

Report on the outcomes of a Virtual Mobility¹

Action number: CA18201

Grantee name: Joaquim Santos

Virtual Mobility Details

Title: Technical improvements and final adjustments to the interactive platform for European plant conservation actions

Start and end date: 20/03/2024 to 10/04/2024

Description of the work carried out during the VM

Description of the virtual collaboration and activities carried out during the VM, with focus on the work carried out by the grantee. Any deviations from the initial working plan shall also be described in this section.

(max. 500 words)

Changes were implemented on the platform code in order to accommodate the planned improvements.

Some of changes included changing the data modelling, such as the possibility to group fields under categories. Now it is possible to create *ad hoc* categories and assign one category to each field, so that they are displayed together in the same category. It is also possible to customise the background and foreground colour for each category, and give it a title, so the administrators can decide how the fields are displayed on each record.

The layout of records was changed to present one field of the category “images” in a highlighted position, to make the presentation of records more graphical, rather than a grid.

The search engine was improved to allow Full-Text Searches, rather than exact matches of strings.

Autofill was added to advanced search fields to make searches easier, giving a list of matches from the database values as user types on each field.

A property was added to each field to allow the availability of values according to the users’s profile, so the administrators can decide if each field is available to all visitors, for registered users, or only to owners and administrators.

¹ This report is submitted by the grantee to the Action MC for approval and for claiming payment of the awarded grant. The Grant Awarding Coordinator coordinates the evaluation of this report on behalf of the Action MC and instructs the GH for payment of the Grant.

It was added the possibility to have a mapping display for fields, so that a pair of coordinates can be displayed on a map. This was the most difficult part of the full work, because the platform is designed to be agnostic, i.e. it is possible to create fields of several types at any moment. Because a point on a map must be displayed considering two values for coordinates (latitude and longitude), fields of the type map must comply with this pattern and have values introduced in pairs of lat/lon. This means that the behaviour of such fields might depend on how the users introduce their information on the platform, unless some validation is implemented on the mechanism, for which there was not enough time to implement.

There was created an engine to visualise data based on the fields existent at any moment. The administrators have the possibility to select the fields for which they want basic statistics to display on the homepage of each dataset. It is also possible to display a map on the homepage displaying the points for one field defined as map.

The Virtual Machine created by the IT team of the Faculty of Biology of the University of Belgrade was prepared with the installation of all the required services to run the platform. The platform was installed and is ready to receive the data. The current address is <https://conserveplantsdata.bio.bg.ac.rs>.

Description of the VM main achievements and planned follow-up activities

Description and assessment of whether the VM achieved its planned goals and expected outcomes, including specific contribution to Action objective and deliverables, or publications resulting from the VM. Agreed plans for future follow-up collaborations shall also be described in this section.

(max. 500 words)

The platform is now more versatile and complete than it was before. It is now installed on a final location and prepared to upload the final datasets and make it available to the public. Hopefully it will be kept up to date by the teams running projects on conservation across Europe or even worldwide. The flexibility of the platform will allow administrators to manage all the fields available at any time, with the possibility to create new fields if needed. It is also possible to add new datasets at any time, incrementing the amount of information related to this topic.

More improvements would be possible in the future, such as mechanisms of communication with the users of the platform or the addition of functions that were not included in this stage of development.

Despite the current maturity of the platform, it is possible to continuously improve its functionalities, so I'm available to continue to work on any requests that the members might have.