**ESG virtual meeting: Progress on GeoCASe**

**Monday 27th January at 15:00hr (CET)**

*Participants*

Johanna Eder (SMNS Stuttgart) ESG Chair

Laura Tilley (CETAF) Assistant Coordinator

Babis Fassoulas (NHM Crete)

Jirka Frank (NHM Prague)

Olle Hints (Tallinn University of Technology)

Steffen Kiel (NRM Stockholm)

Jiri Kvacek (NHM Prague)

Andreas Kroh (NHM Vienna) arrived later due to technical difficulties.

Patricia Mergen (MBG Meise/RMCA)

Giles Miller (NHM London)

Michael Rasser (SMNS Stuttgart)

Rivka Rabinovich (HUJI Jerusalem)

Wiebke Walbaum (SMNS Stuttgart)

Racheal Walcott (National Museums Scotland Edinburgh)

*Agenda*

* Update from Stuttgart and Tallin on their analyses of the GeoCASe source code.
* Discuss what the next steps are.

*Minutes*

*L. Tilley*: Opened the meeting by welcoming Rachael Walcott, from the National Museums Scotland Edinburgh. Racheal is a curator of Earth Science Collections - particularly Mineralogy.

*Updates from O.Hints:*Tallinn have made good progress with analysing the functionality of the GeoCASe infrastructure (<https://github.com/MfN-Berlin/geocase-infrastructure>), and have managed to build a prototype indexing service (based on Solr) and a simple user interface on their local server, plus harvested and indexed data from providers in Estonia and Stuttgart. Link to prototype portal: <http://geocase.geocollections.info> The core elements of GeoCASe work well and the Indexing provides fast queries. In order to further test the speed of the system it would be good to have more data.

*A. Kroh*: NHM Vienna reported technical issues with providing data: Causes were identified to be an outdated version of the BioCASE provider software. After the update the data could be harvested. Some technical problems remain, but these are internal and do not affect the connection between the data source and the test portal. **Update from Olle Hints (28.01.2020):** This works as of today and some Vienna data are available in prototype.

*L. Tilley****:***  Asked what would be the next steps to improving GeoCASe and have it fully functioning?

*O. Hints* : In order to make further improvements we need to encourage more institutes to contribute - getting GeoCASe fully functioning could take years. We need data from big collections to really test the speed - a few million. In addition GeoCASe needs people to manage the data, servers, and have a functioning helpdesk. There is a lot of work to be done. Estonia (Tallinn) can not do all of this - for now they can keep the data on the servers. The resources are currently limited and Estonia need to wait till Feb to see if they will receive national funding to cover the DiSSCo prepare roadmap (preparing the technical infrastructure - including Earth Science collections).

*G. Miller:*A lot of the Data from NHM London goes directly to GBIF. He asked whether certain database software could be linked to GeoCASe… May need to do a data mapping exercise for NHM collections to see what information would fit into GeoCASe.

There was a general discussions about adding mineral and rock data to test the indexing - i.e. to see if the data fits. There is a general problem with rock and mineral being able to fit the structure of the ABCD standard. Currently the TDWG Palaeo group are trying to extend the standard to implement Stratigraphy etc, but it is an ongoing task. *R. Walcot* - asked whether GeoCASe also stores geochemistry data - the answer is that it currently does not. GeoCASe could be used as a test bed for finding out what Rock and Mineral data is asked for and what additional fields are needed. CETAF institutes are encouraged to provide Mineral and Rock specimen metadate for testing the capabilities of GeoCASe. ESG partners volunteered to provide more data for testing the prototype:

* R. Walcott (National Museums Scotland Edinburgh
* J. Kvacek ( NHM Prague)
* Steffen Kiel (NRM Sweden)

**Action:** These institutes will get in touch with O. Hints.

R. Walcott also mentioned a mineral/rock database Mindat, this may be some help...did not fully get notes.

Someone asked about if GeoCASe displays images - *O.Hints*: explained that only the links to the main images can be mapped with ABCD standard and stored in the index, and there is currently no easy way to additionally map and index thumbnail urls. Currently the test system is not able to store images / thumbnails locally.

*J. Frank:*Initiated a talk about the sustainability of the GeoCASe and the need for Hardware and distributed servers and who would host it. Maybe the DiSSCo infrastructure could provide support for this. And general questions of how GeoCASe would fit into the DiSSCo infrastructure.

There was a explanations that it will provide Earth Science data for the ELViS platform (at specimen level). There is a general agreement that GeoCASe is needed for the Earth Science community because GBIF is only catered to biologists and does not fit our requirements.

*L. Tilley:* Will talk to Ana Casino (Executive director) on how CETAF can further support the needs of GeoCASe development: technically, financially, etc. Based on the outcome of this meeting. *Plus Ana is deputy coordinator communication and engagement for DiSSCo.*

There was a general agreement that we need to discuss how the workload of GeoCASe could be split between CETAF ESG institutes, but first we need to hear the opinion of Falko Glöckler about the outcome of this meeting. Two years ago, we did develop a work plan, but this would need to be revised.

We should keep in touch with the TDWG palaeo group who are also trying to extend the Darwin Core ABCD schema to accommodate Earth Science specimen data.

***P. Mergen:*** Noted the importance of constantly promoting the importance of Earth Science in DiSSCo Prepare to make sure our community needs are considered. Also how important the CETAF ESG community is for providing best practices. These best practices have been considered by Flemish research institutes and universities with small collections.

**Next steps:**

*L. Tilley* : Write the minutes and disseminate them to the ESG group. Report the outcome of these minutes to Falko Glöckler opinion about the reporting’s of this meeting and how we could potentially split the workload.

* *L. Tilley*: To talk to Ana Casino (Executive Director CETAF) on how CETAF can support the needs reported during this meeting.

Once we have an opinions/feedback from Falko Glöckler and Ana Casino, the ESG can arrange another meeting to organise how to move forward.

Further discussions can take place during the next ESG physical meeting during the 47th CETAF general meeting taking place in May (Tervuren, Brussels).