



Kick-off meeting

18-19 February 2019

Natural History Museum, London, UK

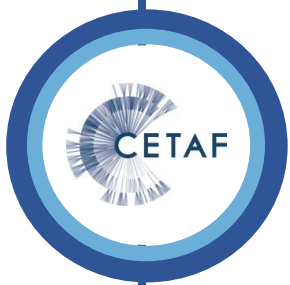
Ana Casino

CETAF Executive Director



CETAF

Consortium of European Taxonomic Facilities



CETAF IN NUMBERS

Collections-based Research Performing Organizations

EARTH Science

from minerals and sediments, rocks and meteorites, to paleontology and anthropology

LIFE Sciences

animals, plants, fungi and microorganisms

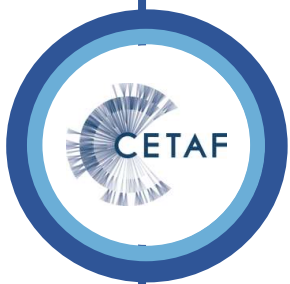
HERITAGE Sciences

to give testimony of the history of natural sciences (libraries, arts...)

59 institutions, 21 countries in Europe

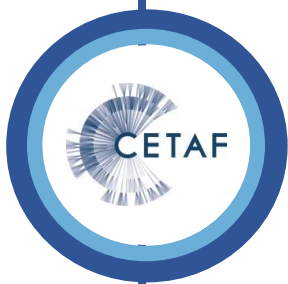
- > 1.5 billion specimens
- > 80% of described biodiversity
- > 100 collaborative projects
- > 2,000 scientists
- > 6,000 scientific visitors pa
- > 3,000 publications pa
- > 10 million public visitors pa
- > 25 million web visitors pa

And growing!



WHAT CETAF STANDS FOR

- the largest **taxonomy and systematics** *network* in Europe
- the largest **natural history science** *dissemination platform* in Europe
- the largest **training and education** *facility* in Europe for taxonomy and systematics
- the unique **natural history collection** *infrastructure* in Europe



MORE THAN THE SUM OF ITS PARTS



Collective impact:

- Critical mass of European natural science institutions
- **Collective influence** facilitating to shape the future together
- Ability to collectively and collaboratively **benefit from opportunities**



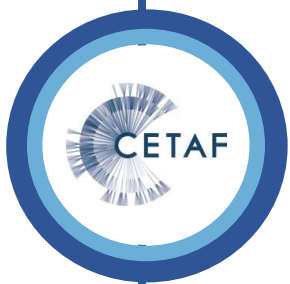
Joint resources:

- Sharing of resources and knowledge
- Fostering the **mobility of experts** and enhancing **skills and competences**



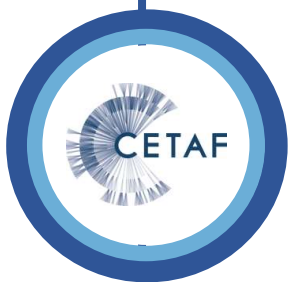
Harmonized provision of services:

- Europe-wide coverage and beyond
- Huge information exchange network
- Membership services and platform to foster **cooperative relationships**



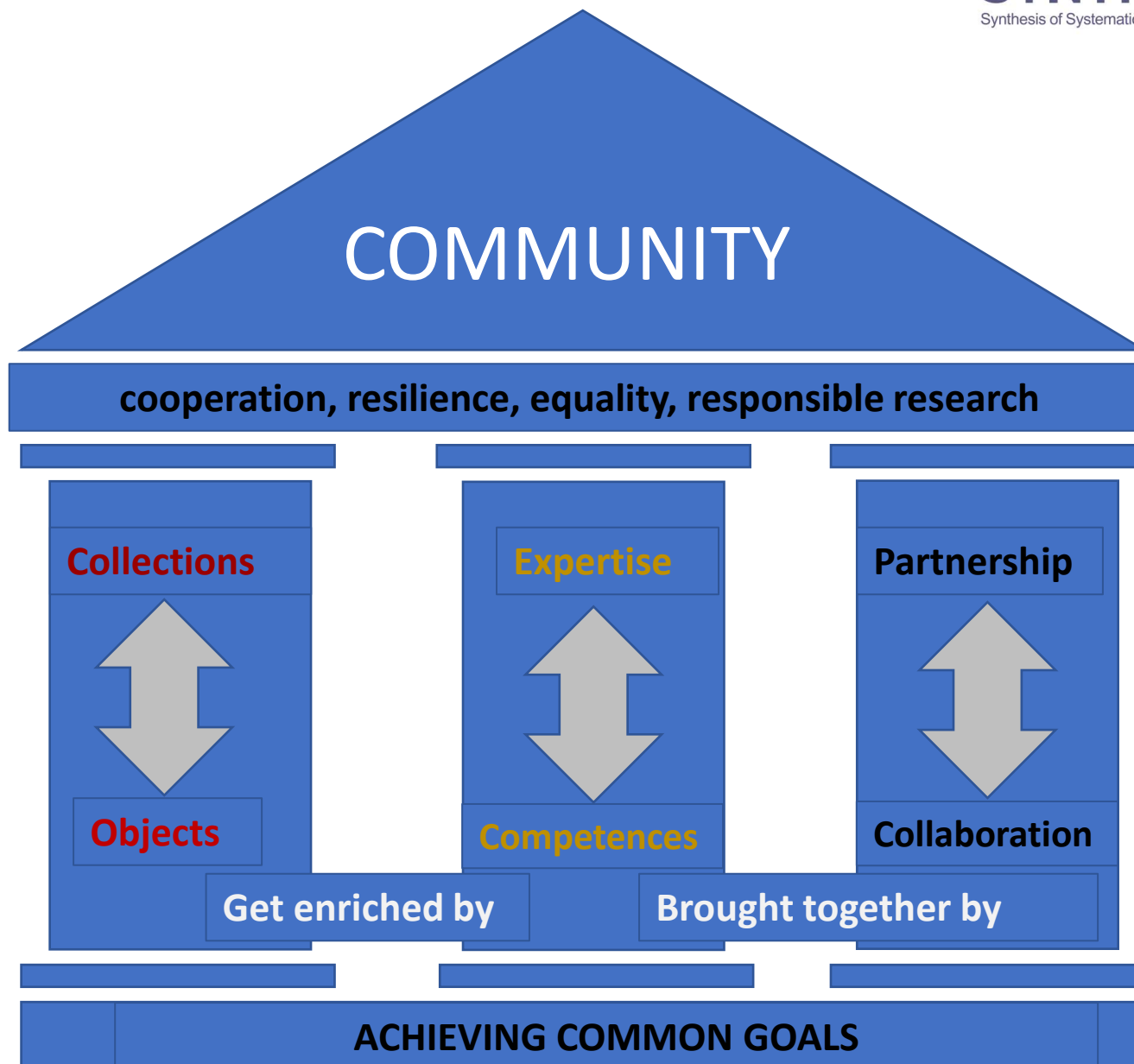
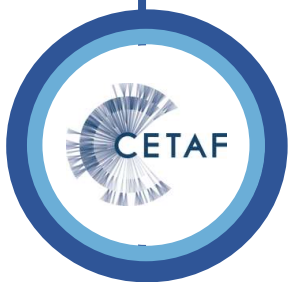
CETAF Working Groups are instrumental for implementing this principle

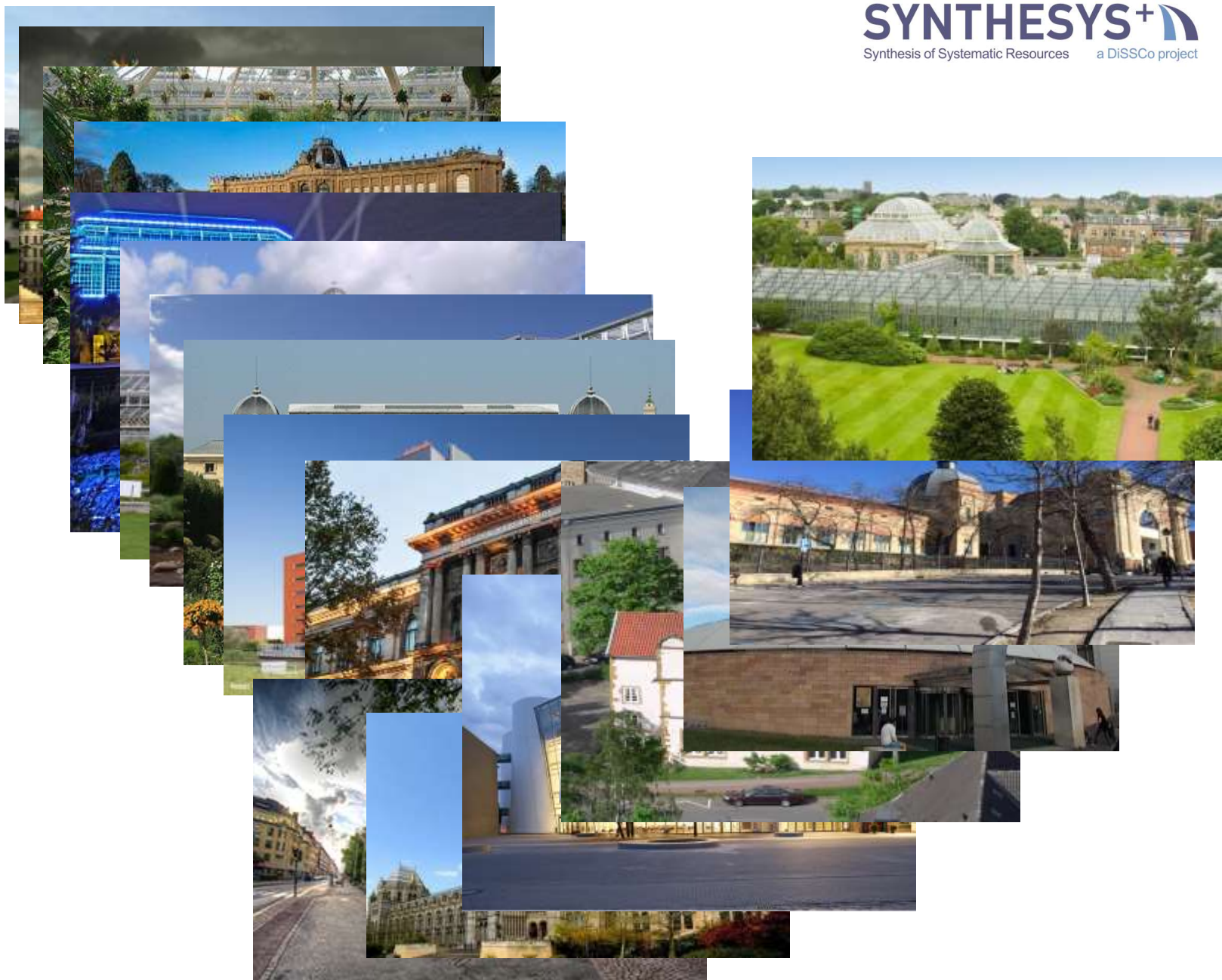
- ☐ Training and e-learning
- ☐ E-publishing
- ☐ Digitisation
- ☐ ISTC
- ☐ Strategy and Research Agenda
- ☐ Collections
- ☐ Earth Sciences
- ☐ Biodiversity Monitoring
- ☐ Legislation & Regulations
- ☐ European Initiatives

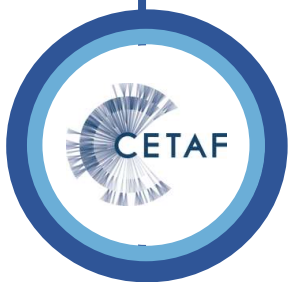


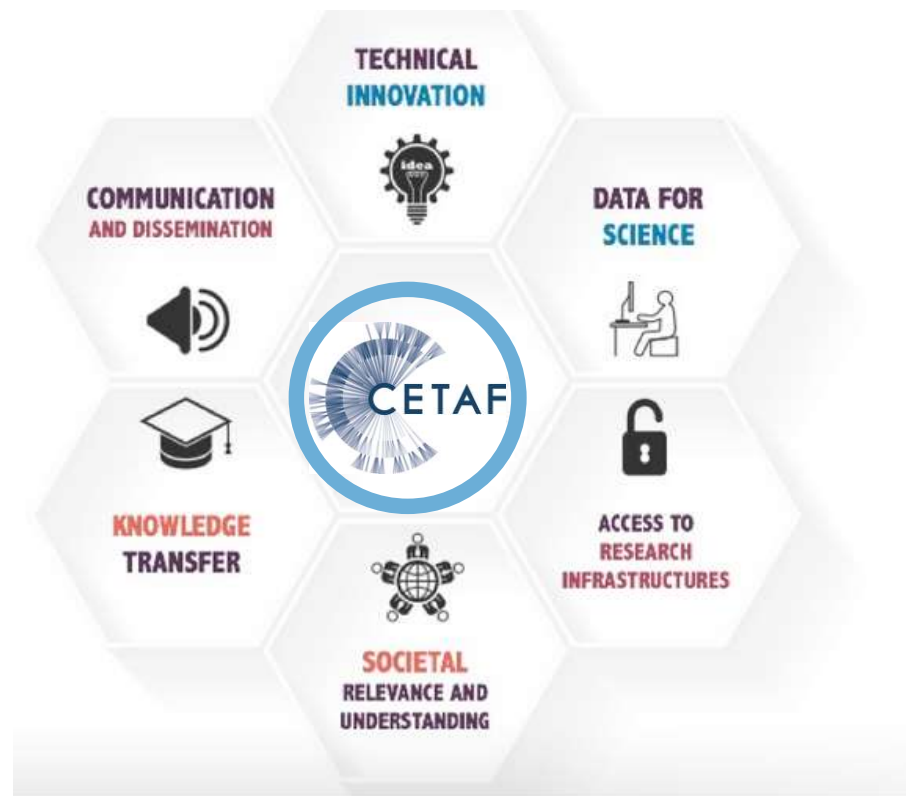
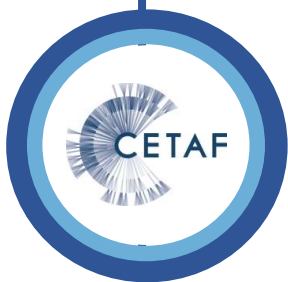
Results of the collaborative work

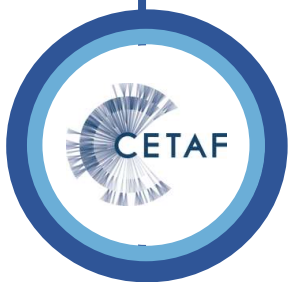












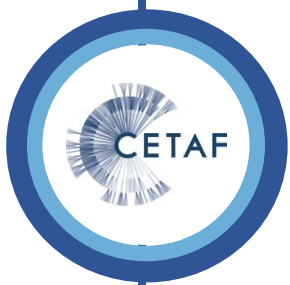
Support to the collaborative work



Mobilise Action

Mobilising Data, Policies and Experts in Scientific Collections

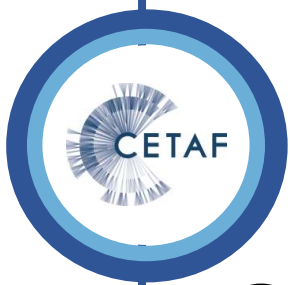




WP2 - NA2

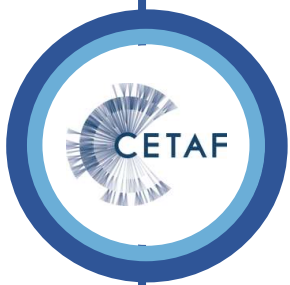
Harmonisation of policies and best practices,
training and support

*Coordinate policy development and harmonize
actions to facilitate dissemination and
implementation*



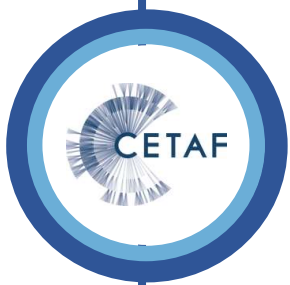
Objectives

1. Guide **policies implementation**
2. Compile **best practices**, including for those collections less well harmonised (geological, archaeological)
3. Operate **training programmes** to expand digital workforce skills
4. Develop training material and online resources
5. Provide **helpdesk support** (for ELViS)



Task 2.1

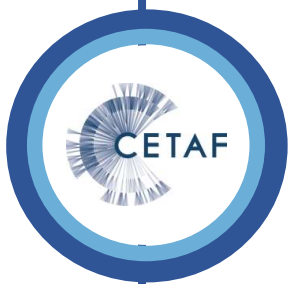
Coordinate harmonisation of policies and
facilitate implementation of policy mandates



Task 2.1

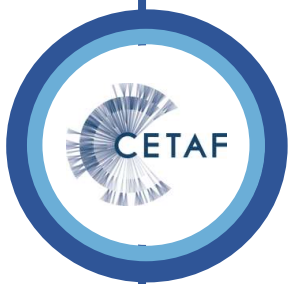
- Lead: CETAF
- Period: M1-M45
- Participants: HNHM, BGM, NHMW, RBGK, RBGE, CSIC, MfN, MNHN, RBINS
- Deliverable:

D2.1: Consolidated document on Policy topics and related Best Practices and Standards as a basic manual for policy implementation [M45]



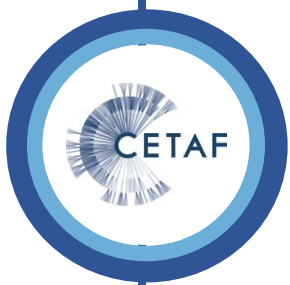
Task 2.1 - Activities

- **COMPILE and HARMONISE** policies, protocols and frameworks relating to digitisation and access, especially with relation to DiSSCo and under the EU frameworks
Initial experts session to agree on work streams will be organised, followed by a questionnaire circulated to partners to collect current policies across the consortium
- **SUMMARISE and DISSEMINATE** best practices that are already adopted or that will be developed by other WPs
- **GUIDE** on implementing policy mandates (e.g. ABS)



Task 2.2

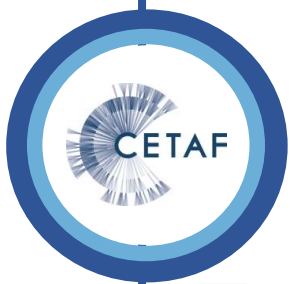
Integrate and expand institutional collection assessments



Task 2.2

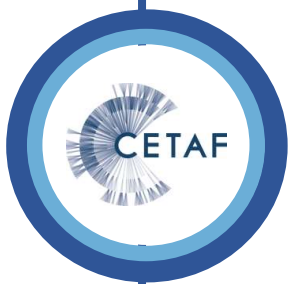
- Lead: CETAF
- Period: M1-M19
- Participants:
Naturalis, MNHN, HNHM, CSIC, MfN, RBINS, NHM, UCPH, BGM
- Deliverable

D2.2: Joint dashboard of collections assessment tools based on a database of collections assessments [M18]



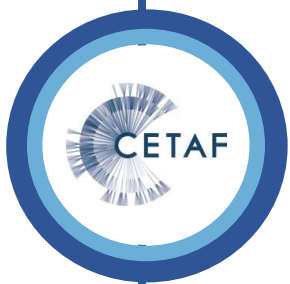
Task 2.2 - Activities

- **BUILD** on previous work, especially CDD Task Group and ICEDIG deliverables
- **DEVELOP** a platform to merge collections data components from different systems such as the CETAF passports, OWC, CSAT and JTD
- **PRODUCE A VISUAL tool** to provide a unified dataset for supporting TA and VA requests
- **EMBED** Dashboard within ELViS



Task 2.3

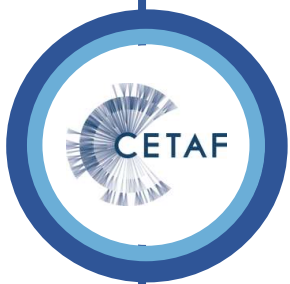
Develop focused training activities



Task 2.3

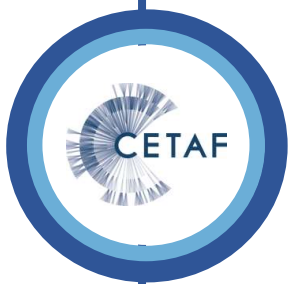
- Lead: MNHN+CSIC
- Period: M1-M24
- Participants: UGOT-GGBC, CETAF, RBINS, RMCA, MNHN, NHMW, MfN, NRM, HHNM, RBGK
- Deliverable:

D2.3: Catalogue of training modules to form a training programme to be run under DEST [M24]



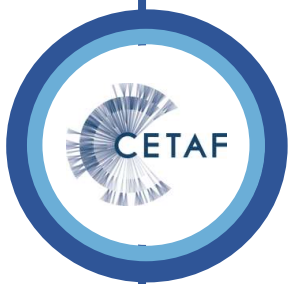
Task 2.3 - Activities

- **ORGANISE** a workshop to prioritise training topics and define the training activities (content, host, duration, audiences...)
- **IDENTIFY** needed training mechanisms and develop set of specific training modules
- **FOCUS** on digital skills to support TA/VA and DiSSCo
- **COLLABORATE** with other training sources



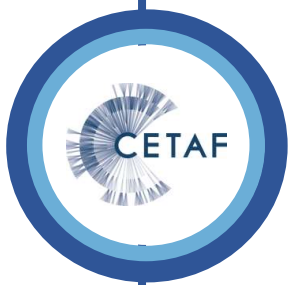
Task 2.4

Run helpdesk for online support



Task 2.4

- Lead: CETAF
- Period: M23-M48
- Participants: NHM, Naturalis, MNHN, RMCA, RBINS
- **No deliverable (web service)**



Task 2.4 - Activities

- **CREATE** a distributed system of contact points to support use of ELViS and Specimen Data Refinery
- **INCLUDE** mobility support, experience and knowledge exchange for museum IT staff
- **ANALYSE** the integration of multiple languages
- **USE** SYNTHESYS+ website as a platform in which tools and procedures will be documented (e.g. FAQs, software instruction manuals, a data developer forum)

T2.1

Coordinate harmonization of policies and implementation guidance

M45

M45

T2.2

Integrate collections assessments

M18

M19

T2.3

Develop training activities

M24

M24

T2.4

M23

Run helpdesk for online support

M48

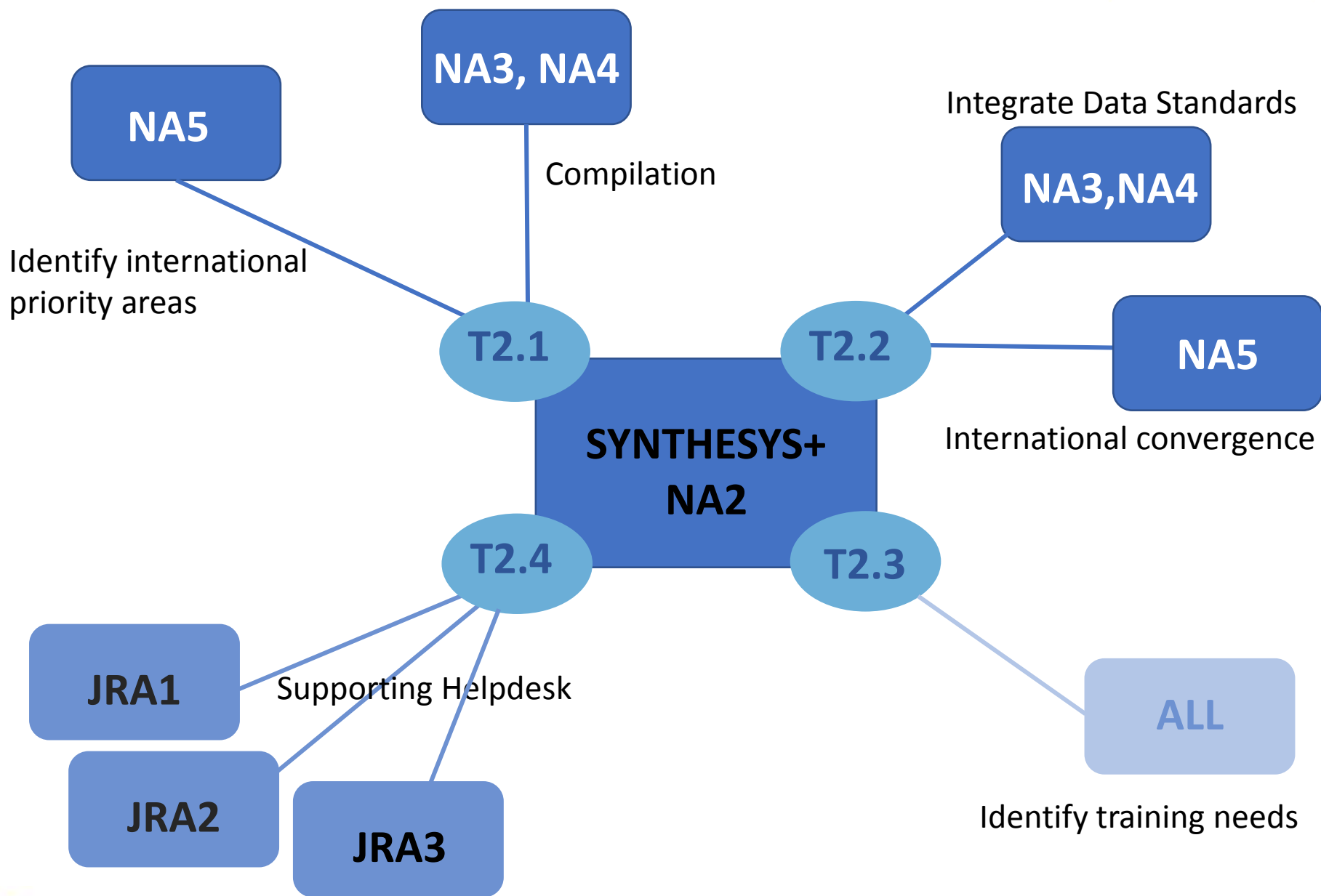


D2.2 Joint Dashboard

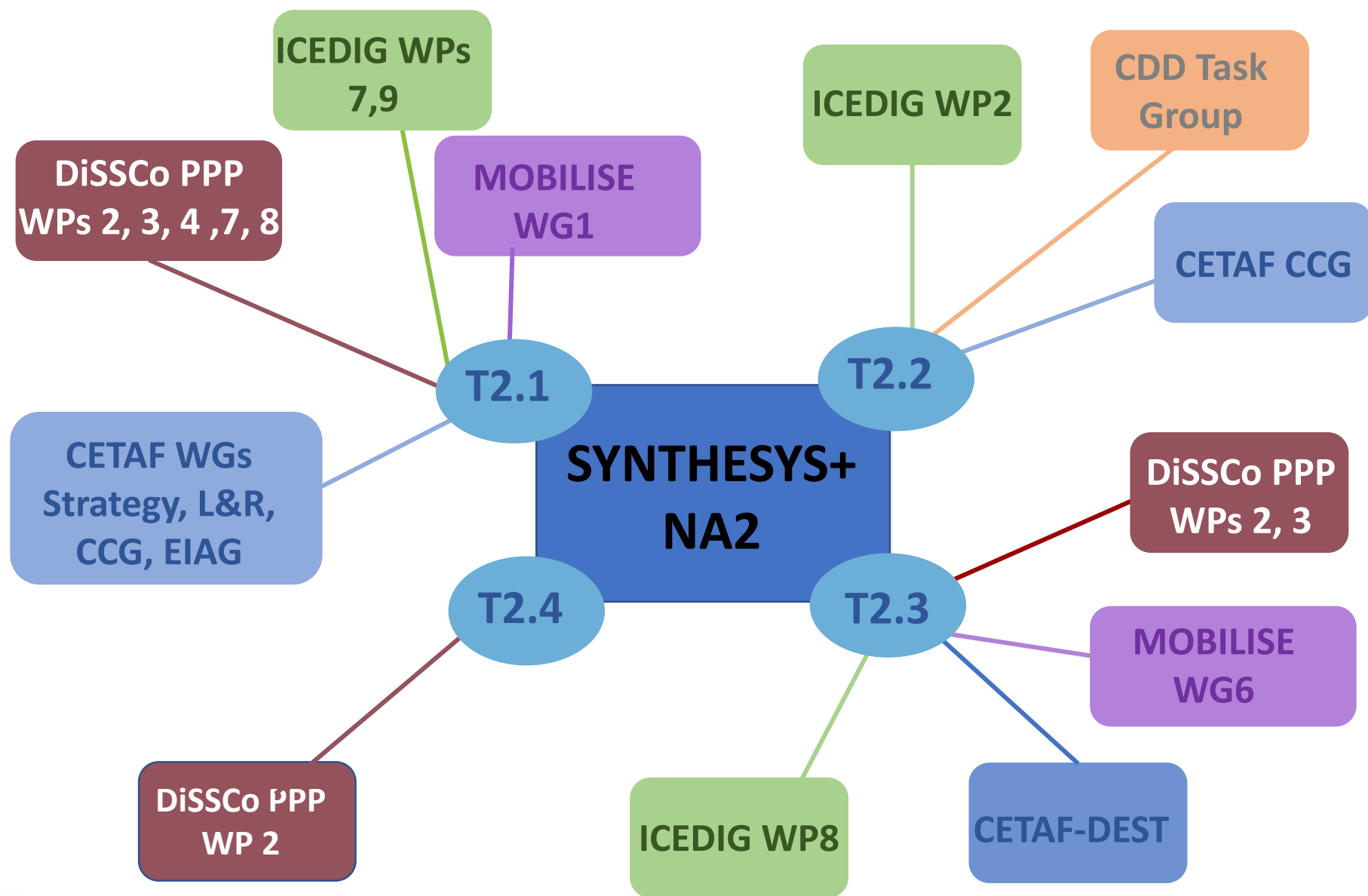
D2.3 Catalogue of training modules

D2.1 Manual for policy implementation

Relationships within SYNTHESYS+

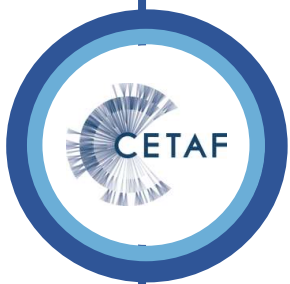


Relationships with other Projects

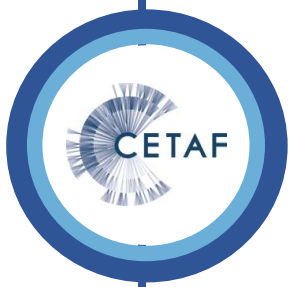




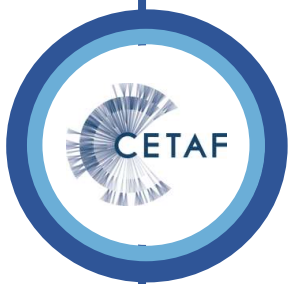
NETWORKING ACTIVITIES NA2



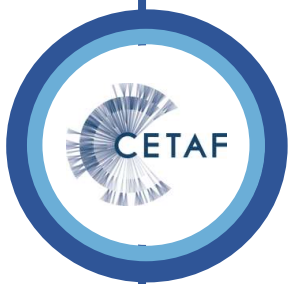
Challenges



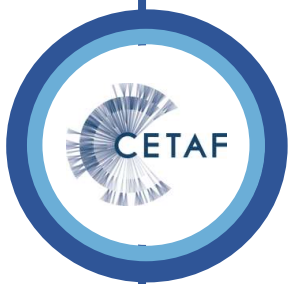
- ❑ **CONTINUITY** OF EXTERNAL ENGAGEMENT- Lack of it may lead to insufficient expertise provided for tasks
- ❑ **DUPLICATION** of work, GAPS UNFILLED - Especially now, in a extremely crowded, highly complex environment, it is important to foster coordinated effort
- ❑ **DIRECT** CONTACT WITH USERS – that may suffer from demotivation, fatigue and become unresponsive. The added value of the achievements will be lower and the attachment of the community to implementing the expected outcomes will decrease
- ❑ **DISPERSE** content and scope of tasks included in NA2



Next Steps

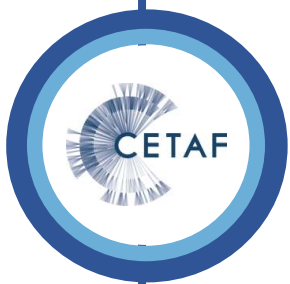


- ☐ **MERGE** planned workshops and conferences with other SYNTHESYS+ WGs when feasible
- ☐ **INTENSIFY** exchange of information within the community (transparency, feedback, support)
- ☐ **FOSTER** collaborative work via MOBILISE, and alignment through thematic areas
- ☐ **OPEN** consultation to external stakeholders to test coherence (engage other NAs, specially NA5)



MESSAGE TO TAKE HOME
Inform and communicate,
Collaborate and align
Keep focused
Be practical





Thank you for your attention!