



Landcare Research
Manaaki Whenua

FP7 e-Infrastructures Programme

An NZ example of engagement
Jerry Cooper



FP7 e-infrastructure Programme

- “It aims at empowering researchers with an easy and controlled online access to facilities, resources and collaboration tools, bringing to them the power of ICT for computing, connectivity, storage and instrumentation”*



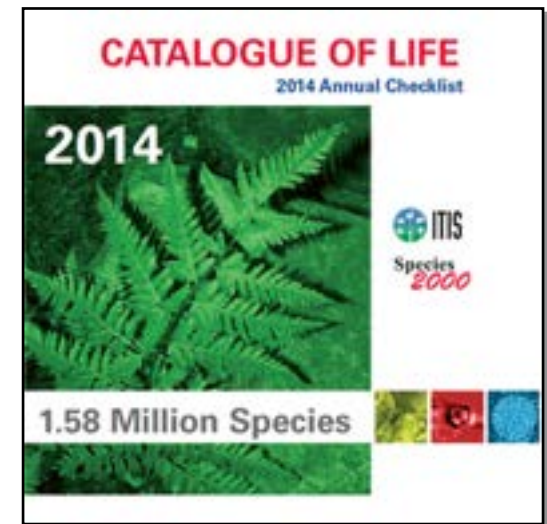
Our engagement was with ...



Two e-infrastructure programmes to support
the Catalogue of Life (CoL)

CoL is the (incomplete) list of all names of all described organisms, their synonyms and common names.

It is a vital data-backbone for biodiversity data-management supporting research, operational management, policy development ... IUCN Red data, GenBank, GBIF ...



How/Why did we engage?

Teams from different countries were already interacting at the international level to solve a common problem.

The **Catalogue of Life** is (was) manually assembled from over 100 separate databases several times a year

European/Global E-Infrastructure required!

The New Zealand Organisms Register (NZOR) is the New Zealand national digital species catalogue, assembled from separate databases on a weekly basis.

NZOR is part of CoL

National E-infrastructure required!



NZOR
New Zealand Organisms Register



What happened?

- China, USA, Australia and NZ proposed as vital non-EU partners in 4D4Life by UK-based lead
- Confusion about eligibility of non-EU partners for (EU) funding
 - issue around communication/support within the EU system for applicants
- China got EU funding
- USA leveraged national funding
- Australia and NZ – no funding (but still in project!)

Outcomes

- We achieved allocated milestones within several work packages
 - work we needed to do anyway, and largely funded elsewhere
- NZ developed the ONLY operational e-Infrastructure to solve the problem
- Our work not picked up by CoL because it wasn't funded within the project
 - The EU lost out on utilising our expertise
 - Future engagement for NZ limited (clique formation)

(My) lessons

- Remember EU funding is about supporting the research process, as well as doing it
- Leverage existing international networks
 - which requires NZ-sourced funding to support international engagement in the first place
- Get in early (before the cliques develop)
- Make sure everybody knows and agrees who is eligible for what funding before you develop the work plans

H2020 e-infrastructures Potential?



ESFRI (FP7 prep for H2020)
Already done a heap of work
prioritising work, and
identifying partners for bids

A screenshot of the ELIXIR website. The top section features the ELIXIR logo (a stylized orange 'e' with a DNA helix) and the tagline 'Data for Life'. Below the logo is a navigation bar with links: 'about', 'services', 'organisation', 'events', 'news & media', and 'members area'. The main content area has a heading 'Welcome to ELIXIR' followed by a paragraph: 'Building a sustainable European infrastructure for biological information, supporting life science research and its translation to medicine, agriculture, bioindustries and society.' Below this is a quote: 'ELIXIR unites Europe's leading life science organisations in managing and safeguarding the massive amounts of data being generated every day by publicly funded research. It is a pan-European research infrastructure for biological information.' Another quote follows: 'ELIXIR will provide the facilities necessary for life science researchers - from bench biologists to cheminformaticians - to make the most of our rapidly growing store of information about living systems, which is the foundation on which our understanding of life is built.' At the bottom left, it says 'Dr Niklas Blomberg, ELIXIR Director'. On the right side of the main content area is a photograph of a group of people in a formal setting, with a woman in the foreground looking towards the right.

H2020: ELIXIR Biological e-
infrastructure consortium

No current involvement from
NZ