



Annual Report 2017
Activity Report

Vietsch Foundation

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This Annual Report covers the activities of the Vietsch Foundation from 1 January until 31 December 2017.

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 2017 the Board was composed of the following members:

- Valentino Cavalli, Chair
- John Dyer, Secretary
- Antoinette Vietsch, Treasurer
- Andrew Cormack, Member at large

On 3 November, Lígia Maria Ribeiro was nominated. She started as member at large in January 2018.

In 2017 the Board of Trustees met on the following dates:

- meeting # 19, 10-03-2017
- meeting # 20, 23-06-2017
- meeting # 21, 26-09-2017
- meeting # 22, 03-11-2017
- meeting # 23, 08-12-2017,

General activities, strategic, financial, administrative

In 2017 the Vietsch Foundation and EUNIS, the European University Information Systems organisation, signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) defining objectives, scope and terms of collaboration in the acquisition of project proposals from the EUNIS community.

In December 2017, the Vietsch Foundation received a donation of € 300,000.00. The capital increased the reserves for the future activities of the Vietsch Foundation.

Project funding

During 2017 the Vietsch Foundation funded the eduVPN project via a donation of € 25,000.00 to the NLnet “Research and Higher Education Technology Fund”. The eduVPN project aimed to make VPN technology commonly available, by building better, more secure and user-friendly tools for the research and education user community. The Vietsch Foundation contribution to the project was complemented by grants from other funds including the SIDN Fonds. The project completed its work. Results are currently in production and accessible at <https://letsconnect-vpn.org/>. Let’s Connect/eduVPN won the ISOC.nl Innovation Award in January 2018.

In November 2017, the Vietsch Foundation made a second donation of € 25,000.00 to the NLnet “Research and Higher Education Technology Fund” for a project called Explain.Directly, which aims at piloting new and more effective access paradigms for Online Open Courseware. The project will work on making access to educational material easier, targeted and direct, re-usable and more tailored to life-long learning scenarios.

Medal of Honour 2017

The 2017 medal of the Vietsch Foundation was awarded by unanimous decision of the Board to John Boland, former Chief Executive of HEAnet, Ireland’s National Education and Research Network, for his career. John Boland received the medal in Linz on 2 June, during the TNC17 conference, the largest European research and education networking event, organised by GÉANT, the association of European national research and education networks,

Communication

The website of the Vietsch Foundation <http://www.vietsch-foundation.org/> was totally revamped in 2017. It is now based on Wordpress, properly indexed and more accessible. Content has been enriched and made more dynamic.