



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"

C8.3.1.3 Outline and curriculum of second "Summer School" training course(s) at European ATBI+M pilot sites

Due date of component: Month 35

Actual submission date: Month 35

Start date of project: *01/03/2006*

Duration: *5 years*

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

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 Second EDIT Summer School is being organised in the biodiversity-rich region of the [Murànska planina](#) national park, Slovakia, from July 19th 2009 until August 1st 2009.

The School is open to MSc students or early stage PhD students from EDIT institutions or European universities/institutes. The programme brings together students and training providers from all over Europe. 20 students and a similar number of training providers from all over Europe will be participating - a call for participation has been sent to a mailing list of over 2000 people, assembled from last year's mailing list (for the First Summer School) with some additional addresses of people who had expressed interest. The first applications are now coming in.

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
HMHN: Comenius University, Bratislava, Slovakia

Funding will be obtained from EDIT (WP8).

In answer to a demand made clear in the feedback on the First 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)

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 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.

In addition, extra-curricular activities will strengthen social interaction and will provide background to the course topics (tentative list):

- a documentary about the Santo 2006 expedition
- Social Dinner(s)
- visits to nearby aragonite caves
- Betliar mansion
- Muràň castle
- Hradová rocks
- canyon Zàdielska tiesňava
- gorges of the Suchà belà
- gorges of the Veľký Sokol
- lookout the Tomášovský výhľad

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 village (probably the same hotel), 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 Slovakia regional, national and international press.

* A briefing is planned each evening, providing the precise schedule for the next day.

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