



**Annual Report 2016**  
***Activity Report***

**Vietsch Foundation**

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This Annual Report covers the activities of the Vietsch Foundation from 1 January until 31 December 2016.

The Vietsch Foundation fulfills its goal of supporting research and development of advanced Internet technology for scientific research and higher education in two ways.

1. By contributing funding to specific research and development projects that demonstrate potential value to progress European and global research and education networking
2. By awarding an annual medal of honour to people who contributed to the development of a service, technology or approach that will be of lasting value to the research and education networking community and its users.

### **The Board of Trustees**

The Board of Trustees of the Vietsch Foundation is responsible for the direction of the Foundation and the management of its assets. In 2016 the Board was composed of the following members:

- Valentino Cavalli, Chair
- Bert van Pinxteren, Treasurer (Until 1-9-2016)
- John Dyer, Secretary
- Antoinette Vietsch, Member at large until 1-9-2016, then Treasurer
- Andrew Cormack, Member at large (from 7-6-2016)

In 2016 the Board of Trustees held seven meetings, on the following dates:

- meeting # 12, 1-3-2016
- meeting # 13, 21-3-2016
- meeting # 14, 25-4-2016
- meeting # 15, 7-6-2016
- meeting # 16, 31-8-2016,
- meeting # 17, 27-10-2016,
- meeting # 18, 12-12-2016

During the year, the composition of the Board changed. Andrew Cormack was admitted as Member at Large on 7-6-2016, he attended meeting 15 for the first time. During meeting 16, Bert van Pinxteren resigned as Board member. At the same meeting Antoinette Vietsch offered to serve as Treasurer of the Vietsch Foundation, the Board unanimously approved.

Until spring 2016 the Vietsch Foundation office was hosted at GEANT on Singel 468-D, 1017AW in Amsterdam. Later, the registered address of the Vietsch Foundation was transferred to Haarlemmerstraat 3-D, 1013EH in Amsterdam.

### **General activities, strategic, financial, administrative**

In 2016 a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) was signed between the Vietsch Foundation and the NLnet Foundation in September. As part of the collaboration, the NLnet

foundation created a specific Research and Education Technology Fund. The NLnet Foundation would relay suitable proposals submitted to their regular calls to the Vietsch Foundation. If approved for funding, the Vietsch Foundation would contribute the specific project grant to the Fund. Following on the promising example set with the NLnet collaboration, the Board decided to extend the model and seek strategic partnerships with other relevant organisations, to reach out to broader communities and increase the likelihood of acquiring project proposals. First candidate organisations for such a key partnership would be GEANT and EUNIS.

To increase awareness of the Vietsch Foundation's activities and extend its network of contacts the Board advertised them on social networks and via established lists of contacts, such as those managed by RIPE and ISOC. The need to review the website of the Vietsch Foundation and migrate its content to a more dynamic and engaging platform was identified.

The last of Karel Vietsch's properties, the house where he used to live in Leiden, was sold in spring 2016. The executor of his will, Antoinette Vietsch prepared a full statement of account concerning the legacy. The account was submitted to the Board, which at its 16<sup>th</sup> meeting, on 31 August 2016, unanimously approved it and formally discharged her for her duty as executor.

### **Medal of Honour 2016**

The 2016 medal of the Vietsch Foundation were awarded by unanimous decision of the Board to Jan Gruntorád, director of CESNET, for combining in a unique way a persistent drive to innovate and the creation of sustainable organisational set-ups in his country, the Czech Republic, as well as internationally. Jan Gruntorád received the medal in Prague on 13 June, during the TNC16 conference, the largest European research and education networking event, organised by GÉANT, the association of European national research and education networks,

### **Project funding**

During 2016 the Vietsch Foundation supported the following projects.

FedLab, was awarded a grant in 2015. The grant was for a duration of 12 months. The project had a slow start because one of the two partners withdrew shortly after the start of the project. The remaining partner took over the full work and caught up with the intended schedule. The project was meant to receive wider support via the GN4 project and REFEDS, a forum managed by GEANT; this was smaller than anticipated and the project had to scale down on the number of use cases that were originally planned. In total the Vietsch Foundation donated €24,960 for the FedLab project which ended its works according to schedule.

Searsia. The project, aiming to develop an open-source search engine specifically tailored to the needs of the academic community, was one of three submissions received via NLnet. In its 16<sup>th</sup> meeting, on 31 August, the Board decided to offer a grant of €10,000 to the project

for two of the project components: support advertisement and suggestions without tracking the user.

Many more proposals were discussed during the year, thanks to valuable input from the NLnet Foundation. Where these were not considered appropriate for funding by the Foundation, the reasons were incorporated into improved guidelines provided to NLnet and other partners

### **Communication**

The website of the Vietsch Foundation is <http://www.vietsch-foundation.org/>.