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## **Resume of the CETAF39 General Meeting: decisions and outcomes**

3 – 4 May 2016, Budapest, Hungary

Michelle J. Price & Ana Casino

The aims of the CETAF39 meeting in Budapest, Hungary were to complete the annual AISBL reporting and approve the annual accounts, outline the CETAF and CETAF General Secretary achievements for the April 2015-April 2016 reporting period, discuss the new CETAF communication plan, outline the future directions of the working groups and elect the new CETAF Executive Committee (2016-2019). An introduction to the Responsible Research & Innovation (RRI) Concepts was given by the CETAF General Secretary with the aim of working towards the development of a *RRI Action Programme for CETAF*, with a short workshop conducted on the key issues within the RRI in preparation for CETAF40.

### ***Items approved during CETAF 39***

1. Agenda for CETAF39
2. Records of the previous meeting (minutes of CETAF38 with annexes 1-15, Geneva, Switzerland)
3. Report from the Chair and Executive Committee (2015- 2016)
4. Report from the Treasurer: CETAF Annual Accounts 2015 and Financial report from the first trimester of 2016
5. Discharge of the Executive Committee
6. Eva Maria Natzer (Münich) and Fridtjof Mehlum (Oslo) were nominated as the new auditors of the CETAF accounts

### ***Items presented during the CETAF 39 meeting***

1. CETAF annual accounts audit report (Olof Bistrom, Erik Smets)
2. CETAF General Secretariat - achievements report 2015
3. CETAF Communication Plan
4. CETAF General objectives for 2016-2017
5. CETAF General Secretariat objectives for 2016-2017

### ***CETAF products presented***

CETAF Impact report 2015

### ***CETAF elections***

The CETAF elections were held during the meeting with the following results:

CETAF Chair, Michelle Price (Geneva); Vice-Chair, Thierry Bourgoïn (Paris); Treasurer Erik Smets (Leiden); Secretary, Conny Löhne (Bonn); ordinary members, Jiří Kvaček (Prague); Jesus Muñoz (Madrid); Nikolaj Scharff (Copenhagen); Vince Smith (London). Eva Maria

Natzer and Gergely Babocsay counted the votes, with the assistance of Karsten Gödderz (CETAF projects officer).

#### ***Actions taken during the CETAF 38 meeting***

1. CETAF will organise a special CETAF Event Day (20<sup>th</sup> October 2016) as part of the CETAF40 meeting in Madrid
2. CETAF will dedicate 10,000 Euros to the organisation of the CETAF Event Day from the reserve fund

#### ***CETAF working group and initiatives achievements and future directions***

CETAF Directors and representatives were encouraged to promote the activities of the CETAF working groups. Persons interested in joining the CETAF working groups or initiatives are encouraged to contact the group coordinators.

*European Journal of Taxonomy* (Laurence Bénichou, Paris). The European Journal of Taxonomy (EJT) announced that a new member, Naturalis, joined the consortium in 2015. The journal received an impact factor in 2015 of 1.31. The new impact factor stimulated interest in the journal with an average of 1 submission per day now received via the website. Despite the increase in manuscripts submitted the EJT team is able to maintain the timeline of 20 weeks between submission and publication of the manuscripts accepted.

*CETAF Strategy Group* (Michelle Price, Geneva). The CETAF Strategy and Strategic development plan 2015-2025 was adopted at the CETAF38 meeting in Geneva. The group would like to produce a resume strategy document that can be signed by CETAF member directors for CETAF40. The group would like to work on a strategy resume document as the basis for a scientific article on the strategy to be targeted to a wide-scope, wide-reaching scientific journal (ideally, Nature).

*CETAF European Initiatives Advisory Group* (Ana Casino, Secretariat). The group has decided to transfer its activities and the coordination role to the CETAF secretariat. The aims of the group will be to create a basis on which to build new proposals from within CETAF and contributing to current initiatives (taking into account major ongoing initiatives or projects, such as EUBON, SYNTHESYS or ESFRI).

*CETAF e-learning and taxonomy training group* (Isabella Van de Velde, Brussels). The group created a survey on the e-learning and training initiatives available within CETAF institutions with the aim of establishing a starting point for future activities. The group submitted a proposal in the Erasmus+ programme (BioTALENT) in 2015 aimed at students in academia. The proposal was highly rated but not funded so the group evaluated the comments and resubmitted a project in March of 2016 with a new target audience and new directions with respect to the outcomes of the project. The overall aim of the project is to create a platform for training courses within Europe, with courses provided in numerous languages. The Distributed European School of Taxonomy (DEST) has gained recognition within Europe and beyond and the offer of training possibilities is growing. The sustainability and maintenance of DEST over the long-term should be explored within the CETAF community, with the possibility that the DEST framework and organisation could be taken over by CETAF via the secretariat. A proposal should be submitted to the CETAF Executive Committee.

*CETAF Information Science and Technology Committee – ISTC* (Anton Güntsch, Berlin). The group continued their Stable Identifier initiative during 2015 (HTTP-URI's) with 11 CETAF institutions currently implementing the CETAF Stable Identifiers. GBIF is now using these and they are visible on their website. The group also worked on developing a CETAF Specimen Preview Profile and a technique for testing the Stable Identifiers. An example of the use of the CETAF stable identifiers has been produced by Royal Botanic Garden Edinburgh using their Wallich Catalogue (<http://wallich.rbge.info/>). Naturalis has put together a best practices system for automating georeferencing, with a platform to be set up in the near future. The ISTC has become a centre for the sharing of the French initiative *Herbonauts* (<http://lesherbonautes.mnhn.fr/>). The group now

manages a sub-group CIO (Chief Information Officer) with the aim of understanding the structure of CIO's within CETAF institutions.

*CETAF Earth Science group* (Johanna Eder, Stuttgart). Two meetings have been held with a MoU developed within the group with the aim of addressing the Directors of the members of the groups and encouraging dedicated participation within the group. The objectives of the group will be outlined in their terms of reference and working plan. The group has developed a questionnaire on past catastrophes in Earth Science collections.

*CETAF Legislation and Regulations Group* (Conny Löhne, Bonn). The group submitted the CETAF Code of Conduct and Best Practices for Access and Benefit-Sharing for recognition by the European Commission. The group will work on its terms of reference and on outlining its future focus activities (including CITES, cultural collections issues,...). The group will contact CETAF members to get feedback on future topics of focus for the group. The group is currently working on follow-up documents for the CETAF Code of Conduct and Best Practices (e.g. an ABS checklist). The group will continue its liaisons with the European Commission and at the international level (e. g. CBD). The group brought the issue of Genetic Information to the CETAF membership.

*CETAF Digitisation group* (Elspeht Haston, Edinburgh). The group created a wiki for collaboration and communication. The group will focus on best practices (data storage and curation) and looking at the ensuring the sustainability of short-term digitisation projects under the umbrella of the group, specifically from the Synthesys project.

#### ***New CETAF members***

The Czech National Taxonomic Consortium, formed from the Natural History Museum Prague, Charles University of Prague and the Institute of Botany (National Academy of Arts and Sciences), was welcomed as a new CETAF member.

#### ***Meeting observers***

Tamar Dayan, Israel Global Taxonomy Initiative and Chair of The Steinhardt Museum of Natural History, Tel Aviv, Israel was an invited observer at the meeting.

#### ***Activities announced during the meeting***

CETAF 20<sup>th</sup> Anniversary: CETAF will be 20 years old in 2016 and will hold a CETAF event day after the CETAF40 on the 20 October 2016. The CETAF meeting agreed that the Event Day will be based on the general theme of "*The Societal Relevance of Collections*" directed towards a specific target audience that was identified during the meeting. The CETAF membership contributed ideas to the development of the programme for the Event Day during the meeting. The new CETAF Executive Committee will draft a document concerning the themes / topics and proposal for the Event Day to be distributed to the membership for contributions and decisions.

#### ***Issues discussed during the meeting***

The *Pan-European Research Infrastructure for Natural Science Collections* held a kick-off meeting in Leiden in March of 2016. The process of creating such an infrastructure is underway, under the collaborative coordination of London, Leiden and the CETAF Secretariat. A WebEX between the National Taskforce contact persons was held on the 11<sup>th</sup> April. The coordination team holds regular skype meetings. The CETAF Secretariat circulates information on the developments of the ongoing initiative to CETAF members. CETAF members who are not already involved in the initiative were encouraged to contact the CETAF Secretariat, London and Leiden for further information on participation.

#### ***Announcements of upcoming meetings***

SPNCH: 20-25 June, Berlin, Germany ([www.spnhc2016.berlin](http://www.spnhc2016.berlin)).

TDWG: 5-9 December 2016, Santa Clara dos Santos, Costa Rica ([tdwg.org/conference2016](http://tdwg.org/conference2016)).

***CETAF Workshop: Development of an Action Programme for CETAF***

Ana Casino (CETAF General Secretary) introduced the Responsible Research and Innovation (RRI) concepts and an introductory workshop was held during the meeting, with the aim of exploring the first steps towards creating a CETAF action programme for RRI.

***Next CETAF meeting***

CETAF40 will be held in Madrid, Spain at the Real Jardin Botanico, Madrid, Spain on the 18-19 October 2016.