



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"

## **C8.3.2.2 Progress report on the pilot expert-in-training programme**

Due date of component: Month 34

Actual submission date: Month 34

Start date of project: 01/03/2006

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Organisation name of lead contractor for this component: 13-RBINS

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)	

## Programme description

EDIT provides a limited number of short-term traineeships for graduate students and early career researchers working in the field of taxonomy. The traineeships are offered (1) to trainees affiliated to an EDIT partner institution as a Masters student, PhD student or researcher and (2) for training in an EDIT partner institution different from the applicant's EDIT institution. EDIT will cover the costs of travel, accommodation, and will provide a per diem to contribute towards living costs and training-related costs.

The main objectives of the expert-in-training programme are:

- to provide trainees with a firsthand experience of working in an EDIT institution;
- to provide the opportunity to put into practice knowledge acquired during their studies, and in particular in the field of taxonomy;
- to enable trainees to develop and to strengthen the taxonomic research skills through an on-the-job training.

The trainee joins a project team and is coached by an expert who instructs her/him on 'how to do the job'. The training also includes lectures given by the mentor to the trainee.

The training-on-the job offers and calls for applications are announced periodically (2008, 2009, 2010) on the EDIT website.

The applications are evaluated by the EDIT Selection Committee. The main selection criteria used to assess applicants are their scientific merit, their motivation and usefulness of the training for their career.

This pilot expert-in-training programme will be integrated as a training component of the Distributed European School of Taxonomy.

## Launch and results of the first call

The expert-in-training programme was launched in June 2008 on the EDIT website. <http://www.e-taxonomy.eu/node/60>

During the first call 21 trainings on-the-job were offered at nine EDIT partners institutions. Depending on the training subject, the training period lasts from one week up to four weeks. The complete list of traineeships offered during the first call and a detailed description are available at: <http://www.e-taxonomy.eu/node/32>

In total 10 applications were submitted. Nine of them were approved by the EDIT Expert-in-training Selection Committee.

Training offers from the National Herbarium Netherlands were the most solicited by the applicants (7) followed by the training offered by RMCA on 'Cybertaxonomy' (3).

EDIT awarded grants to the following successful applicants:

Training on-the job at the National Herbarium Netherlands, Leiden branch

- Advanced topics in phylogeny reconstruction, 2 weeks – March 2009
  - Andrea Costa, PhD student, CSIC, Real Jardin Botanico, Madrid
  - Elvinger Nora, PhD student, Université Libre de Bruxelles, affiliated with CSIC, Real Jardin Botanico, Madrid
  - Barnes Nathalie, Postdoc, Natural History Museum, London
- Malesian plant families, 3 weeks – January 2009
  - Shao Qing, PhD student, Institute of Botany, Chinese Academy of Sciences, Beijing, China, affiliated with NHM London
- Cryptogamic botany and Mycology, 4 x 1 week – January 2009
  - Câmara Paulo, researcher, Universidade de Brasilia affiliated with Missouri Botanical Garden, St Louis, USA
- Advanced topics in biogeography and spatial pattern analyses, 2 weeks – March 2009
  - Zapata Guardiola Rebeca, PhD student, CSIC, Instituto de Ciencias del Mar, Barcelona

Training on-the-job at the Royal Museum for Central Africa, Tervuren

- Cybertaxonomy and biodiversity information with special emphasis on collection management and geospatial related data
  - Roca Ristol Pere, researcher, CSIC, Museo nacional de Ciencias Naturales, Madrid (1 week – December 2008)
  - Zapata Guardiola Rebeca, PhD student, CSI, Instituto de Ciencias del Mar, Barcelona (2 weeks – April 2009)
  - McMonagle Laura, PhD student, Natural History Museum, London (2 weeks – April 2009)

Two of the applicants decided to extend their stay with respectively one and two weeks on their own expenses indication a strong interest for the offered subjects. First call trainings started in December 2008 and all trainings will be finished by the end of April 2009.

After their training, the trainees will complete an evaluation form in order to allow EDIT to valorise the programme.

### **Future perspectives: expanding the training offer and broadening the user base**

In the first call, the traineeships are offered in an EDIT institution for trainees affiliated to an EDIT institution. There was a considerable interest from applicants with no affiliation to EDIT institutions to apply for the traineeships. Hence, it is the intention in subsequent calls to open the traineeships to non-EDIT partners as well and to get the involvement of more EDIT partners and non-EDIT partners in the training offer. In addition, this will give a cogent visibility to the European potential of taxonomy training resources. Furthermore, collaboration areas with international organisations/networks will be explored.

To help us to define and evaluate training needs in taxonomy, applicants have the possibility on the website to express their needs for a specific training if not on the list offered by EDIT.