

CETAF MEMBERSHIP BENEFITS WITH EXAMPLES OF RECENT ACTIVITIES

1 Opportunities to develop collaborative projects and initiatives

- ▶ The CETAF General Secretary is a leading member of the coordination team for the DiSSCo – Distributed System of Scientific Collections – initiative¹, a new research infrastructure in the environmental landscape.
- ▶ The CETAF Chair has a position on the DiSSCo Steering Board.
- ▶ A number of collaborative projects, including BIOTALENT (ERASMUS+), NaturalHeritage (BRAIN.be) and ICEDIG (H2020) have recently been funded.
- ▶ CETAF developed its member Passports², providing data and profiles for all member institutions thus creating the first European Natural History Institutions data repository.

2 Massive and streamlined information exchange

- ▶ The CETAF communication network has increased the impact of CETAF across Europe, especially within the European Commission (EC). The CETAF exchange network shares news and information of direct relevance to CETAF member institutions.

3 Access to a unique dissemination channel

- ▶ CETAF members meet biannually, as well as via a series of active Working Groups³ to collaborate on key issues and topics. CETAF organizes symposia (e.g. under BioSyst.EU) and hosts high profile events⁴ to showcase CETAF activities.

4 Alignment of activities, policies and standards across Europe

- ▶ CETAF represents European Natural History Collections Institutions within Europe for issues related to Access and Benefit-Sharing as a member of the EC Consultation Forum on ABS⁵.

5 Development of the European Research Agenda for taxonomy and natural history collections

- ▶ The CETAF Strategy and Strategic Plan 2015-2025⁶ represents a common set of priorities to align activities. The CETAF guidelines on Responsible Research and Innovation⁷ align activities of members with European research and social targets.

6 Decrypting the European funding programme and highlighting funding opportunities for CETAF and its members

- ▶ The CETAF Secretariat provides early indications of relevant European Funding Programmes and Calls that directly address priorities of member institutions.

7 Forum for European Directors and high-level management staff to address key issues, with decisional power drawn from across Europe (one European voice for taxonomy and collections!)

- ▶ The CETAF Strategy Group, in collaboration with the CETAF Secretariat, is representing the community at EC consultations on key topics as well as for the new EU FP9 funding framework. CETAF members' Directors recently supported and signed the CETAF Strategy Executive Summary document.

8 Support and guidance with EU and international legislation and regulations

- ▶ The CETAF Code of Conduct and Best Practice on Access and Benefit-Sharing, available via our website⁸, provides guidance to members, and beyond.

9 Strategic alignment of taxonomic research and natural history collections within and across Europe

- ▶ CETAF connects collections and associated research through taxonomy and systematics, giving support to the development and management of collections as well as providing research support. The CETAF Strategy and Strategic Development Plan 2015-2025 is a step towards the creation of a common research agenda for European natural science institutions.

10 European taxonomy and natural history collections capacity building

- ▶ CETAF plays a key role in supporting institutions in the alignment of their digital infrastructure, such as the implementation of the CETAF stable identifier framework⁹.

11 Avoidance of competition through coordination of activities, projects and actions

- ▶ CETAF coordinates responses to EC calls to show that the community is speaking with one voice, leading to the development of collaborative projects, such as the COST Action MOBILISE, and successful applications like the recent ICEDIG project¹⁰.

At a glance...

CETAF Member institutions

- Attendance, with voting rights, at the CETAF bi-annual Governing Board meetings
- Access to the CETAF Governing Board meetings, minutes and meeting reports
- Working Group coordination possibilities and participation in working groups open to all staff members
- Web access to the community space for all staff from member institutions, with information on activities, projects, events and training opportunities
- CETAF letter of support for projects and initiatives
- Direct access to and participation in the development / authorship of CETAF products and outcomes
- Consultation and information based on targeted expertise of working groups (e.g. Nagoya Protocol)

Non-members

- Participation by invitation only, when approved by the CETAF EC, e.g. as an observer
- Access to the meeting reports only
- Participation by invitation only when approved by the CETAF EC (for specific topics)
- Access to the public part of the web-site only
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- Use of CETAF outcomes and documentation
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12 Privileged relationships with strategic partners, such as GBIF, Species 2000 - CoL, and BGCI

- ▶ CETAF has agreed Memoranda of Understanding with the above initiatives, streamlining member engagement with key related organisations worldwide¹¹.

13 Access to high-level fora with increased lobbying power

- ▶ CETAF is a member of the EC Consultation Forum on Access and Benefit-Sharing (ABS) and part of the Board of European Environmental Research Infrastructures (BEERi) providing strategic perspectives from across a variety of biodiversity policy and infrastructure topics. CETAF has submitted an application to become a member of the European Research Area (ERA).

14 Cost-effectiveness via the collaborative work of CETAF members and working groups, the CETAF Executive Committee and Secretariat, and the CETAF information exchange network

- ▶ Activities of the CETAF working groups (Strategy, Information Science & Technology Commission, Earth Sciences, Collections, Digitisation, Research, Training and e-learning, European Initiatives, e-Publishing, Monitoring, Communications, Legislation and Regulations) and CETAF initiatives (Distributed European School of Taxonomy – DEST, European Journal of Taxonomy – EJT) allow for more efficient use and sharing of information and resources across member institutions. The CETAF EC and CETAF Secretariat represent CETAF and the interests of its membership of Natural History Institutions within and across Europe.

15 Platform to enhance mobility of knowledge

- ▶ CETAF enables efficient networking among experts, therefore ensuring the mobility of expertise among its member institutions and allowing for benchmarking and for learning as well as implementing best practices throughout membership.
- ▶ CETAF website and network facilitates advertising of open positions to find the best staff available.

CETAF

Consortium of European Taxonomic Facilities AISBL

CETAF is the Consortium of European Taxonomic Facilities: a European network of Natural Science Museums, Natural History Museums, Botanical Gardens and Biodiversity Research Centres with their associated biological collections and research expertise. It currently comprises 33 members representing 59 of the largest taxonomic institutions from 21 European countries whose collections represent more than 80% of the world's described species.

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References

- ¹ <http://disco.eu/>
- ² <http://bit.do/cetaf-passports>
- ³ <http://bit.do/cetaf-groups>
- ⁴ <http://bit.do/cetaf-20>
- ⁵ <http://bit.do/cetaf-abs-forum>
- ⁶ <http://bit.do/cetaf-strategy>
- ⁷ <http://bit.do/cetaf-RRi>
- ⁸ <http://bit.do/cetaf-abs>
- ⁹ <http://bit.do/cetaf-ids>
- ¹⁰ <http://www.icedig.eu/>
- ¹¹ <http://bit.do/cetaf-partners>



Membership Benefits