

The Museum für Naturkunde Berlin (MfN), has an immediate opening for a
International Scientific Liaison Officer

in the context of EDIT's Work Package 1, Activity 6 (Implementation of research strategy & science policy for taxonomy),
the Museums engagement and membership in
the Consortium of European Taxonomic Facilities (CETAF),
the Director's Conference of German Natural History Collections (DNFS),
and other national and international collection-based networks and initiatives.

Background:

The Museum für Naturkunde - Leibniz Institute for Research on Evolution and Biodiversity at the Humboldt University Berlin (MfN) is a World leading natural history museum and research institution, with more than 60 scientific staff and holding scientific collections of more than 30 million objects and specimens. Research undertaken at MfN focuses on biosystematics, taxonomy, and evolutionary biology, as well paleontology, mineralogy, and meteorite impact studies, with collaborations extending to many national and international universities and other research institutions. The museum is linked through several networks and programs with other German and European collection-based institutions, and seeks to strengthen and better coordinate its national and international collaboration with these partners and networks.

The European Distributed Institute of Taxonomy (**EDIT**: www.e-taxonomy.eu) is a Network of Excellence funded by the European Commission for 5 years, to integrate research efforts of currently 28 leading European, North American and Russian institutions in the area of taxonomy. The focus of EDIT's Work Package 1, Activity 6 ("Developing science policy for European taxonomic institutions: visions and strategies for taxonomic research in the future"), is to help develop and implement possible joint research strategies and policies between the EDIT partner institutions. In particular, this activity involves a comparative analysis of existing institutional science policies and research activities, and providing support to the EDIT "Science Policy Group".

The Consortium of European Taxonomic Facilities (**CETAF**: www.cetaf.org) is an organization of currently 32 natural history collection-based institutions with the objectives to promote scientific research and access to European natural history collections, to exploit European funding opportunities, and to be a forum and voice for taxonomy and systematic biology in Europe.

The Director's Conference of German Natural History Collections (**DNFS**: www.dnfs.de) is a national consortium of currently eight large-size German natural history collection institutions, and representatives of national museum networks and initiatives. The consortium offers a platform for regular communication and exchange through bi-annual meetings at directors' level, with the overall aim to better coordinate curatorial and research activities between its members.

Job description:

The successful applicant will act under supervision of the Directorate as the MfN liaison officer for the above named-initiatives, with 50% of working time devoted to EDIT WP1 tasks. Apart from realizing the specific tasks of the EDIT WP1 work plan, this responsibility will involve actively communicating and interacting with relevant representatives and bodies from the EDIT and CETAF consortium, such as the EDIT

Board of Directors and Network Steering Committee, and the CETAF Executive Committee.

The liaison officer will collate and provide institutional information for the named initiatives through administering and supporting organizational website(s), and organize meetings and workshops. In addition, it is expected to represent the named project and initiatives at other meetings and fora, and engage in promotional activities. As member of a small project team, the liaison officer will also be responsible for part of the project management for the MfNs responsibilities in EDIT, such as the application of online administrative reporting tools, and participation in budgetary and project planning, and for similar tasks in the other initiatives.

Requirements:

- a university degree (Ph.D. or equivalent) in biology or related fields;
- a sound background in biodiversity research, preferably in taxonomy or other fields of collection-based research;
- excellent communication and organizational skills, including previous experiences with teamwork and networking;
- good computer skills and experience with current ICT applications and web-sites;
- international working experience, including excellent knowledge of English and German, additional European languages would be an asset;
- proven project management and administration skills.

The position is open immediately and is currently limited by duration of the EDIT project (end of February 2011). The candidate must be willing to move to Berlin, Germany, for employment at MfN, and also to travel frequently as part of his/her job responsibilities. Salary will be under the German public service (BAT) scheme according to AnwTV Humboldt University at the BAT IIa (scientist) level, with the exact salary grade depending on the qualifications of the successful applicant. For implementing equal employment opportunities, applications of qualified women are particularly welcome. Handicapped applicants will be given preference in case of equal qualifications.

Applications quoting the reference **10/2009** consisting of a cover letter, photo, tabular CV, proof of degree(s) and relevant qualifications, and names of possible referees should be sent by 21 June 2009 to:

Museum für Naturkunde, Generaldirektion
Dr. Christoph L. Häuser
Invalidenstr. 43
D-10115 Berlin
Germany

For more information:

about the job offer:
christoph.haeuser@mfn-berlin.de

on EDIT: www.e-taxonomy.eu
on CETAF: www.cetaf.org
on DNFS: www.dnfs.de
on MfN: www.naturkundemuseum-berlin.de