

EDIT and the Marine Biodiversity Research Area

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EDIT membership

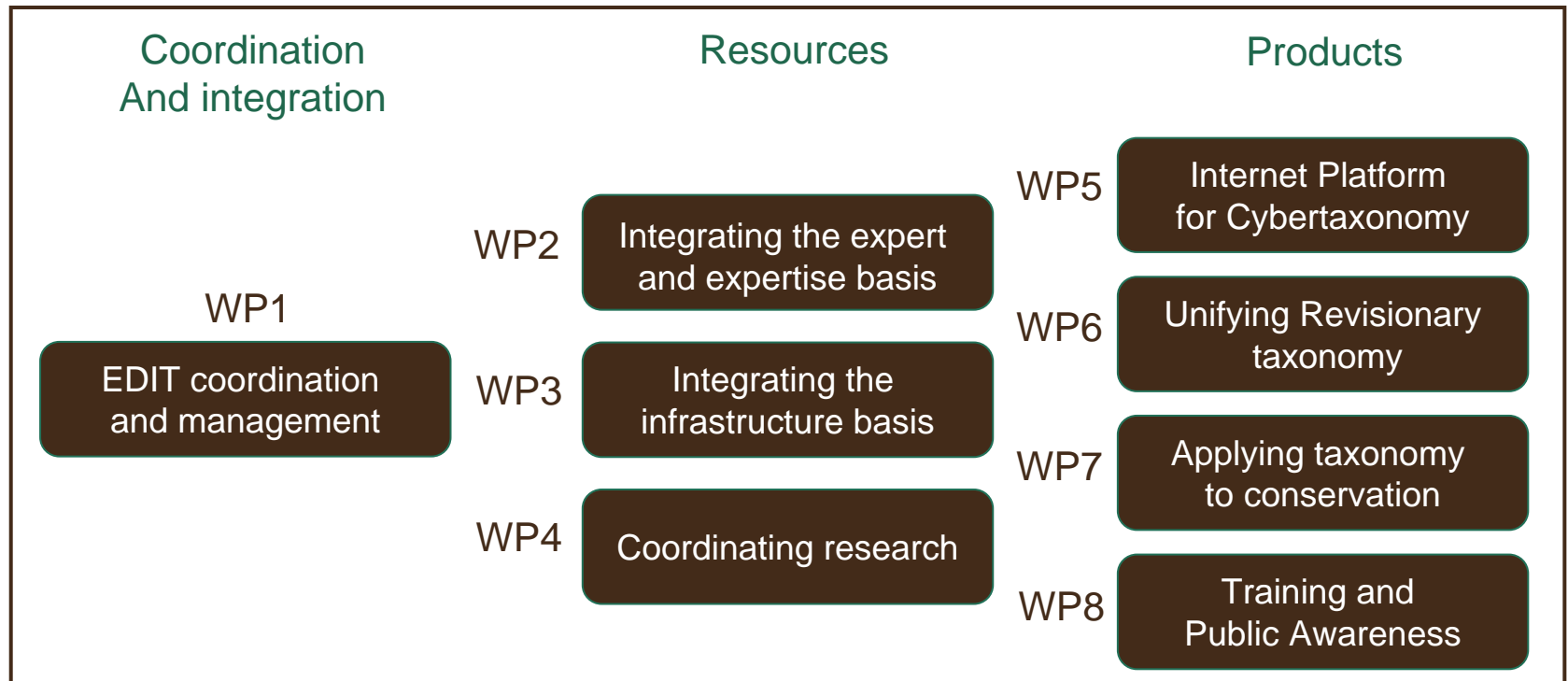


EPBRS e-conference

- « Museums play specifically an important role in applying taxonomy to global change studies »
- EDIT objectives aim at improving research, tools and infrastructures to apply taxonomy to ecosystem and biodiversity research

by changing how taxonomy is done

EDIT operational structure



session 1 « more revisions are needed »

- with current taxonomic methods it is impossible to fulfill the needs as expressed eg in the e-conference
- EDIT WP6 = providing the tools for collaborative revisions of the web (scratchpads available)
- EDIT WP5 = providing the « internet platform for cybertaxonomy » making informatic tools, softwares and data directly available and interactive

« compile comprehensive catalogues of faunas and floras »

- WP3 = integrating infrastructures
 - Taxonomic backbone= Pan-European Species-directories Infrastructure = integrating authoritative taxonomic and nomenclature services in Europe (accepted)
 - DNA Barcoding = sound identification without direct interaction with experts
 - Collections = adoption of common standards to make information available through GBIF
 - **Expected outcome = virtual local & regional inventories, requesting only validation in the field. Automatic catalogs upon demand (cf OBIS)**
- WP7 = inventories
 - elaborating standards for baseline inventories (ATBI), incl DNA barcoding. Pilot sites shared with MARBEF

session 2 « sound monitoring »

session 3 “map coastal habitats in terms of ..species richness..and uniqueness”

- EDIT objectives
 - providing the taxonomic component of the tools allowing availability of previous knowledge (EDIT + LifeWatch + GBIF)
 - providing the tools for quick and sound taxonomic identifications
 - morphological identification = contribution to knowledge bases on the web = PESI, EoL, Species Base?
 - molecular identification = contribution to CBoL, environmental barcoding?

Funding taxonomy

- e-conference: « lack of funding: incomplete species lists, less taxonomists »
- EDIT : the solution is not only more, it is also changing the approach
- however taxonomy does not answer directly to societal questions, but provides answers necessary to perform research allowing answering societal questions
- consequence = as noticed in the e-conf, increasing the effectiveness of taxonomic research through the necessary increase in funding depends primarily from the scientific community itself

STRUCTURING RESEARCH

- Within taxonomy
 - At researchers level, the objective is to change from individualistic research by taxa to collaborative research by questions using common methods and tools. Means = informatics tools + web
 - At institution level, culture must change from competition to cooperation based upon complementarity. Means = EDIT Board of Directors and governance
 - At EU level, the Consortium of Eu Taxonomic Facilities (CETAF) groups taxonomic institutions beyond EDIT (looser MoU, wider interests)
- In biodiversity research, the objective is to provide answers (information and knowledge) on taxa when needed. Means
 - e-infrastructures (for researchers and other users)
 - mechanisms of interaction with non-taxonomic institutions at institutions level (for research policy): network of networks?