WHO WE ARE

The Information Science & Technology Commission (ISTC) is a forum for IT managers and biodiversity informatics experts from CETAF member organisations. The ISTC is also open to external experts and representatives of relevant collection related biodiversity data infrastructure initiatives such as DiSSCo and GBIF.

Contact us at:
biodiversityinformatics@bo.berlin

CETAF is Europe's network of biological and geological collections.

Collectively, we are the leading European voice for taxonomy and systematic biology.

www.cetaf.org

PROTECTING AND DOCUMENTING BIODIVERSITY SINCE 1996

CETAF

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CONSORTIUM OF EUROPEAN
TAXONOMIC FACILITIES

CETAF
ISTC WG

INFORMATION SCIENCE
AND TECHNOLOGY
COMMISSION

OUR GOALS

The ISTC's core goals are currently the establishment of a CETAF-wide system of stable identifiers for physical collection objects, the integration of collection data across institutions through semantic annotation, and the standardisation of mechanisms for the publication of multimedia data. A cross-cutting issue of outstanding importance is the embedding of our contribution in the evolving DiSSCo (Distributed System of Scientific Collections.

THE CORE OF OUR ACTIVITY

The ISTC was established as a technical working group of the EU-funded project European Distributed Institute of Taxonomy (EDIT) and was integrated into CETAF in 2011. It facilitates dialogue and collaboration between the IT departments of CETAF member and non-member institutions to ensure interoperability through the development of sustainable common informatics infrastructures, best practices recommendations, and standards.

The group works toward compatibility of components for digital information exchange and sharing, through procedural changes and adaptations to IT systems.

The ISTC plays an important role in knowledge transfer between CETAF member organisations, in ensuring the sustainability of data services and the widest possible use of existing open-source software components. An important aspect is the planning and facilitation of collaborative projects between CETAF informatics departments. Projects can involve the development or use of very specific IT components or participation in large research and development projects, such as in the context of EU projects,