Fungateria

Deliverable 8.1
Community Portal

Project Number: 101071145

Project Acronym: FUNGATERIA

Project title: Enlisting synthetic fungal-bacteria consortia to produce multi-cellular mycelium-based ELMs with computational capability

Project start: 01 November 2022

Project duration: 48 months

European Innovation Council

Fungateria

DELIVERABLE FACTSHEET

Project Acronym | Number		FUNGATERIA | 101071145	
Deliverable Title:	Community Portal		
Deliverable Description:	Community portal is established and populated with preliminary resources. The aim of the portal is to provide a broader insight into ELM development, beyond the focus of the Fungateria project.		
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Document change history		
Date	**Authors**	**Description**

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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The building of a diverse and robust community is an essential activity in creating awareness and promoting uptake of novel ELM technologies. An online community portal is a vital tool to support this endeavour. In this deliverable, we outline the aims and objectives, implementation and measures of success for the Fungateria Community Portal (FCP). The portal has been implemented as a public facing LinkedIn Group and has accrued 61 members, 3 posts, 455 post views and 5416 impressions since being established 18th September 2023.

The FUNGATERIA project has received funding from the European Union's HORIZON-EIC-2021-PATHFINDER CHALLENGES programme under grant agreement No. 101071145

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1 Aims and Objectives

The aim of the Fungateria Community Portal (FCP) is to create an online presence dedicated to building a thriving, diverse and engaged community around the field of Engineered Living Materials. To achieve this aim, we set out the following objectives for the FCP:

1) **Community Engagement:** the FCP will facilitate communication and interaction among community members, drawing attention to research developments and outcomes, hosting discussion fora, sharing ideas, gathering resources fostering a sense of belonging and encouraging active participation in community activities.

2) **Information and Resource Hub:** the FCP will serve as a hub of information about the research field, highlighting events, gathering resources and news relevant to the community.

3) **Awareness, Education and Dissemination:** the FCP will showcase research outcomes with particular attention to the promotion of Open Access papers. Furthermore, the FCP will feature educational resources, articles, guides and discussions on various topics surrounding ELM developments (e.g: technology, ELSA, regulatory, environment & sustainability).

4) **Targeted Community Building:** the FCP will be used to reach and engage specific interest groups and stakeholders relevant to the Fungateria project and the broader ELM community.

2 Implementation

Implementation of the FCP begins with the definition of key criteria that should be met to achieve the aim and objectives set out above. We then outline our rationale for the chosen implementation platform. Finally, we define a management strategy to ensure maintenance and development of the FCP.

2.1 Criteria

For the FCP to achieve the aim and objectives define above, the following criteria/needs are defined:

- clearly defined community purpose
- moderation and community guidelines to ensure that the portal remains a safe and respectful space
- professional and registered user-base with visible profiles
- user engagement capabilities
- content sharing with tagging and categorisation capabilities
- event creation and management capabilities
- analytics and user engagement tracking

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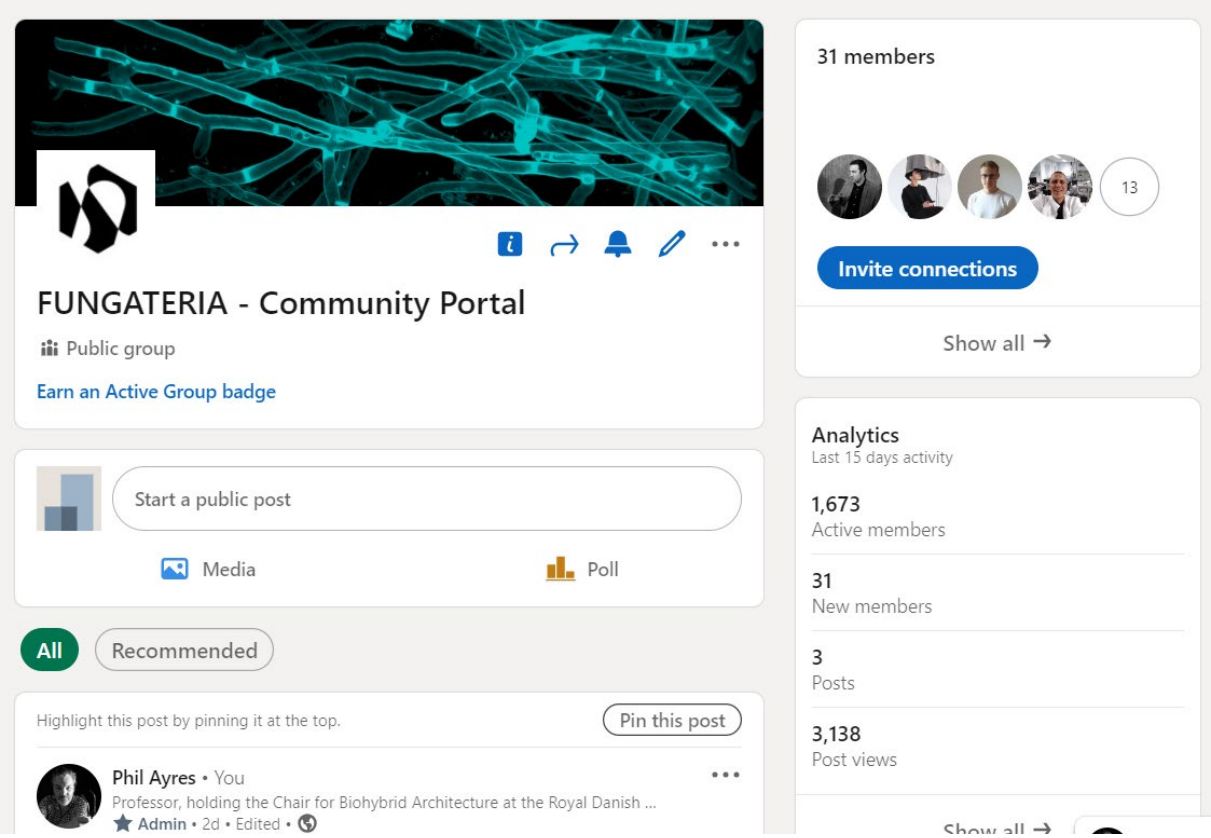
2.2 Platform for implementation

The FCP has been implemented as a LinkedIn Group. The rationale for choosing this platform is:

- professional focus enhancing credibility
- networking opportunities with global reach
- registered users with public profiles
- content sharing and user engagement tools to facilitate interaction among community members
- moderation and quality control features for admins
- access to group engagement analytics
- scalable
- maintained

The group is called **FUNGATERIA – Community Portal**, accessed via https://www.linkedin.com/groups/12887336/

The group is publicly visible and allows members to invite others. At present, only members assigned the manager role (currently limited to consortium members) have permission to post content. This will be reviewed once the portal has established identity, consistency, critical mass of content and user base.



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2.3 Management strategy

A management strategy has been implemented to facilitate implementation, commitment to development and continuous monitoring, to ensure the aim and objectives of the FCP are met. We follow a shared governance model with all members of the Fungateria consortium having manager rights to allow distributed content generation and moderation. Monitoring will occur at the monthly partner meetings and a rotation scheme will be implemented between partners to stimulate posting and representation from across the consortium.

As a member of the ELM Portfolio Communication working group, the Fungateria coordinator will ensure awareness of the FCP and its use to promote and support ELM Portfolio activities as set out in the Strategic Plan.

3 Measures of success

The efficacy and success of the FCP will be measured according to the following criteria:

1. **Membership Growth:** increase in the number of members over time

2. **Membership demographics:** widening of the community base through representation across relevant sectors

3. **User Engagement:** number of active members, post impressions, number of reposts, frequency of visits and duration of user engagement

4. **Content generation and interaction:** frequency of posts and representation from all consortium partners, number of likes, comments, shares and downloads

5. **Consortium representation and participation:** representation from all consortium members and contribution to management and content generation

Since being established on the 18th September, the FCP has accrued 61 members. All consortium partners are represented with managers. There have been three posts with an accumulated 7 reposts, 5416 impressions and 455 post views.

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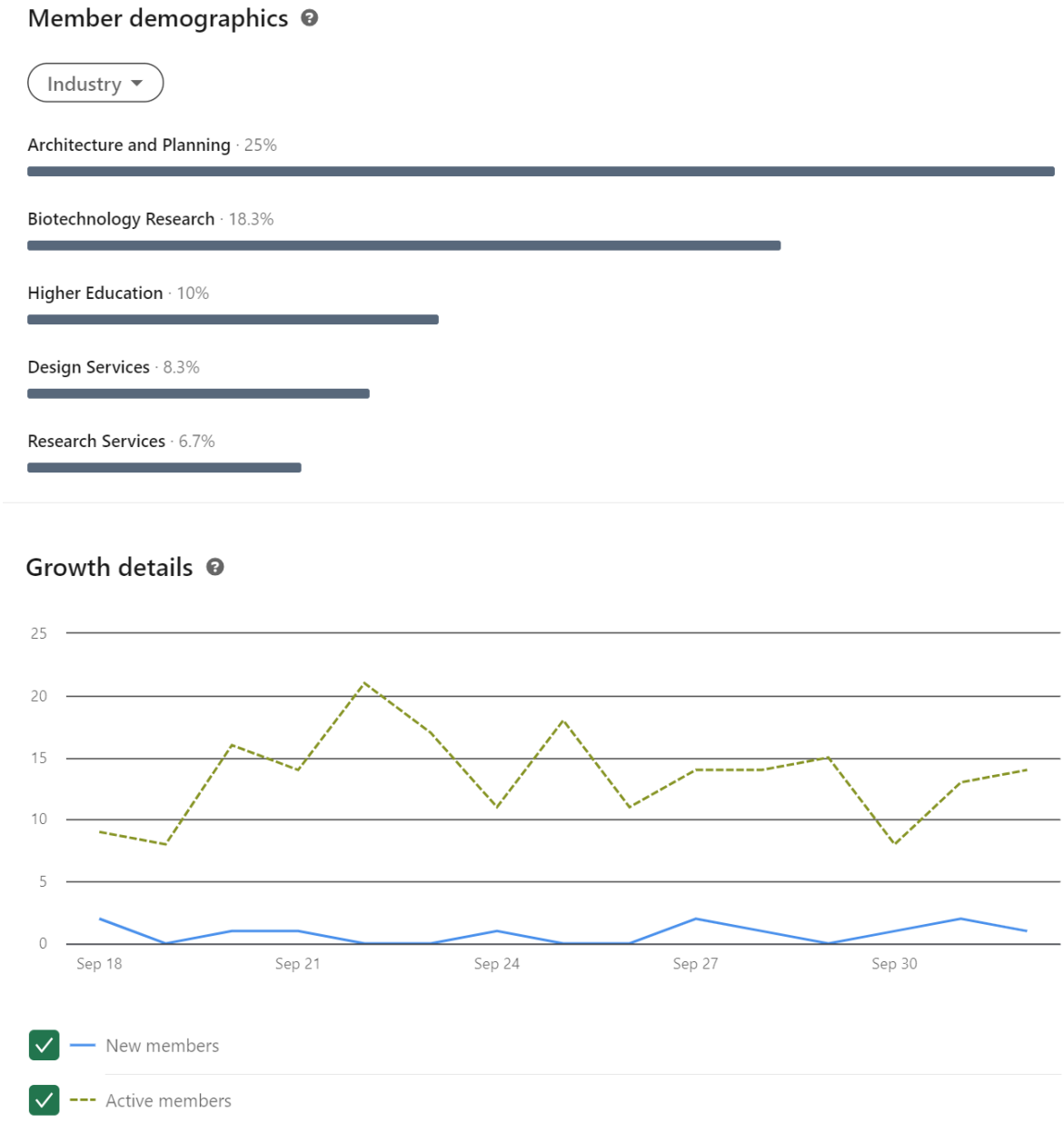

4 Conclusions

The aims and objectives for the FCP have been defined. The portal has been implemented as a public facing LinkedIn Group. A management strategy for the FCP has been established and measures of success defined. Initial analytical data shows a growing membership with particular bias towards architecture/planning and biotech research sectors, engagement with the posted content and representation as FCP managers from all Fungateria consortium partners.

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