

i4Life



Indexing for Life

i4Life call for the pilot projects

Work packages 2 & 3

July 2012

Capacities Programme of Framework 7: EC e-Infrastructure Programme – Virtual Research Communities - INFRA-2010-2

Grant Agreement No:	261555
Project Co-ordinator:	Dr Alastair Culham
Project Homepage:	http://www.i4Life.eu
Duration of Project:	36 months
Start Date:	November 2010
End Date:	November 2013

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Introduction

The Catalogue of Life (CoL) is a partnership programme of Species 2000 (www.sp2000.org) and ITIS (www.itis.gov). It builds on existing resources provided by global biodiversity portals and more than 115 Global Species Databases (GSDs). The Catalogue of Life provides scientists, policy-makers and citizens with accurate, relevant, exhaustive and up-to-dated data.

In the global biodiversity portals of GBIF, IUCN Red List, BOLD and EMBL ENA (herein after named as “global partners”), there are many names and taxa that are not yet listed in the Catalogue of Life. Part of the i4Life EC project activity is to:

- Discover these unlisted names
- Use these names to enrich as much as possible the GSDs and Catalogue of Life
- Annotate the unvetted names with expert comments (where it’s possible) for future indexing use.

For more details about i4Life project please see: www.i4Life.eu

Context

In the i4Life project the CoL GSD-Piping Tools will assemble batches of name- and taxon-records from the global partner programmes that do not occur in the Catalogue of Life (CoL). These names- and taxon- records will be partitioned into the Catalogue of Life GSD Sectors and subsequently provided to the appropriate GSD organisation for placement by the taxonomic experts.

The missing scientific names and taxa missing from the CoL are thought to constitute:

1. Additional valid species (and taxa of other ranks) that need placing in the CoL,
2. Additional scientific names that may be placed as synonyms or provisionally accepted taxa when included in the CoL,
3. Names of unknown quality offered for scrutiny by GSD authors or new authors
4. Taxonomic sectors of high quality from global partners for direct contribution to the Catalogue of Life (CoL) (new/proto GSD sectors).

For more details about CoL GSD-Piping Tools please see: <http://www.i4life.eu/piping.php>

Call Purpose

The i4Life project will establish and implement an experimental procedure for selecting taxonomic specialists to incorporate the new scientific names and taxa, harvested from Global Partners, into GSDs or proto GSDs that can in turn feed new content to Catalogue of Life (CoL).

This call will select appropriate GSDs that will receive batches of name- and taxon-records to place, when possible, in their taxonomy, and to return unvetted names with comments.

Call Publication and Deadline

The call opens on 23 July 2012

Deadline: 31 August 2012 - 12:00 am (midnight) (Paris local time).

Indicative Budget

The i4Life budget commits approximately €200k (plus overheads) for this purpose. These funds will be distributed among GSDs and new authors in the form of i4Life pilot projects using the Species 2000 Rotating Fund Framework.

Projects are expected to provide a net budget.

Eligibility Criteria to receive Funding

Detailed explanation of eligibility criteria is included in: Roadmap document for i4Life pilot projects.

- To be eligible to FP7 funds, to meet the Rules for Participation in FP7 (RFP), including any additional conditions laid down by specific programmes or individual work programmes.
- To be a registered with the European Commission and have (or can obtain) a validated Participant Identification Code (PIC)

For more information please see:
Rules for Participation
http://cordis.europa.eu/fp7/who_en.htm#provisions

For more information about PIC
please see:
http://cordis.europa.eu/fp7/pp_en.html

- To be / become member of Species 2000 and to have signed / sign the Access Agreement with Species 2000.

http://cordis.europa.eu/fp7/pp-pic_en.html

For more details about required procedure to become a member please visit Species 2000 website and CoL website:

http://www.sp2000.org/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=84&Itemid=49

Evaluation Criteria

- Providing the best contribution in terms of numbers and impact of additional scientific names on the CoL
- Cost effectiveness: delivered number and impact of scientific names versus projected costs
- Compliance with the CoL requirements - CoL Standard Dataset 2011 (i.e. synonyms, references, distribution, life zone and common names)
- Feasibility and schedule

For full details of CoL Standard Dataset please see:

http://www.catalogueoflife.org/prototype/sites/default/files/2011_CoL-Standard_Dataset_v6_2.doc

Evaluation Procedure

GSDs will be selected on a base of the call competition.

An i4Life expert panel will evaluate applications and release a list of candidates selected for Pilot Project funding in consultation with the Species 2000 Global Team and the Board of Directors.

A final list of pilot projects should be approved by the i4Life Management Committee.

The Board of Directors who are the legal representatives of Species 2000 will draft written agreements and will arrange payments to the GSDs that participate in the pilot project in accordance to the principles of the Rotating Fund Framework and the regulations imposed by EU FW7 funding.

Required Activities

To assess names from global partners and CoL gap areas

- All newly harvested names from global partners will be made available to the GSDs via the CoL Usermin accounts:

<https://www.catalogueoflife.org/accounts/>

Those who have no password are kindly requested to contact the CoL System Manager: Viktor Didziulis - v.didziulis@reading.ac.uk.

Alternatively lists of new names can be downloaded via a webservice:

<http://www.catalogueoflife.org/piping/webservice/gsd/>

- Names in CoL gap areas are not available in CoL Usermin accounts. A list of taxa targeted CoL gap areas (taxa of top priority) is given.

For more details on the list of taxa of top priority please see: CoL editor's statement (file [CoL_taxa_of_top_priority.pdf](#)).

- Candidates for new GSD(s), which may cover one or few families in CoL gap areas, are kindly requested to contact the CoL System Manager to look on list of available species names from the taxon of their interest :
Viktor Didziulis - v.didziulis@reading.ac.uk.

Each species name is structured as Genus, SpeciesEpithet and AuthorString (plus, InfraspecificEpithet and Rank for infraspecific taxa). Where available, additional information is provided: taxonomic status of the name (i.e. accepted or synonym of other name), full classification used by global partner database, references, link to species page in global partner database for further information.

For full details of “piping dataset” please see: Appendix 3 and Appendix 4 in Roadmap document.

To submit a proposal for an i4Life pilot project

Species 2000 invites all GSDs to assess names allocated in their CoL Usermin accounts and to submit a proposal for an i4Life Pilot Project, including a project description and cost estimate for their expert work to place the additional names in their GSD.

For the scientific names that represent gap areas in the CoL, Species 2000 welcomes new authors. Taxonomic experts will be given the opportunity to propose a project to establish new GSDs for these sectors using scientific names from global partners as a start point. The requirement in this case will be to establish new GSD and to become a member of Species 2000.

To place names- & taxa- in taxonomy and return unvetted names with comments

For selected projects, the target is to include as many “good” names in your GSD as possible and to annotate the other names, which cannot be included in your taxonomic checklist for various reasons, in a spreadsheet, according to defined categories.

We expect experts to follow taxonomic & nomenclatural rules and the classification accepted in the GSD when adding new names in the checklist. If experts decide to add “good” species in the checklist, compliance with the CoL standard dataset (i.e. synonyms, references, distribution, life zone, and common names) will be required. A potentially “good” name in your taxonomic group with unresolved taxonomic status may get the CoL “Provisionally accepted name” status.

Names/taxa placed in GSDs will be delivered to the Catalogue of Life through the existing process of updating data as soon as possible.

Unplaced/unvetted names should be delivered during the pilot project to i4Life WP2/WP12 in an annotated spreadsheet as soon as possible.

The list of standard annotation categories is given in: Appendix 5 in Roadmap document.

To submit a final reports on i4Life projects

The final report from GSDs on their pilot projects should include statistics of placed and unvetted names, comments on unvetted names, feedback on effectiveness of used procedures and a financial report.

Reports will be later incorporated in the i4Life project Final Report / in the i4Life Wp5 final report.

Template for final report is given in: Appendix 6 in Roadmap document.

For more details about this call see document attached: Roadmap document for i4Life pilot projects (attached).

Indicative Timetable

Call opening	23 rd July 2012
Call closure	31 st August 2012 - 12:00 am (midnight) (Paris local time)
Proposal evaluation by the i4Life Review Panel and list of candidates selected for pilot project funding in consultation with the Species 2000 Global Team and the Board of Directors.	1-14 th September 2012
Final approval by i4Life Management Committee	15-21 st September 2012
Announcement of evaluation results by Species 2000	24 th September 2012
Signing of contracts with Species 2000	September/October 2012
Negotiations with EC for grant amendment (approximately 6-8 weeks)*	October/November 2012
Start of pilot projects	1 st December 2012
Possibly download of first batch of incorporated/annotated names	1 st March 2013
Final date for delivery of project results to the CoL and final report **	30 th April 2013

* other processes will be delayed if this takes longer

** final delivery will consist: updated GSD plus commented names (all additional names have to be annotated) in parallel with download. Selected GSDs are recommended to deliver final products as soon as possible.

Submission Instructions

The template for the proposal is given in *Appendix 2 of this document and Roadmap document*.

Proposals must:

- Comply with the template of the proposal,
- Be written in English,
- Include a workplan / project description and a budget calculated in Euro.

Documents to provide:

- Proposal – MS Word .doc or RTF formats.
- Budget, human resources and timetable
- If necessary: document of ongoing URF/PIC registration

Submission instruction:

Proposals have to be submitted electronically to: A. Delavaud - aurelie.delavaud@mnhn.fr

Deadline: 31 August 2012 - 12:00 am (midnight) (Paris local time).

Proposals that do not meet above requirements will not be considered.

Information

Contact Aurélie Delavaud, call project coordinator employed under i4Life WP2 - aurelie.delavaud@mnhn.fr

Appendix 2 – Pilot Project Proposal Template

Date of submission:

- Proposal for existing GSD
 Proposal for new GSD

Title for the proposed Pilot Project

i4Life [short name of GSD] Pilot Project for allocation of new names from global partners

Taxonomic sector(s) covered by GSD

Number of new names available in CoL Usermin account

Total required budget in euro

Contact Information for Principal Investigator

Name:
Address:
Post/ZIP Code – Country:
Telephone:
Fax:
Email:

Contact information for Managing Organisation

Organisation Name:
Address:
Post/ZIP Code - Country:
Organisation Contact Person Name:
Telephone:
Fax:
Email:

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Participant Identification Code (PIC)
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If not, information that the process of applying for it has already started should be joined to the proposal.

Bank details (required for money transfer – internationally recognised format)

Name of the bank:

International bank and account details:

Pilot Project Description

No more than two pages.

Please check-also “Selection criteria” listed into the Call document.

Description of the project management strategy, which is to include the following items:

- The number of species contained in the product before the start of the proposed project;
- How your project will deal with the i4Life names (covering both names included in GSD and left in the spreadsheet as unplaced names with annotations).;
- The proposed results (which are due no more than six months after receipt of the seed money);
- Major project timeline and milestones.
- The technical and human resources necessary to complete the project;
- The human and institutional infrastructure of the project (expertise base);
- Institutional support and potential partnerships if applicable;
- Risk assessment (critical issues identified, technical and/or institutional and/or financial risks... possible impacts on Pilot Project schedule and costs... possible solutions...)