



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"

D27 Progress report on Integrated Training for Taxonomy

Due date of deliverable: Month 53

Actual submission date: Month 53

Start date of project: 01/03/2006

Duration: 5 years

Organisation name of lead contractor for this deliverable: 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)	

THE DISTRIBUTED EUROPEAN SCHOOL OF TAXONOMY (DEST)

In training, the objective is to consolidate a high quality training that prepares students for future taxonomic careers. EDIT and other international partners established a European state-of the art School of Taxonomy: the Distributed European School of Taxonomy (DEST). Several EDIT partners and other partners invest in delivering training courses. EDIT contracts staff, develops training activities, and monitors the overall functioning of the DEST. EDIT awards a limited number of grants for the students/trainees (see component reporting C8.4.1.1 - Table 1).

The following three training programmes as described in the DoW were achieved.

Expert-in-training programme

www.taxonomytraining.eu/content/full-list-traineeships-2009-2010

The screenshot shows the website 'DEST - Taxonomy Training' with a navigation menu (Home, General info, Training resources, Virtual campus, Contact) and a main content area titled 'The full list of traineeships 2009-2010'. The page includes a search bar, a user login section, and a 'Recent news' sidebar. The main content is a table listing training courses and their hosts.

Training course	Host
Southeast asian primates taxonomy in Dubois collections	Nationaal Natuurhistorisch Museum Naturalis
Tropical Plant Identification Course	Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew
Botanical Nomenclature Course	Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew
Vegetation Survey Training Course	Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew
Training program in taxonomy of higher plants	University of Bayreuth
Advanced Biosystematics, Phylogenetics and Biogeography (Leiden)	Nationaal Herbarium Nederland, Leiden branch
Palynology	The National Herbarium of the Netherlands, Leiden branch
Wood biology training	Royal Museum for Central Africa
Training program in non-marine diatoms from the (sub-) Antarctic Region	National Botanic Garden of Belgium
Bryology, Mycology & Phycology	Nationaal Herbarium Nederland
Culture collection management & fungal taxonomy	Centraalbureau voor Schimmelcultures (CBS) /Fungal Biodiversity Centre
Conservation and Care of Natural History Collections	The Natural History Museum London
Practical aspects of taxonomy	Ghent University
Cybertaxonomy and biodiversity information with special emphasis on collection management and geospatial related data	Royal Museum for Central Africa
Taxonomy of freshwater macroinvertebrate bioindicator species	EcoServe
Training programme in Crustacean systematics with specialisation in Cyclopidae (Copepoda)	Museum and Institute of Zoology, Polish Academy of Sciences
Systematics of freshwater subterranean Malacostraca: Morphology, molecular systematics, and web-taxonomy	University of Ljubljana, Biotechnical Faculty
Identification of Afrotropical spiders (Araneae)	Royal Museum for Central Africa

This training programme allows students and early career researcher from European institutions to benefit from on-the-job training in EDIT institutions and other partner institutions.

The 2008-2009 Expert-in-training programme (call 1) offered 21 trainings in 9 EDIT institutions for trainees from EDIT institutions. The 2009-2010 programme (call 2) offered 31 trainings in 13 EDIT institutions and in 8 other European partner institutions for trainees from EDIT institutions or from European universities/institutes. EDIT covered all costs related to attending the training. Especially call 2 received many more requests for grants than could be supported

and selection of participants became an important part of the process. Within the anticipated budget, 17 applicants were granted, equivalent to 36 weeks of training.

In addition to the large number of applications received in call 2, the evaluation feedback of the trainees shows that there is an overwhelming interest in these intensive trainings. Another positive outcome is that, to our knowledge, at least 2 trainees obtained a job thanks to the completion of an EDIT Expert-in-training! Furthermore, the programme generates future research cooperation.

More detailed information can be found in component reporting C8.3.2.3 (Table 1).

Summer Schools

www.atbi.eu/summerschool

EDIT Summer Schools


Main menu

- Home
- EDIT Summer School 2008
- EDIT Summer School 2009
- EDIT Summer School 2010
 - Call for students
 - Call for training providers
 - List of courses 2010
 - Week Schedule 2010
- EDIT Summer School Extras
- Sitemap
- Links
- Contact us

EDIT Summer School 2010

The 3rd EDIT Summer School will be held on the beautiful Island of Madeira, from 17 July - 1 August 2010

The subtropical island of Madeira lies 1000 km from mainland Europe and 500 km off the coast of Africa in the Atlantic Ocean. Discovered by the Portuguese in 1418, the archipel of Madeira consists of the islands Madeira, Porto Santo and the uninhabited Selvagens and Desertas Islands. Madeira has an area of 741 km² and is 57 km long and 22 km wide.



The Madeira Nature Reserve was created in 1982 in order to preserve the rich biodiversity of Madeira, which includes many endemic and endangered species. One of the greatest tourist attractions of Madeira lies in its spectacular landscapes. The archipelago is included in the biogeographic region of Macaronesia and has been recognized by UNESCO as a World Heritage site.

"World Heritage Nomination (1999) - The Laurisilva of Madeira consists of approx 15000ha within the 27000ha of the Madeira Nature reserve. It is the largest area of laurel forest surviving and is in very

Summer Schools train students in 'Best Field Practices' for basic taxonomic research, biodiversity studies, and conservation biology.

Three Summer Schools were organised. The maximum number of participants is 20 students from EDIT institutions or European universities/institutes. EDIT supports travel and accommodation for students and training providers, and training-related costs. The Summer Schools brought together students and training providers from all over Europe:

More detailed information can be found in the component reporting C8.3.1.4 & C8.3.1.5 (Table 1).

Modern Taxonomy course programme

www.taxonomytraining.eu/content/modern-taxonomy-course-programme-2010-2011

Modern Taxonomy course programme 2010-2011

DEST announces, within the framework of EDIT, a number of theoretical courses for students, technicians and early career researchers involved in the field of taxonomy.

Primary objective of the programme is to provide future professionals with **fundamental expert knowledge on basic taxonomy**.

The course programme targets topics such as: nomenclature; describing, writing and illustrating biodiversity/species; collection conservation. A limited number of EDIT grants is available.

The programme is open to trainees from Europe and outside of Europe.

Title	Place/Date	Teachers	Registration status
Zoological Nomenclature	Museo Nacional de Ciencias Naturales, Madrid 30 July-1 August 2010 next training: end of 2011	Miguel Angel Alonso Zarazaga	closed
Conservation and Care of Natural History Collections	Natural History Museum, London 11-15 October 2010	Lorraine Cornish Chris Collins	closed
Basics of taxonomy: describing, illustrating and writing biodiversity	Sven Lovén Centre for Marine Sciences, Kristineberg 8-19 November 2010	Matz Berggren Oliver Coleman Gabor Lövei Tomas Cedhagen	open deadline: 1 September 2010
Biological Nomenclature	Muséum national d'Histoire naturelle, Paris	Alain Dubois	open

Primary objective of the Modern Taxonomy theoretical course programme is to provide future professionals (students, technicians, early career researchers) with fundamental expert knowledge on basic taxonomy. The course programme targets topics such as: nomenclature; describing, writing and illustrating biodiversity/species; collection conservation.

The Modern Taxonomy programme was launched in May 2010 and will run till the end of the EDIT project. It is open to trainees from Europe and outside of Europe. Participation is on a self-financed basis. A subscription fee is asked. EDIT awards a limited number of grants to defray subscription fee, travel and subsistence costs.

The first two courses will run in October and November 2010 and received many more registrations than the allowed maximum number of participants the course can support. A first conclusion is that there is a striking difference in registration procedure: the “Conservation and Care of NH collections” course, targeting collection curators/managers, showed that museums are willing to invest time and money to send their staff to the course. The “Basics of Taxonomy” course, targeting students and early career researchers, received particularly registrations with grant request. Furthermore, there is a large interest in the Modern Taxonomy courses from institutes outside Europe, especially from the Global South.

In October 2009, the 'DEST Taxonomy Training' website (www.taxonomytraining.eu) was launched to inform on the EDIT training products and future training developments. The virtual campus provides information on taxonomy databases, networks, organisations, projects, software, identification keys. Future plans are to develop the virtual campus with a communication zone for collaborative teaching and training.

In collaboration with WP3, an Agreement to Collaborate has been signed with ABRS (Australian Biological Resources Study) and SANBI (South African National Biodiversity Institute) on concrete and specific developments in future collaborative DEST training.

THE ONLINE CATALOGUE FOR TAXONOMY COURSES

http://edit.africamuseum.be/drupal_dev/

The Online Catalogue for Taxonomy courses was developed to have a centralised database that indicates all available taxonomic courses. Currently, most students and researchers find it difficult to locate a course in the taxonomic field as they are poorly represented in common searches. However, with the development of the online catalogue Universities and Research institutions across the world can clearly indicate the courses they have available.

The online course database is fully functional and is capable of satisfying a great need in terms of access to information. Institutions can update their respective courses when they require doing so. The content management system used to organize the site is Drupal (<http://drupal.org/>) with the database running on PostgreSQL (<http://www.postgresql.org/>) To ensure sustainability beyond EDIT the service will be hosted by a server setup on site in the RMCA, with a persistent backup to ensure the data is not lost. To harvest more information the site will also be largely advertised worldwide for sustainability and usefulness beyond EDIT.

PERSPECTIVES OF DEST BEYOND EDIT

The DEST was evaluated as being a successful EDIT product and the EDIT Board of Directors (7th BoD, June 2010, Paris) recommended a continuation of its activities and the integration of EDIT into CETAF.

Several EDIT partners are interested to sustain the DEST training activities. BE-TAF, and in particular RBINS, is willing to maintain the training activities. Moreover, other partners (non-EDIT) involved in the present training activities have a strong interest to continue their investment in delivering training courses beyond the EDIT project.

A Memorandum of Understanding on training cooperation in DEST is under development, providing evidence of a continued coordinated international effort to sustain the taxonomic training programmes of DEST during and beyond termination of the EDIT contract.

The mechanisms necessary for ensuring the sustainability of the DEST training programmes are outlined in the component reporting C8.4.2.2.

The operational mechanism of the training programmes after the end of the EDIT contract will be the same as the one applied for the Modern Taxonomy programme, which is a test case for training activities after EDIT. Trainees' participation will be on a self-financed basis. Depending on available funding, student grants may be awarded.

Table 1: Component reports related to D27	date delivered	URL
C8.3.1.4 Report on the second EDIT summer school	M44	http://www.e-taxonomy.eu/node/682
C8.3.1.5 Status report on the third EDIT summer school is available (outline and curriculum)	M47	http://www.e-taxonomy.eu/node/754
C8.3.2.3 Evaluation report on the pilot expert in training program (calls 1 & 2)	M46	http://www.e-taxonomy.eu/node/714
C8.4.1.1 Text of draft course prospectus ready for its consideration by the BoD	M46	Internal report
C8.1.4.2 Report on the consultation interface for the on-line catalogue of training resources for taxonomy	M41	http://www.e-taxonomy.eu/node/638
C8.1.4.3 Report on the input interface for the on-line catalogue of training resources for taxonomy	M44	http://www.e-taxonomy.eu/node/680
C8.1.4.4 Report on the fully operational on-line catalogue of training resources for taxonomy with continuity for the future	M48	http://www.e-taxonomy.eu/node/844
C8.4.2.1 Report on establishment of network of training providers and school curriculum	M49	http://www.e-taxonomy.eu/node/796
C8.4.2.2 Report on identified sustainability mechanisms for DEST beyond EDIT	M47	Internal report