

PhD Project Plan published to invite community feedback early on

January 11 2016



The tip of the iceberg. Open science -- the pyramid. Credit: Viktor Senderov

Development and implementation of novel methods for publication, visualisation and dissemination of the constantly growing biodiversity and genomic bioinformatic data are the main objective of the first PhD Project Plan available from the open-access *Research Ideas and Outcomes* journal, a journal created to publish the outputs of the whole research cycle. Founded on the principles of open science, the project addresses digitally born scholarly papers and digitised data, aiming to make them more accessible and citable, and the results more reproducible.



The gradual realisation of the project, inspired by the Open Biodiversity Knowledge Management System, begins with the publishing of data in semantically enriched publications, and is completed when this data is properly linked to the Web of data, also known as the Semantic Web, ensuring its re-usability and citability. PhD student Viktor Senderov and advisor Prof. Lyubomir Penev, both affiliated with Pensoft Publishers and the Bulgarian Academy of Sciences, believe that this is the way the entire scientific data life-cycle should operate.

A fundamental part of the project is the so-called Enhanced Publication (EP), which unlike a conventional academic paper enables the user to easily access the data contained within a publication, while providing various dynamic features. For instance, there are interlinked external resources or tools that gather information on certain objects or data elements in real time. Most importantly, an EP is an object-based artifact that is highly interactive and machine-readable.





Ten key outputs of the Pro iBiosphere project. Credit: Pro iBiosphere



The project's idea is that all of the featured objects should be exportable and citable. The authors of the project plan give examples with the biodiversity-themed journals *ZooKeys*, *PhytoKeys*, and the *Biodiversity Data Journal*, which have already adopted some of the features of an EP.

The plan also includes development of visualisations of genomic and other biodiversity-related data. This is planned to be executed within the <u>BIG4</u> consortium, where Viktor Senderov is a trainee. Both data from BIG4's expeditions and from museum collections are to be utilised for the purposes of the <u>project</u>.

"As part of the scientific and methodological results, we expect to develop new approaches, methods and formats for data publishing, and for publishing in biodiversity science," explain the scientists. "We also expect to develop novel methods for exchange between publications and external data repositories, and to illustrate the aforementioned methods by means of examples using data gathered in the consortium."





The kick-off meeting of the BIG4 students in Copenhagen, 2015. Credit: BIG4

More information: Senderov V, Penev L (2016) The Open Biodiversity Knowledge Management System in Scholarly Publishing. *Research Ideas and Outcomes* 2: e7757. DOI: 10.3897/rio.2.e7757

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