



The position of the Consortium of European Taxonomic Facilities (CETAF) in the landscape of natural history collections and taxonomy

Brussels, 10 March, 2023

Collaboration, coordination and cooperation

- Unique trans-European decision-making forum for natural history institution directors and high-level management staff to address key issues: one European voice for taxonomy and collections
- Community hub for natural history collection holding institutions in Europe and beyond:
- Building up taxonomic capacity across Europe via the CETAF Transforming European Taxonomy through Training, Research and Innovations (TETTRIs) project
- Networking and discussion opportunities
- Provision of platforms, working groups, online discussions, and an online marketplace for good practices and good practices implementation guidelines
- Providing a forum for scientific exchange in support of biodiversity and geodiversity scientists using collections, especially for taxonomists
- Ensuring community input into the DiSSCo Research Infrastructure according to the community's needs and facilitating cutting-edge research in bio- and geodiversity sciences
- Think tank for the development of collaborative projects and initiatives
- Monitoring funding opportunities, identifying joint project possibilities, creating joint initiatives, facilitating cooperation, providing partner-finding opportunities (e.g. within CETAF meetings and via the CETAF Collections Registry)
- Catalyst for European taxonomy and natural history collections capacity building

CETAF aisbl

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- Training in taxonomy and collections via the CETAF Distributed European School for Taxonomy (DEST)
- Sharing best practices, sharing standards and tools within the hub
- Development of the European Research Agenda for natural history institutions, in particular for taxonomy and bio-/geodiversity
- Creation of a think tank, via the CETAF Scientific Research Group, to promote joint research projects among member institutions and sister organisations

Science policy, legislation and advocacy

- Strategic alignment of activities, policies and community standards across Europe
- Transfer of good practices and knowledge amongst institutions
- Provision of support and guidance on the implementation of European Union legislation and regulations
- Decryption of the European Union funding framework programmes for research and innovation and highlighting funding opportunities
- Contributions to the European Union funding framework programmes for research and innovation via consultation and invited expert knowledge
- Promotion of collection based science at all levels of European decision making by addressing policy makers (policy briefs, position papers, statements, etc.)
- Support of taxonomy publishing in terms of scientific quality, citation and technical standards, especially full open access e-publishing
- Setting of standards for increased visibility, use and traceability of taxonomic research and natural history specimens, as promoted via the CETAF TETTRIs project
- Advocating for the long term maintenance, use and enhancement of physical natural history collections

Representation

- Engagement in Advisory Boards or governing bodies of sister organisations on behalf of the community
- Ensuring community representation in the DiSSCo infrastructure
- Providing mechanisms for community validation support for future DiSSCo developments
- Providing key contributions or services to the development of the DiSSCo infrastructure, such as taxonomic knowledge, training and policy alignment
- Strategic participation in partner initiatives or infrastructures
- Access to high-level fora within the European Union
- Privileged relationships with strategic European and international partners



Communication and outreach

- Providing a unique exchange and dissemination platform (CETAF website, social media channels, newsletter)
- Publicity and promotion material
- Provision and maintenance of online resources such as the CETAF Registry of Collections and the DEST training platform
- Representation in scientific meetings and conferences
- Organisation of events or conferences
- Recognition of young talent in taxonomy via the awarding of the annual e-SCoRe prize
- Facilitating the transfer of taxonomic knowledge to other societal actors through the CETAF TETTRIs project

Compiled by the CETAF Executive Committee in Geneva on the 10th March 2023

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