-European Species directories Infrastructure (PESI) already benefits from the capability by using the EDIT Platform as the data store used to integrate the data from Euro+Med Plantbase (<http://ww2.bgbm.org/EuroPlusMed/>), Fauna Europaea, (www.faunaeur.org/), and the European Register of Marine Species (ERMS, www.marbef.org/data/erms.php).

The application demonstrates that the EDIT Platform for Cybertaxonomy covers all relevant aspects of checklists content across organism groups including different ways of handling nomenclature and synonymies, geographic distribution schemes, common names, and classifications. However, on a medium term, a migration of the community workflows for the respective checklist initiatives would be desirable. To establish the basis for such a migration, we created test environments for users of Fauna Europaea and Euro+Med Plantbase and assessed the suitability of existing Platform tools for their workflows. The needs of checklists data managers responsible for general data curation and quality received special attention. Based on this assessment, two different strategies were developed:

Euro+Med Plantbase

The migration will be carried out in 2011 and finalised in 2012, with support from a project funded by the German Ministry of Education and Research. This will use the existing transformation process of the present Euro+Med SQL-Server database into a CDM-Store database. The existing editing tools are sufficient for the work of the contributing taxonomists. In addition, tools for importing checklist data from text processing files, tools for calculation of distributional data, and a portal system will have to be developed. The experience gained from current exemplar groups for plants (Cichorieae, Palmweb, Flora of Cyprus, Flora Malesiana, Flora of Cyprus, Flora of Central Africa, Caricaceae, Campanulaceae) will be harnessed for user training.

Fauna Europaea

For Fauna Europaea we plan a stepwise transition from its present Oracle-based system to the target CDM-Store. In 2011, we will start to create exemplar-groups, who will migrate their Fauna Europaea data to the EDIT platform. Based on their requirements and priorities, editing and import tools will be programmed and added to the platform. With the availability of more data curation tools, we will be able to migrate more groups successively towards the full taxon coverage of Fauna Europaea.

The migration of workflows will ideally complement the efforts of PESI for creating a homogeneous information space for the European Checklist initiatives. It will lead to higher efficiency and as a result up-to-date content of the European taxonomic backbone databases.