

# **ICEDIG Opening Conference - *“Transforming natural sciences collections for the digital age”*** 6 March 2018, Helsinki, FI

In the digital era, answering to global environmental challenges requires researchers to have digital access to data. This holds especially true for the natural sciences, where one rich data trove remains unearthed: The European scientific collections. They jointly hold more than 1.5 billion objects, representing 80% of the world's bio- and geo-diversity. With only 10 % of these objects digitised, their information remains vastly underused, thus impeding potential applications of collections based research.

In order to tackle the complex challenge of digitising natural science collections and providing access, the community of natural science institutions has submitted a proposal for a new ESFRI Research Infrastructure, the Distributed System of Scientific Collections (DiSSCo). DiSSCo will enable critical new insights to address some of the world's greatest challenges, such as biodiversity loss and climate change, by providing access to linked scientific data in a scale, precision and accuracy never achieved before.

To this end, ICEDIG - Innovation and consolidation for large scale digitisation of natural heritage - stands as the EU funded project that will allow to refine the design study of DiSSCo by addressing the technical, financial, policy and governance aspects for developing and operating DiSSCo.

## **Aims and Objectives**

- Present the ICEDIG project and become familiar with the work programme of the project
- Share the mission and vision of DiSSCo and articulate how ICEDIG contributes to its preparation
- Reach out to stakeholders and engage them in the co-development of innovative solutions in the field of mass digitization
- Discuss the issues and challenges of mass-digitisation, sharing cutting-edge information

**When?** 6 March 2018

**Where?** Helsinki, Finnish Museum of Natural History Luomus (venue: Economicum, Arkadiankatu 7)

**For whom?** This event aims to bring together all of you who are involved in biodiversity sciences and mass digitisation activities. We not only want to speak to our colleagues from ICEDIG, DiSSCo and CETAF. We value input from the outside and would therefore like to invite you, especially if you represent one of our partners from industry and SMEs, the national and European political bodies, particularly those engaged in research, technology, and environment, related groups from adjacent domains such as the digital humanities or a social partner, like interested NGOs, citizen scientists or the media.