



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"

## **C8.4.2.1 Report on establishment of network of training providers and school curriculum**

Due date of component: Month 49

Actual submission date: Month 49

Start date of project: 01/03/2006

Duration: 5 years

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

Revision [Final]

<b>Project co-funded by the European Commission within the Sixth Framework Programme (2002-2006)</b>		
<b>Dissemination Level</b>		
<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)	

## **THE DISTRIBUTED EUROPEAN SCHOOL OF TAXONOMY (DEST)**

The infrastructure outline of the DEST has been established:

- Expert-in-training programme provides young graduate students and early career researchers with an opportunity to acquire, and to strengthen, taxonomic research skills through individual on-the-job training. The programme became operational in JPA-3 and two calls have been announced in the framework of EDIT.
- Summer Schools train students in 'Best Field Practices' for basic taxonomic research, biodiversity studies, and conservation biology. The 1<sup>st</sup> Summer School was organised in JPA-3. In total, three Summer Schools will be held during the EDIT project.
- Modern Taxonomy theoretical course programme will provide future professionals with a solid basic taxonomic training. The programme will be launched in May 2010 (M50).

The DEST website, providing information on training activities and resources on taxonomy, is on-line since October 2009.

### **OPERATIONAL MECHANISMS OF THE DEST TRAINING PROGRAMMES**

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.

### **DEST TRAINING PROGRAMMES**

#### **Expert-in-training programme**

<http://www.taxonomytraining.eu/content/edit-expert-training-programme>

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 European universities/institutes. EDIT covers the costs of travel, accommodation, and provides a per diem to contribute towards living costs and training-related costs.

Within the anticipated budget, 26 applicants were granted, equivalent to 36 weeks of training:

- 1<sup>st</sup> call: 9 trainees (6 nationalities) from 7 universities/institutes in 5 European and 2 non-European countries (institutes affiliated with EDIT);
- 2<sup>nd</sup> call: 17 trainees (13 nationalities) from 12 European universities/institutes in 10 European countries.

#### **Summer Schools**

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

Two Summer Schools were organised and a third one will be held in 2010. 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 bring together students and training providers from all over Europe:

- 1<sup>st</sup> Summer School 2008 in Mercantour and Alpi Marittime: 21 professional taxonomists affiliated with 14 universities/institutes in 7 European countries; 20 students (16 nationalities) from 17 European universities/institutes in 13 European countries;
- 2<sup>nd</sup> Summer School 2009 in Muránska Planina National Park, Gemer Region: 18 professional taxonomists affiliated with 13 universities/institutes in 10 European countries; 20 students (13 nationalities) from 16 European universities/institutes in 11 European countries;

- 3<sup>rd</sup> Summer School 2010 in Madeira: 17 professional taxonomists affiliated with 14 universities/institutes in 9 European countries; 20 students (selection is ongoing at the time of reporting).

### **Modern Taxonomy course programme**

<http://www.taxonomytraining.eu/content/%E2%80%98modern-taxonomy%E2%80%99-course-programme>

The Modern Taxonomy programme will be launched in May 2010 and will be open to all interested participants. Participation will be on a self-financed basis. A subscription fee will be asked. Numbers of participants per course will be limited. EDIT will award a limited number of grants to defray subscription fee, travel and subsistence costs.

The course programme targets topics such as: nomenclature; basics of taxonomy: describing, illustrating and writing biodiversity; phylogeny and evolutionary biology; collection conservation. The 'Modern Taxonomy' course programme is developed in a modular manner so that courses are offered at several institutions.

### **PERSPECTIVES BEYOND EDIT**

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.

As presented in the EDIT business plan, 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 (non-EDIT) partners involved in the present training activities have a strong interest to continue their investment in delivering training courses beyond the EDIT project.

In order to guarantee the sustainability and monitoring of the existing training programmes after EDIT, sustainability mechanisms need to be identified. The mechanisms necessary for ensuring the sustainability of the DEST training programmes are outlined in the component reporting C8.4.2.2 Report on identified sustainability mechanisms for DEST beyond EDIT.