



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”

C8.4.2.4 Report on established mechanisms to sustain DEST beyond EDIT

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

Revision [Final]

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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)	

STATE OF THE ART OF THE DISTRIBUTED EUROPEAN SCHOOL OF TAXONOMY (DEST) AT THE END OF THE EDIT CONTRACT

Within the scope of DEST, the following three training components as described in the DoW are achieved:

- The Expert-in-training programme allows young graduate students and early career researchers from European institutions to benefit from on-the-job training in EDIT institutions and other European partner institutions. Two training programmes were announced (2008-2009, 2009-2010).
- The Summer Schools train students in 'Best Field Practices' for basic taxonomic research, biodiversity studies, and conservation biology. Summer schools are open to MSc students and early stage PhD students from European universities/institutes. Three Summer schools were organised (2008, 2009, 2010).
- The Modern Taxonomy theoretical course programme provides future professionals with a solid basic taxonomic training; courses are open to students, technicians and early career researchers from Europe and outside of Europe. One Modern Taxonomy course programme was held (2010-2011).

Within the EDIT framework, a network of around 100 training providers from 60 institutions was established. One hundred eighty five trainees received training and 116 trainees were granted.

Further details on the training programmes can be found in the component reporting:

C8.3.2.4 Final evaluation report on the pilot expert-in-training programme

C8.3.1.7 Report on the Third EDIT Summer School

C8.4.2.3. Evaluation report on the Modern Taxonomy programme

<http://www.taxonomytraining.eu/content/reports>

OPERATIONAL MECHANISMS OF THE DEST TRAINING PROGRAMMES IN THE EDIT FRAMEWORK AND AFTER THE END OF THE EDIT CONTRACT

Within the EDIT framework, the operational mechanisms of the three training programmes are as follows: several EDIT partners and other partners invest in delivering training courses for the three training components. 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.

For the Summer Schools, EDIT supported travel and accommodation for students and training providers, and training-related costs (full funding). For the Expert-in-training programme, EDIT covered the costs of travel, accommodation, and provided a per diem to contribute towards living costs and training-related costs (full funding). Participation in the Modern Taxonomy programme was on a self-financed basis. EDIT awarded a limited number of grants to help defray the expenses associated with course attendance, travel and accommodation (partial funding).

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 was a test case for sustainability of training activities after EDIT. The number of paying participants versus granted participants indicated that courses could run without external funding. The training programmes will be open to all interested participants with a limited number of participants for each training

course/programme. Students'/trainees' participation will be on a self-financed basis. Depending on available funding, student grants may be awarded.

ESTABLISHED MECHANISMS FOR ENSURING SUSTAINABILITY 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 and will invest staff to manage the DEST. Moreover, other partners (non-EDIT) involved in the present training activities expressed their interest to continue their investment in delivering training courses beyond the EDIT project.

The Training and Education Committee will be in charge of the tasks as specified hereunder. RBINS, acting as the general coordinator, will ensure the general management of the DEST, the coordination and monitoring of the training activities Expert-in-training and Modern Taxonomy, maintenance of DEST website, the marketing of training products and services and the financial basis of the DEST. RMCA and NBGB will ensure the coordination, the monitoring and the financial basis of the Summer Schools. The training providers will ensure the delivery of the training courses.

New financial resources for grant awarding are sought from EC funding programmes, private foundations etc. Synergies with, and involvement of (inter)national organisations/infrastructures (e.g. ABRS, SANBI, etc.) should ensure joint funding and submission of joint proposals for new financing.

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

Hence, it is the intention to continue the training beyond EDIT and even to extend the programme by involving overseas partners (*cf* signed AtC with ABRS (Australian Biological Resources Study) and SANBI (South African National Biodiversity Institute)).

It is the ultimate goal to obtain accreditation for the Modern Taxonomy courses and to integrate them in the academic framework. Involvement of universities would ensure the sustainability of the DEST stamped courses.