

Personal Statement

I am the curator of the Collection of Vertebrates of a small countryside museum, the Mátra Museum of the Hungarian Natural History Museum (HNHM). My professional career is deeply rooted in scientific collections. A significant part of my scientific works has been done on collection material, which fact shaped my interest in such collections. Collection based venomous snake taxonomy is a particularly enlightening example of how terribly important long lasting, well maintained and widely accessible collections are! As for a collection user and later curator, promotion of collections has become a central scope of my interests. At HNHM I initiated and managed public outreach efforts (blog series, regular FB posts, public and media appearances) related to the role of natural history collections. In 2017 HNHM published in print (ISBN 978-963-9877-32-0) a series of 25 blog articles posted in the previous year on the Blog of HNHM on the usefulness of scientific collections. The series was initiated by me and became a successful and popular endeavour among our colleagues and the public; the media picked up many of the articles. I am also involved in Erasmus + supported BIOTALENT course generated within CETAF's Training and E-learning in Taxonomy Group. My responsibility is/was the creation (in part) and the coordination of the creation of the educational content. When I started to represent the HNHM in CETAF I found that our community is an endless landscape where there is plenty of space for promoting collections for the scientific community, to the public and to, as I have come to the realization, potentially every sub-sphere of any society. The objective of CETAF to integrate European Scientific Collections by promoting cooperation among them which elevates them to a distributed and orchestrated research infrastructure that most collections wouldn't be able to achieve alone is a great, promising and an inevitable goal.

I am honoured to have been facilitated by the present EC members to consider my nomination into the next EC as an ordinary member. I am willing to work at such a central position in CETAF in case I am accepted and elected by the community.

As a member of the executive committee I could make a contribution to the endeavours of CETAF by promoting education activities and outreach within the CETAF community, to promote integration of and capacity building in the small collections in the Eastern and South-eastern European institutions and facilitate participation in the following areas:

1. Promoting capacity building by facilitation of participation and cooperation between small Eastern and South-eastern European and large, well established European collections.
2. Promoting visibility of small collections by facilitating their participation in projects generated within and side by side with CETAF, such as DISSCo, Cost Mobilise and others to come.
3. Promoting means that help keeping the new generation to enter and stay in taxonomy.
4. Increasing educational efforts in taxonomy in order to improve taxonomic expertise for better recruitment of human resources in natural history museums in this field.
5. Increasing educational efforts to share taxonomic and collection management expertise and best practices among and beyond CETAF community members, with a special emphasis on eastern, eastern-central and south-eastern countries and their institutions.
6. Increasing educational efforts to increase public awareness on the problems in biodiversity and on the role of natural history collections in exploring and in protecting the diversity of life.
7. Using extensive partner relationships of HNHM promotion of small collections, distribution of best practises regarding collection management in natural history collections of Eastern and South eastern European states with emphasis on the Balkan.



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