



TRAINING AND E-LEARNING GROUP

Working Group Charta

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01. PURPOSE AND VISION OF THE WORKING GROUP
02. STRATEGIC RELEVANCE TO CETAF
03. MAIN THEMES AND OBJECTIVES
04. WORK PLAN AND DELIVERABLES
05. EVALUATION AND SUCCESS METRICS
06. TIMELINE AND LIFETIME
07. ROLES AND RESPONSIBILITIES
08. GOVERNANCE AND DECISION-MAKING STRUCTURE
09. COMMUNICATION AND COLLABORATION TOOLS
10. STAKEHOLDER ENGAGEMENT
11. RESOURCE PLANNING – HUMAN, TECHNICAL, FINANCIAL



1. Purpose and Vision of the Working Group

The CETAF Training and e-Learning (Te-L) Group's vision is to build and sustain capacity and expertise on Taxonomy (and Systematics). It functions as the “think tank” on taxonomic training, through exchanging experiences and good practices in taxonomy-related topics and providing a suitable learning environment to facilitate it.

Since many experts in taxonomy are gathered under the umbrella of CETAF, it is a unique opportunity to increase all this available knowledge and transfer it to the new generation of taxonomists and other stakeholders (policy makers, educators, public, etc). The challenge, though, is the lack of a common system of training certificates and recognition at EU level for the educational and training activities of CETAF members. The Te-L WG aims to investigate the possibilities for developing such a system, creating a major impact (for the community by the community).

2. Strategic Relevance to CETAF

Among others, CETAF's strategic priorities include expert collaboration, as well as Taxonomy and Systematics' knowledge sharing and transfer among its member institutions, enhancing the accessibility, use, and impact of natural science collections and aiming at a sustainable future of Geodiversity and Biodiversity research for nature and society.

In the frames of Te-L WG, this strategy is supported through the knowledge transfer mechanism and the collaboration of the expert-trainers' network that exists in CETAF members.

3. Main Themes and Objectives

- Establishment of a Blended Learning Environment in Taxonomy and Science Natural Collections (E-learning and Face-to-Face).
- Facilitating the collaboration of expert-trainers' network among CETAF's member institutions.
- Investigation of the possibilities for developing training certificates and recognition at EU level for the educational and training activities of CETAF members.
- Support the CETAF-DEST infrastructure by searching for new relevant courses.
- Exploring possible connection between CETAF members and Academia, through formal, non-formal and informal learning methodologies.
- Invite new members to Te-L WG from the CETAF community with Educational and Training experience.



4. Work Plan and Deliverables

- Forming the training framework to establish the Blended Learning Environment.
- Enhancing the collaboration of expert-trainers' network.
- Searching for new courses for CETAF-DEST.
- Exploring connection between CETAF members and Academia.
- Investigation of the possibilities for training certificates and recognition at EU level.

5. Evaluation and Success Metrics

- Organize 3 online meetings every three months and 1 physical meeting in the frames of CETAF's spring meeting, to check the progress.
- Reporting how many of the above tasks/milestones/outputs will be fulfilled each year (at the spring CETAF meeting).

6. Timeline and Lifetime

At CETAF 57 the Te-L WG will be re-activated, after several years of inactivity, and roles will be allocated to the members.

Early September 2025 an internal meeting will be organized prior to the directors' meeting, to check the progress, according to the allocated roles.

Early December 2025 an internal meeting will be organized, to check the progress, and recruit new members.

Early February 2026 an internal meeting will be organized prior to the spring physical meeting, to check the progress, and prepare for the evaluation and the reporting of the 1st year.

7. Roles and Responsibilities

The Te-L WG has been inactive for several years now, since all its efforts have been focused on the function of CETAF-DEST infrastructure.

Based on personal contacts and previous surveys (20/3/2024, during a presentation of the Te-L WG and CETAF DEST to CETAF members, organized by Luc Willemse in the frames of the monthly meetings of the Collections' WG and 27/5/2024 at CETAF 55), the following institutes have expressed their interest in becoming members of this WG.



- NHMC-UoC (Crete, Greece)
- MNCN (Madrid)
- Finnish Museum of Natural History
- NHM Stuttgart
- MNHN/France
- RBINS Belgium
- MNHNL/Luxembourg
- Natural History Museum of Denmark
- Hungarian Natural History Museum
- Unifi
- GOTHENBURG CONSORTIUM FOR TAXONOMIC FACILITIES
- BG Meise
- Naturalis
- CJB Geneva
- NHMWien
- NHM University of Oslo (was in the past but I do not have an expression of interest for the future).
- RBG Edinburg (was in the past but I do not have an expression of interest for the future).

Chair/Facilitator is Iasmi Stathi from the NHMC-UoC (Crete, Greece).

8. Governance and Decision-Making Structure

Following democratic procedures, through organizing meetings and sharing all relevant issues with every member via e-mail.

9. Communication and Collaboration Tools

- Online meetings will be scheduled at Zoom.
- Google drive will be used for sharing documents
- E-mailing list for information exchange
- Activate the Working Groups Private area for internal communication (<https://cetaf.org/cetaf-bodies/affiliate/>)



10. Stakeholder Engagement

The Te-L WG will share the charta with the other WGs and CETAF members and ask for synergies. For example, in the past, there were synergies with the Digitization and the Collections WGs. These synergies would be established through sharing/creating courses, webinars, moocs, and other knowledge transfer mechanisms, as well as facilitating the collaboration of the skilled taxonomists-trainers within the CETAF members.

External partners could also be involved like GBIF, IUCN, WWF, Pollinators' Academy, etc, who provide learning material and expert trainers.

11. Resource Planning – Human, Technical, Financial

- Time: The directors should allocate some time to the people responsible for the WG's work.
- Tools: should be provided by the institutes.
- Funding: some funding might be necessary for the physical meeting of all the WG's members.

