Annual Report 2019

Activity Report

Vietsch Foundation

Postal Address: c/o Haarlemmerstraat 3 D, 1013 EH Amsterdam, The Netherlands
Tax Identification Number (RSIN): 853821690
Chamber of Commerce Number (KvK-nummer): 6023586
This Annual Report covers the activities of the Vietsch Foundation from 1 January until 31 December 2019.

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 2019 the Board was composed of the following members:

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

The three-year term of Andrew Cormack expired in June. Andrew was reappointed for another term starting end of June 2019.

In 2019 the Board of Trustees met on the following dates:
- meeting # 28, 26-02-2019
- meeting # 29, 14-05-2019
- meeting # 30, 06-06-2019
- meeting # 31, 10-09-2019
- meeting # 32, 13-12-2019

Project funding

In 2019 the Vietsch Foundation selected the following projects for funding.

- *Diamond Key Security Microsoft CryptoAPI Integration*. The project started early in 2019 and was successfully completed in the autumn. It developed the software application programming interface (API) and performed the necessary integration and validation steps for the DKS hardware security module - the Diamond-HSM™ - to
support and function with the Microsoft CryptoAPI (often referred to as “CAPI”). This integration to communicate with the Microsoft operating system is expected to increase significantly the reach of security solutions among non-profit higher education networks driving scientific research and innovation. The grant for this project was €29,882.12.

- **Development of a Proposal for a Trusted Student Identification Framework.** This study is carried out by the European Campus Card Association (ECCA) and encompasses requirements for cross-border trusted student e-ID credentials and provide recommendations for a trusted student e-ID framework to support the provision of secure identification and authentication on a cross-border basis in Europe. The study started on 10 September 2019 and will end in May 2020 with the publication of a report surveying state of the art and business aspects and issuing recommendations for the establishment of a cross-border Student e-ID Project. The grant for this project was €26,850.00.

- **Second edition of “Free and Open Source: Law, policy and practice”**. This book, edited by Amanda Brock, will be published by Oxford University Press, in summer 2020, as an “open access title” with pdf, html and e-reader freely available on an attribution basis. The grant for this project was GBP13,000.00.

The following projects, which were funded in previous years were still ongoing at the end of 2019:

- **Democratic Sendcomm**, a project to build a user-friendly connected telemetry appliance to teach democratic communication.
- **REFEROO**, a project by Stefan Langerman and Sebastien Collette (Synapsis), to build a web portal for managing the refereeing tasks of researchers.
- **Tracking Exposed**, a project aiming to manifest the influence or algorithms on users’ tracking and profiling and while doing so contribute to user’s awareness of the data market and the influence of algorithms.
- **Explain.Directly**, aiming at piloting new and more effective access paradigms for Online Open Courseware.

Further details of these projects can be found on the Vietsch Foundation website, [www.vietsch-foundation.org](http://www.vietsch-foundation.org)

**Medal of Honour 2019**

The 2019 medal of the Vietsch Foundation was awarded by unanimous decision of the Board to Claudio Allocchio. The medal was handed out to the recipient during a ceremony held at the TNC19 conference, the largest European research and education networking event, organised by GÉANT.
Events and Liaisons

The Vietsch Foundation has been present at some important and well attended research and education community events during 2019. Board members participated in the following events:

- **TNC-19, 16-20 June, Tallinn, Estonia, John Dyer**
- **EUNIS Conference, 5-7 June, Trondheim, Andrew Cormack**
- **Open Science Fair, 16-19 September, Porto, Portugal, Valentino Cavalli presented a poster illustrating the funding opportunity provided by the Vietsch Foundation, in particular in support of Open Science.**

The collaboration agreement established in 2017 between the Vietsch Foundation and EUNIS proved useful in maintaining relationship with the community and led to a number of proposals being submitted for funding. Some of these proposals were still under evaluation at the end of 2019.