



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”

C8.3.1.5 Outline and curriculum for third “summer school” training course(s) at European ATBI+M pilot sites

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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 Third EDIT Summer School is being organised in the biodiversity-rich region of **the Island of Madeira**¹ from July 17th 2010 until August 1st 2010.

The school is open to 20 MSc students or early stage PhD students from EDIT institutions or European universities/institutes. This year, 4 students from Australia and South Africa will also be invited to participate, through a collaboration agreement with the Australian Biological Resource Study (ABRS) and the South African National Biodiversity Institute (SANBI). Training providers from across Europe will be invited to participate. A call for students and training providers will be sent to a mailing list of over 2000 people, additional South African and Australian contacts will be added to the mailing list used in previous years. The purpose of the Summer School is to train students in "Best Practice" of field sampling and various aspects of taxonomic research to be applied in biodiversity and conservation biology research. The Summer School focuses on disseminating practical taxonomic experience with theory lectures to give an in-depth understanding of the current state of taxonomic research and its broad applicability in other scientific disciplines and non-scientific initiatives.

Several EDIT institutes are actively involved in the organisation:

RBINS: Royal Belgian Institute of Natural Sciences
 RMCA: Royal Museum for Central Africa
 NBGB: National Botanic Garden of Belgium
 MNHN: Muséum National d'Histoire Naturelle
 SMNS: Staatliches Museum für Naturkunde Stuttgart
 MfN: Museum für Naturkunde, Berlin

& the co-ordinated international effort between
 SANBI: South African National Biodiversity Institute
 ABRS: Australian Biological Resource Study

The objectives of this Agreement to Collaborate are:

- to work towards a more unified approach to taxonomy across the institutions represented by the Partners through identifying global commonalities in workflow and services;
- to contribute to the transformation of taxonomy into an integrated science;
- to strengthen the scientific, technological and information capacities needed for Europe, Australia and South Africa;
- to promote a standard of excellence in taxonomy products to fulfil the needs of global biodiversity science, industry, government and conservation end users;
- to work towards biodiversity information systems which are sustainable, user-friendly, inter-operative, and based on sound taxonomy and systematics.

Joint funding will be obtained from EDIT (WP8) and from ABRS. A total of 4 grants for ABRS and SANBI students will be awarded.

In answer to the feedback from the First and Second Summer School, a clear central theme was set forth:
 "From Field to Web - Studying biodiversity with the taxonomist's toolbox"

All theoretical lessons, lab- and fieldwork will be related to this central theme, in five blocks:

- preparation: practical preparations for the field (material: vials, preservatives, collection equipment, GPS,..., permissions);
- field work: field collection of specimens and related environmental data;
- processing: specimens data offload after fieldwork;
- safekeeping: short and long-term conservation of specimens and data;
- sharing: sharing data, specimens and insights with the world (direct relation to the EDIT Geo webtools and data dissemination initiatives such as GBIF).

In the third EDIT Summer School the curriculum will focus equally on marine and terrestrial environments.

Also in answer to last year's feedback, lessons and field work will be interspersed with two-way discussions on current hot topics in taxonomy, such as: online publications vs. paper publications, the use of museum specimens in a virtual world, protection of endangered species, trapping with minimal animal suffering, bio-piracy, countries

¹ On February 20 2010 Madeira was hit by flash floods and mudslides. Prior to this disaster, the Dean of the University of Madeira had expressed his interest in hosting the 3rd EDIT Summer School. At the time that this component report was filed, however, we were awaiting a renewed confirmation of this interest. In the event that we receive negative feedback, a backup solution is available.

shielding their natural resources ... Teachers have been asked to make room for discussions in their lessons, and two or three moderated full-group discussions will be organised.

Extra-curricular activities will additionally strengthen social interaction and allow opportunities for informal discussions between current and future generations of taxonomists.

A selection of interesting and attractive places to visit in Madeira:

- Madeira Story Centre: The centre gives an overview of 14 million years of the history of Madeira in a visit lasting 1½ hours.
- Volcanism Centre & Caves of São Vicente: The Volcanism Centre is located near the São Vicente Caves and combines science and culture with leisure and entertainment
- Natural History Museum: This museum is in the Madeira Botanical Gardens and houses a valuable collection of documents attesting to the wealth of the archipelago's natural heritage and its dynamics in this area.
- Gardens and Parks: Madeira Botanical Garden is 3 km from the centre of Funchal on the south side of a valley with exceptional conditions for its exuberant vegetation.
- Protected Areas: The Madeira Nature Reserve was created in 1982 in order to preserve a huge natural heritage, which is part of the world's heritage and includes some species in danger of extinction, as well as some high quality human habitats.
 - Laurissilva Forest: has been declared a UNESCO World Natural Heritage Site.
 - Madeira's Nature reserve:
 - Desertas Island's Natural Reserve
 - Selvagens Islands Natural Reserve
 - Garajau's Natural Reserve
 - Ponta de São Lourenço's Natural Reserve
 - Rocha do Navio's Natural Reserve
- Funchal's Historical Nucleus: Funchal has expanded into many streets lined with buildings almost as old as the island itself. Buildings like the Regional Government Palace, the Regional Assembly, the Town Hall and some of the forts are well worth a visit.
- Typical Markets

Apart from what is already mentioned, the following improvements to the organisation have been made based on feedback from last year's Summer School:

- * students and training providers will stay in the same place (University of Madeira), making for easy casual contacts and interaction;
- * there will be internet connection on the lab computers, enabling the daily use of EDIT's Geo Tools, and sources like GBIF, for the processing of the results;
- * press coverage will be improved - exploring beforehand the possibilities in Madeira regional, national and international press;
- * a briefing is planned each evening, providing the precise schedule for the next day;
- * safety precautions will be evaluated on site and adapted to local circumstances.

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