

## PRESS RELEASE

State Museum for Natural History Stuttgart  
Natural History Museum Vienna  
National Museum Prague  
University of Portsmouth

“**EUvolution**”

Stuttgart, 23 February 2009

Stuttgart/Vienna/Prague/Portsmouth. The project **EUvolution**, which is promoted by the European Commission and was initiated and designed by the State Museum for Natural History Stuttgart together with the Natural History Museum Vienna (Austria), the National Museum Prague (Czech Republic) and the School of Earth & Environmental Sciences of the University of Portsmouth (UK), started in late 2008.

The starting point for the project is the Darwin anniversary year in 2009: It is the 200<sup>th</sup> birthday of Charles Darwin and the 150<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the publication of his groundbreaking main work “On the Origin of Species”. To this day, the evolution theory is one of the material cultural bases of the European societies and thus one of the European cultural assets. The theory of Charles Darwin had - and still has - effects on the fields of society, science, research, philosophy, art and religion. This is a current issue all over Europe not least with regard to the current creationism debate.

**EUvolution** combines the current knowledge of, the current working on and the current reception of the scientifically and culturally relevant topic of evolution in Europe. The elements and actions of the project **EUvolution** include for example:

1. **[www.euolution2009.de](http://www.euolution2009.de):**

Website in 3 languages on the project **EUvolution** as a requirement of the evolution competition and its publication. Plain explanation of the evolution theory and its cultural, social and scientific effects.

2. **Evolution competition:**

Competition for young adults to develop a vision about “EUvolution 2009 - Europe in 100 million years”. The winners will be chosen by a jury made up of the people in charge of the project, co-organisers and the coordinator.

The winners will be invited to an evolution camp in Stuttgart and Prague. Dougal Dixon is member of the jury for the competition “EUvolution 2009 - Europe in 100 million years”. Dougal Dixon is an internationally recognised specialist on dinosaurs and one of the most popular science writers in the UK. He published more than 100 books on dinosaurs, evolution and geology, including numerous publications for young readers. In addition, he has served as special advisor for TV programmes and motion pictures in the UK, USA and Japan. What is to be especially emphasised is the BBC-produced programme “The future is wild” showing Dougal Dixon’s well-grounded vision of the future environment. It is not least due to numerous international awards and prizes that he is the most suitable jury member for the competition “Europe in 100 million years”.

3. **Evolution camp:**

A camp in Stuttgart and Prague for young adults from all over Europe (winners of the evolution competition) with workshops and seminars on the topic evolution theory and its importance. Development of a vision “Europe in 100 million years”. Result: Production of a touring exhibition element, inter alia for the exhibition “Der Fluss des

Lebens - 150 Jahre Evolutionstheorie“ [The flow of life - 150 years of evolution theory] in the State Museum for Natural History Stuttgart, publication of the result on [www.evolution2009.de](http://www.evolution2009.de). In addition, the exhibition element will also be shown in Vienna and Prague.

#### 4. Summer School / Hennig Symposium:

Summer School and an international evolution conference with specialists from various European countries and worldwide.

The project **EUvolution** aims at establishing the evolution theory of Charles Darwin as European cultural asset and discussing its cultural, social and not least scientific dimensions all over Europe. In this respect, special emphasis is placed on the European adolescents and young adults. The evolution theory is to be conveyed to them in understandable manner. So, they are given the opportunity to reflect in substantiated manner, to develop a vision of the remote future of Europe together in the intercultural exchange and to take a stance in the current debate about creationism and intelligent design. In addition, they meet during an international conference of European top specialists for exchange and discussion. The conference is the starting point for an organised cooperation of evolution researchers on European level.

The internet plays a central role in the publication of and information about the topics and actions of **EUvolution**. The website on the project **EUvolution** provides Europe-wide access to the discussion. Moreover, the project also provides the opportunity for direct exchange between persons from all over Europe. Europeans with different cultural and social backgrounds come together and develop ideas, refine theories and develop a “joint Europe” on the basis of the evolution theory.

We would be glad if you could publish the project in a suitable way. Please do not hesitate to contact us if you have any further questions.

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For further information please visit [www.evolution2009.de](http://www.evolution2009.de)

Best regards from Stuttgart

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