



The Consortium of European Taxonomic Facilities (CETAF) unites the largest natural history institutions in Europe. CETAF members are Natural History Museums, Natural Sciences Museums, Botanical Gardens, Universities or any other kind of biodiversity research centres that house natural history collections (plants, animals, fungi, rocks, minerals) and conduct scientific research. CETAF is **the largest distributed taxonomy and collections-based infrastructure in Europe**. CETAF offers the scientific community a European-wide collaborative **network for research in taxonomy and systematic biology** and a platform for **communication**.

Taxonomy is the science that explores, describes and classifies entities in the natural world. It is fundamental to understand ecosystem functioning and the origins and evolution of life on our planet. The documenting and describing of biological and geological diversity enables us to:

- understand the building blocks of life.
- reconstruct the history of life on Earth and understand evolutionary events.
- provide predictive models to meet society's challenges.

Taxonomy provides fundamental information on species and their relationships that is essential in other disciplines and industries such as Biology, Ecology, Environmental Education, Forestry, Fisheries, Pharmaceuticals or Tourism.

Taxonomic research is also central to current societal issues such as invasive species, climate change, food security and human health.

Natural History Collections contain cultural and historical objects that comprise a record of life on Earth. They are both a tool for and a product of biodiversity based research. They provide direct access to **organisms**, their **occurrences** and their **associated** biological, geographical and ecological **data**. This essential information forms the backbone for the cataloguing of life on Earth. It is also used in **predictive models** within disciplines focused on tackling the effects of global changes on society.

CETAF members are the stewards of an invaluable heritage: our collections comprise an estimated **1.5 billion specimens** and represent **more than 80% of the world's described species**. It is our mission to secure this legacy for the future while making it available for current scientific research activities, exhibitions, training and environmental education initiatives.

» **We work to advance Europe's taxonomic infrastructure, capabilities and expertise.**

» **We promote easy, open and reliable access to biological and geological collections and their associated data.**

» **We provide international leadership in setting and implementing standards for both collections and biodiversity data.**



The CETAF network is committed to be a voice for taxonomy and systematic biology within and across Europe and the rest of the world. We bring awareness to the importance of taxonomy in exploring and documenting diversity in nature. We strive to optimise training and infrastructures for the next generations of taxonomists. We foster a culture of data-sharing and open-access, promote digitalisation and digital access to collections and lead the way into the development of innovative knowledge exchange pathways.

Initiatives, Activities & Projects of CETAF members

- EJT European Journal of Taxonomy
- DEST Distributed European School of Taxonomy
- BHL-Europe Biodiversity Heritage Library for Europe
- SYNTHESESYS Synthesis of Systematic Resources
- BioCASE Biological Collections Access Service for Europe
- OpenUP! Opening up the Natural History Heritage for Europeana

Partnerships of CETAF

- EU BON Building the European Biodiversity Observation Network
- GBIF Global Biodiversity Information Facility
- SciColl Scientific Collections International
- LIFEWATCH European e-Science infrastructure for biodiversity and ecosystem research
- CoL Catalogue of Life
- ECSA European Citizen Science Association

Collaborations of CETAF

- BGCI Botanic Gardens Conservation International
- BIOSYST Federation of European Biological Systematic Societies
- ENBI European Network for Biodiversity Information
- IPBES Intergovernmental Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services
- RDA Research Data Alliance
- TDWG Biodiversity Information Standards
- GSF Global Science Forum



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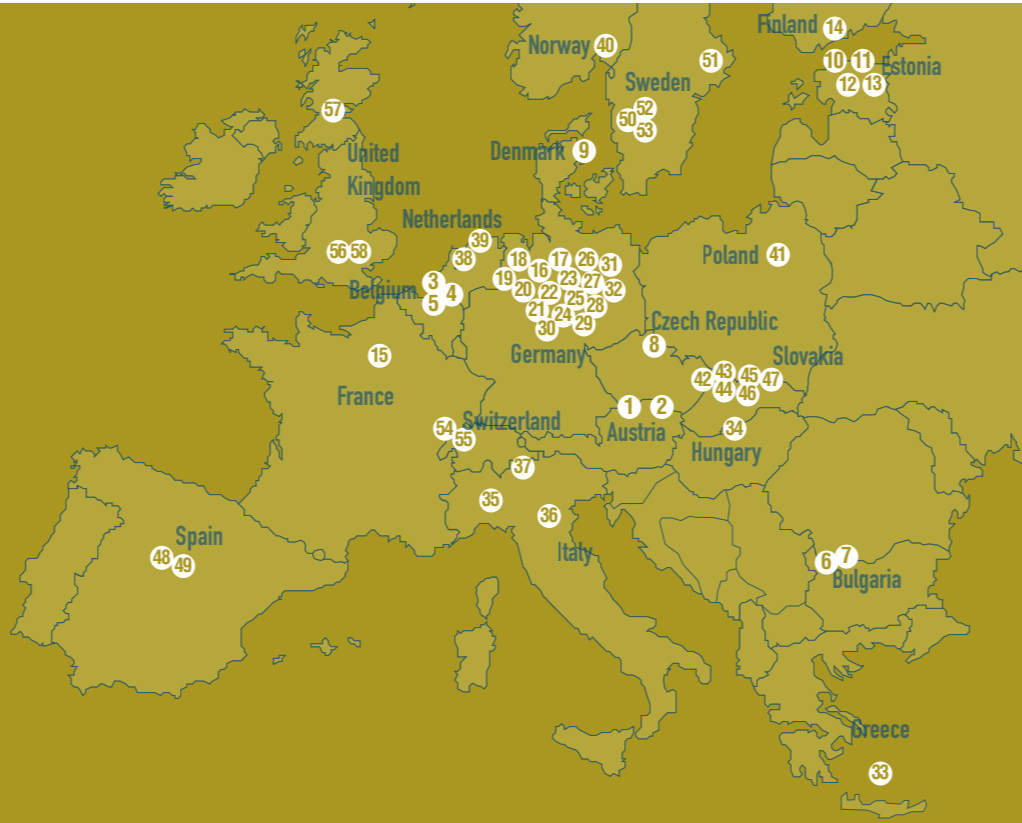


CETAF Member institutions

CETAF comprises 58 Institutions from 20 European countries.

1. Biology Centre of Upper Austria State Museums 2. Natural History Museum of Vienna 3. Botanic Garden Meise 4. Royal Belgian Institute of Natural Sciences 5. Royal Museum for Central Africa 6. Bulgarian Consortium - Bulgarian Academy of Sciences, Institute of Biodiversity and Ecosystem Research 7. Bulgarian Consortium - National Museum of Natural History Sofia 8. National Museum of Natural History Prague 9. Natural History Museum of Denmark 10. Estonian Academy of Sciences Consortium - University of Tartu 11. Estonian Academy of Sciences Consortium - Estonian University of Life Sciences 12. Estonian Academy of Sciences Consortium - Estonian University of Life Sciences 13. Estonian Academy of Sciences Consortium - Estonian University of Life Sciences 14. Finnish Museum of Natural History 15. French National Museum of Natural History 16. Bavarian Natural History Collections 17. Berlin Natural History Museum 18. Berlin-Dahlem Botanical Garden and Botanical Museum 19. Senckenberg Natural History Museum 20. Zoological Research Museum Alexander Koenig 21. Stuttgart State Museum of Natural History 22. NORe Consortium - German Oceanographic Museum 23. NORe Consortium - Nature Discovery Center Müritzzeum 24. NORe Consortium - Museum of Natural History & the Environment Lübeck 25. NORe Consortium - Natural History Museum Bielefeld 26. NORe Consortium - State Natural History Museum Braunschweig 27. NORe Consortium - State Museum of Nature and Man Oldenburg 28. NORe Consortium - Übersee Museum Bremen 29. NORe Consortium - Zoological Collection Rostock 30. NORe Consortium - University of Greifswald, Zoological Institute and Museum 31. NORe Consortium - Zoological Museum Hamburg 32. NORe Consortium - Zoological Museum of Kiel University 33. Natural History Museum of Crete 34. Hungarian Natural History Museum 35. Italian Museums of Natural History Consortium - Museum of Natural History Genova 36. Italian Museums of Nat. Hist. Consortium - Florence University, Natural History Museum 37. Italian Museums of Nat. Hist. Consortium - Natural History Museum of Milan 38. CBS-KNAW Fungal Biodiversity Centre, Utrecht 39. Naturalis Biodiversity Center, Leiden 40. University of Oslo, Natural History Museum 41. Polish Academy of Sciences, Museum and Institute of Zoology 42. NaTAF Consortium - Slovak Academy of Sciences, Institute of Zoology 43. NaTAF Consortium - Slovak Academy of Sciences, Institute of Botany 44. NaTAF Consortium - Comenius University, Faculty of Natural Sciences, Botany dept. 45. NaTAF Consortium - Comenius University, Faculty of Natural Sciences, Zoology dept. 46. NaTAF Consortium - Pavol Jozef Šafárik University, Faculty of Science 47. NaTAF Consortium - Slovak National Museum 48. Spanish National Museum of Natural Sciences 49. Royal Botanical Garden of Madrid 50. Swedish Museum of Natural History 51. Gothenburg Consortium - Natural History Museum Gothenburg 52. Gothenburg Consortium - University of Gothenburg, Faculty of Science, Biological and Environmental Sciences dept. 53. Gothenburg Consortium - Gothenburg Botanical Garden 54. Geneva Consortium - Conservatory and Botanical Gardens of the City of Geneva 55. Geneva Consortium - Natural History Museum of the City of Geneva 56. Natural History Museum London 57. Royal Botanic Garden Edinburgh 58. Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew

and growing!



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