



Project no. 018340

Project acronym: EDIT

Project title: Toward the European Distributed Institute of Taxonomy

Instrument: Network of Excellence

Thematic Priority: Sub-Priority 1.1.6.3: "Global Change and Ecosystems"

C8.3.1.1 Outline and curriculum for first "summer school" training courses at European ATBI+M pilot sites

Due date of component: Month 23

Actual submission date: Month 24

Start date of project: 01/03/2006

Duration: 5 years

Organisation name of lead contractor for this component: 13-15 BE-TAF

Revision [Final]

Project co-funded by the European Commission within the Sixth Framework Programme (2002-2006)		
Dissemination Level		
PU	Public	x
PP	Restricted to other programme participants (including the Commission Services)	
RE	Restricted to a group specified by the consortium (including the Commission Services)	
CO	Confidential, only for members of the consortium (including the Commission Services)	

The EDIT WP8 partner institutions (RBINS-13, RMCA-14, NBGB-15) in close collaboration with WP7 (SMNS-12) have started activities to implement the EDIT Summer School 2008 'Modern Taxonomy and Field Work'.

The school will take place during the "All Taxa Biodiversity Inventory and Monitoring" (ATBI+M) activities and WP7 has agreed to carry 50% of the travel costs for all training providers who contribute to the data collection of the ATBI+M (those partaking in the field work component). With regards to local logistics, another important collaboration has been established with the representatives of the park authorities of Mercantour (France) and Alpi Marittime (Italy). All participants in the Summer School will also sign the Terms of Reference, which was originally set up as an agreement between ATBI+M scientists and local park authorities.

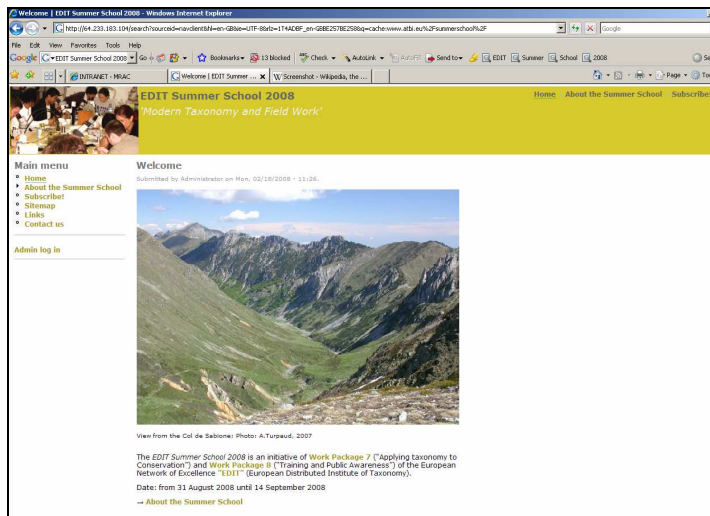
Outline and curriculum for the EDIT Summer School 2008 'Modern Taxonomy and Field Work':

Date and location: 31/08/2008 – 14/09/2008; National parks of Mercantour & Alpi Marittime

Purpose of the Summer School: to give students practical experience in modern taxonomy appropriate for biodiversity and conservation biology research. "Best practice" of field sampling will be demonstrated in partnership with experienced taxonomists in combination with theory lectures to provide an in-depth understanding of current trends in modern taxonomy.

Target audience: (recently graduated) MSc students or students who are in an early stage of their PhD research in a biological discipline.

Website: <http://www.atbi.eu/summerschool>



Call for training providers: on 05/03/2008 a first call was placed on the WP7 website, the EDIT website and sent to all EDIT team leaders. The Call advertised the Summer School website (<http://www.atbi.eu/summerschool>) and called upon motivated lecturers and field researchers. Increased outreach will be achieved by advertising outside the EDIT network.

Application procedure for training providers: candidates will be selected based on the following criteria: demonstrated expertise (~relevant publications) and vacancy of the position (once a suitable candidate has been appointed, the vacancy will be closed). **Eligibility:** all scientists employed by (1) an EDIT partner institution or (2) a non-EDIT institution or university located in a European country. Fluency in English is required and simultaneous applications for a position as a lecturer and as a field researcher are possible.

Calculation of per diem for training providers: The GBIF travel guidelines are used as a standard for calculating per diems during the Summer School. More information can be found at: <http://www.gbif.org/Support/travel/GBIFtravelguidelines-v1.pdf>

Call for students: Although the call for students is not yet officially open at the time of this report, expression of interest from students was already noticed.

Application procedure for students: In total the Summer School will accommodate 15 students. Eligibility: students and young professionals of any nationality who are affiliated with an EDIT Institute or a European University or Research Institute as a (1) (recently graduated) Master's student in a natural science discipline; or as a (2) PhD student in the early stages of their research and who are (3) fluent in the English language (ability to understand and communicate in English). Successful applicants are offered full board accommodation and transport from the country where their University/Institute is located to the location of the Summer School.

Curriculum

Course Topics

General introduction

Welcome and General Introduction to the national parks of Alpi Marittime and Mercantour: The history and importance of the PNM and PNAM. Reintroduction programs in PNM/PNAM; Natural resource management and sustainability; Safety guidelines and code of conduct in mountainous regions. *NB: This course will be taught by local rangers*

All Taxa Biodiversity Inventories and Monitoring: Origin of the concept and current implementation of ATBI+M within the EDIT framework. The importance and use of data collection standards during sampling - overview of the topics addressed during the Summer School (georeferencing, sampling and identification methods, data-entry and data-management).

General introduction to the basic concepts of taxonomic theory and practice: What's in a name? (Botany, Zoology and the IUBS). Alpha-, beta- and gamma-taxonomy.

Modern field work and specimen collection protocols:

Collecting specimens for museums: Recent trends in collection protocols and management of specimen collections.

Taxon-specific sampling protocols: depending on the available field researchers.

Introduction to georeferencing: How to use a GPS and maps for the collection and checking of georeferenced data. *NB: The geo-referencing course is planned for a full day*

Bioacoustics (and motion detection cameras)

Biodiversity: What is it? Why is it important? How is it measured? Alpha-, beta- and gamma-diversity. Recognizing the importance of taxonomy for biodiversity research: (inter)national solutions for the taxonomic impediment.

Documenting diversity:

DNA-barcoding and molecular phylogeny: Introduction to molecular taxonomy. *NB: The introduction course on molecular taxonomy is planned for 2x1h30*

Biodiversity information and cybertaxonomy: international initiatives to inventory the earth's biodiversity (GBIF, Synthesys, Zoobank, EDIT, EoL, SpeciesBase, LifeWatch...).

Electronic identification keys

Opportunities for further research in the field of taxonomy: Doing a PhD in taxonomy: where to start? How to apply for EU funding? What courses are available? European Mobility Schemes (Erasmus, Leonardo...).

Constraints

Due to limited infrastructure and the pedagogic nature of the Summer School, taxa requiring higher than 500x magnification have been excluded from the course list. Practical tuition of IT-based modern taxonomic techniques is also impossible as there is no internet availability on site.