



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"

## **C8.3.1.9 Report on identified sustainability mechanisms for the EDIT Summer School beyond EDIT**

Due date of component: Month 59  
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Start date of project: 01/03/2006

Duration: 5 years

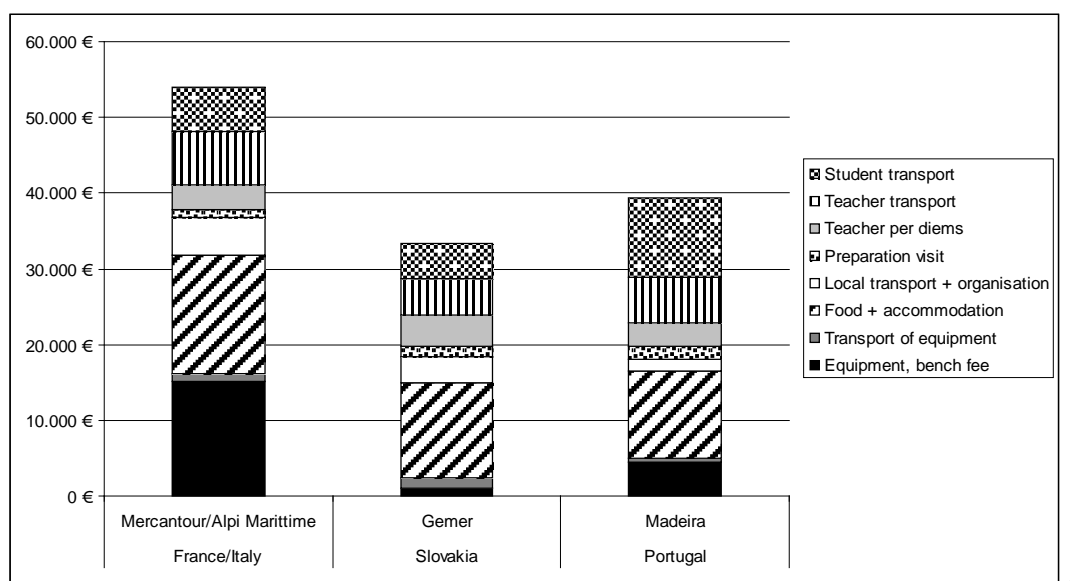
Organisation name of lead contractor for this component: 13-15 BE-TAF

Revision [Final]

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Dissemination Level		
<b>PU</b>	Public	X
<b>PP</b>	Restricted to other programme participants (including the Commission Services)	
<b>RE</b>	Restricted to a group specified by the consortium (including the Commission Services)	
<b>CO</b>	Confidential, only for members of the consortium (including the Commission Services)	

### EDIT Summer Schools: purpose and operational costs

Within the Distributed European School of Taxonomy (DEST), the EDIT Summer Schools for Modern Taxonomy and Field Work were a successful pilot-project. They were designed to train PhD and MSc students in best practice of field work and various aspects of taxonomic research to be applied in biodiversity and conservation biology research. Within the EDIT contract, travel and subsistence was provided for all students and training providers; additionally training providers received a per diem. Three Summer schools were organised: 2008, Mercantour in France and Alpi Marittime in Italy; 2009, Muránska Planina, Slovakia; 2010, Madeira, Portugal. The evolution of the expenses made during the EDIT Summer Schools in 2008, 2009 and 2010 are illustrated in the graphs below. The most expensive Summer School was, understandably, the first – due to the purchase of equipment, which was used in following Summer Schools.



Evolution of expenses made during the EDIT Summer Schools

### Continuation & sustainability of the EDIT Summer Schools within the DEST framework after the EDIT contract

The larger framework of DEST and the proposed sustainability mechanisms are detailed in the report C8.4.2.4 Report on established mechanisms to sustain DEST beyond EDIT.

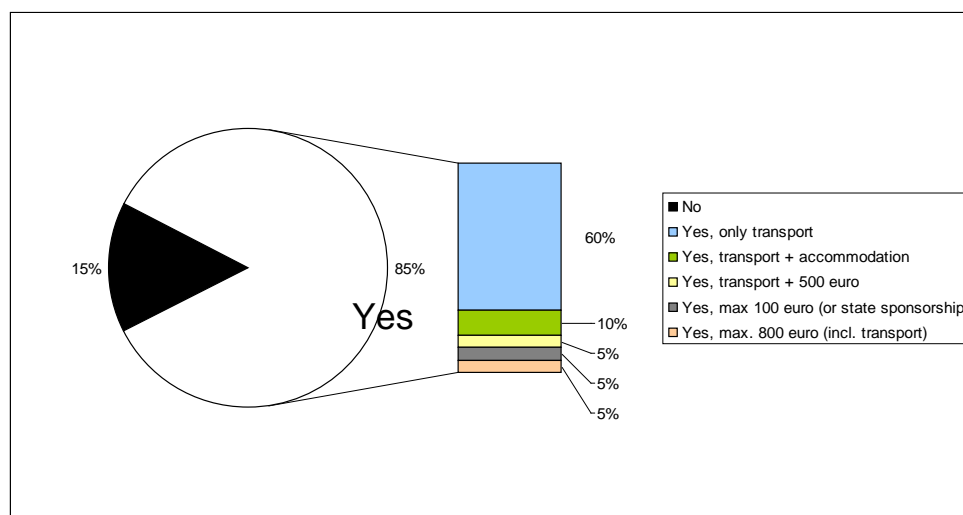
External funding bodies were queried with regards to eligibility criteria. Several funding options were studied in detail (see also report C8.3.1.7 Report of the Third EDIT Summer School). Two pre-proposals were submitted to COST (a European Science Foundation initiative, European Cooperation in Science and Technology) in cooperation with “A Long-Term Biodiversity, Ecosystem and Awareness Research Network” (ALTER-Net) and “Marine Biodiversity and Ecosystem Functioning” (MarBEF). However, both the original and the amended COST proposals were not among the 8 top ranked proposals and, therefore, not considered for funding. Funding opportunities will be monitored to identify suitable calls. Private sponsoring is another avenue that has been successfully explored, notably in the Third EDIT Summer School (Pettersson Elektronik). Management of EDIT will continue under the umbrella of the Consortium of European Taxonomic Facilities (CETAF), which will also further assist with fundraising.

Overall interest for the EDIT Summer School shows a promising increase, with twice as many student applications for the third Summer School, compared to earlier editions.

The public availability of training material developed for use in the EDIT Summer Schools was ensured through the on-line publication of the course materials on a Moodle website (e-learning

platform), in order to increase outreach after the completion of the EDIT project. The Online syllabi are discussed in detail in the report C8.3.1.6 Online publication of the syllabi of the First, Second & Third EDIT Summer Schools.

During the third EDIT Summer School, students were asked whether they would have applied to participate in the EDIT Summer School if a fee had been required. If they answered yes, they were then asked how much they would have been willing to pay. The responses are summarised in the figure below.



**Response from 20 students when asked: Would you apply if the costs associated with the Summer School were not covered by EDIT? Would you be willing to pay a fee to attend the Summer School?**

The results are discussed in detail in the report C8.3.1.7 Report of the Third EDIT Summer School. In summary, if students covered their own transport expenses and considering the structure of operational expenses made during the EDIT Summer Schools, we estimate the need for a further 30 000€ annually (not counting staff costs). This additional funding would be used to cover costs for teacher transport, teacher per diem, preparation visit, local transport and organisation, food and accommodation, transport of equipment and the purchase of (small) equipment and/or a bench fee for the use of local facilities.

Conclusion: The EDIT Summer School is most likely not sustainable without external funding.

### **Proposed mechanisms for the continuation of the EDIT Summer Schools after the EDIT contract**

1. Synergies will be sought with like-minded organisations and networks to set-up collaborative projects in order to seek appropriate funding. In January 2011 such a potential collaboration was made within the framework of a Marie-Curie Initial Training Network proposal. This proposal was submitted in partnership with Dr Diego Fontaneto, a taxonomist who participated as a training provider in the 2008 EDIT Summer School.
2. Additional funding will be sought through submission of project proposals to suitable funding bodies. Depending on available funding, student grants may be awarded. The Modern Taxonomy Course programme (another training programme under the DEST umbrella) has proven successful with only limited external funding and few student grants offered.
3. The consolidation of more formal agreements (such as the MoU detailed in report C8.4.2.4 Report on established mechanisms to sustain DEST beyond EDIT), will further facilitate the continuation of initiatives within DEST, including the EDIT Summer Schools (to be called DEST Summer Schools after the end of the EDIT contract).