



CASE STUDIES - ESPC Target 15

The number of trained people working with appropriate facilities in plant conservation increased, according to national needs, to achieve the targets of this strategy

European Distributed Institute of Taxonomy (EDIT)

GSPC Target 15 (ESPC target 5.1)

Project coordinators

Partner organisations Caisse des Dépôts et Consignations, France; Museum National d'Histoire Naturelle, France; National Museum of Natural History of Denmark; Consejo Superior de Investigaciones Cientificas, Spain; Universiteit Van Amsterdam, Netherlands; Nationaal Herbarium Nederland; Nationaal Natuurhistorisch Museum Naturalis, Netherlands; Centraalbureau voor Schimmelcultures, Netherlands; Freie Universitaet Berlin – Botanical Garden and Botanical Museum, Germany; Natural History Museum London, UK; Royal Botanic Gardens Kew, UK; Staatliches Museum für Naturkunde Stuttgart, Germany; Royal Belgium Institute of Natural Science, Belgium; Royal Museum for Central Africa, Belgium; National Botanic Garden of Belgium; Museum and Institute of Zoology, Polish Academy of Sciences; Institute of Botany, Polish Academy of Sciences; Hungarian Museum of Natural History; Univerzita Komenskeho V Bratislave, Slovakia; Institute of Botany, Slovakian Academy of Sciences; Institut National de la Recherche Agronomique, France; Society for the Management of European Biodiversity Data, Ireland; Speices 2000, UK; Komarov Botanical Institute of the Russian Academy of Sciences, Russia; Zoological Institute of the Russian Academy of Sciences, Russia; Missouri Botanical Garden, USA; Smithsonian Institution, National Museum of Natural History, USA

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Description

The overall objective of EDIT is to integrate European taxonomic effort within the ERA (European Research Area) and to build a world leading capacity. EDIT will create a European virtual centre of excellence, which will increase both the scientific basis and capacity for biodiversity conservation. The project objectives are to help to reduce the fragmentation in European taxonomic research and expertise and to coordinate the European contribution to the global taxonomic effort, in particular the Global Taxonomy Initiative, through an integrated initiative aimed at improving society's capacity for biodiversity conservation.

The European Distributed Institute of Taxonomy (EDIT) is the collective answer of 28 leading European, North American and Russian institutions to a call of the European Commission, issued in 2004, for a network in « Taxonomy for Biodiversity and Ecosystem Research ».

EDIT will bring together the leading taxonomic institutions in Europe that for historical reasons have developed independently. The association with leading North American and Russian partners will make it a worldwide leading network. The consortium so constituted unites the premier natural history collections-based institutions, to progress toward EDIT's structural and scientific objectives.

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CASE STUDIES - ESPC Target 15

European Distributed Institute of Technology (EDIT)

Description (II)

both the scientific basis and capacity for biodiversity conservation.

This will provide better access to a more unified and better quality taxonomic research information base.

The operational and structural objectives of EDIT are:

- To reduce fragmentation and to transform taxonomy into an integrated science.
- To strengthen the scientific, technological and information capacities needed for Europe to understand how biodiversity is modified through Global change.
- To progress toward a trans-national entity by encouraging durable integration of the most important European taxonomic institutions, forming the nucleus of excellence around and from which institutions and taxonomists can integrate their activities.
- To promote the undertaking of collaborative research developing, improving and utilising the bio-informatics technologies needed.
- To create a forum for stakeholders and end-users for taxonomy in biodiversity and ecosystem research.
- To promote the spreading of excellence to fulfil the needs of biodiversity and ecosystem research for taxonomy based information

EDIT Work Programmes (WP)

WP1: EDIT Coordination and Management

WP2: Integrating the expert and expertise basis. Programme leader: Prof. Henrik Enghof (National Museum of Natural History of Denmark, University of Copenhagen)

WP3: Integrating the Infrastructure basis . Programme leader: Dr. Wouter Los (Universiteit Van Amsterdam)

WP4: Coordinating. Programme leader: Dr. Marian Ramos (Consejo Superior de Investigaciones Cientificas)

WP5: Internet Platform for Cybertaxonomy . Programme leader: Walter Berendsohn (Freie Universitaet Berlin, Botanical Garden and Botanical Museum)

WP6: Unifying Revisionary Taxonomy . Programme leader: Dr. Dave Roberts (Natural History Museum London)

WP7: Inventories, Applying Taxonomy to Conservation. Programme leader: Christoph Häuser,

Date of case study EDIT project started on the 1st of March 2006 and will last 5 years

Contacts

Website <http://www.e-taxonomy.eu/>

