



museum

Royal Belgian Institute of Natural Sciences (RBINS)

www.naturalsciences.be



WHO WE ARE

The Royal Belgian Institute of Natural Sciences (RBINS) is a federal scientific institute. Its key mission includes fundamental research, scientific consulting, collection management, public dissemination and outreach. With its exceptionally rich collections of around 37,000,000 specimens and 100,000 primary types, in terms of volume, RBINS ranks among the top ten collections worldwide. As a museum it welcomes over 300,000 visitors annually. RBINS employs around 450 staff. Taxonomic expertise covers a wide range of invertebrates and vertebrates groups worldwide and a variety of ecosystems and geographic regions.

WHAT OUR EXPERIENCE IS

RBINS successfully participated in numerous EU projects and is currently involved in ±20 FP7 projects. RBINS is coordinator for the BE-TAF partners in the SYNTHESYS project. In ViBRANT, RBINS is WP leader of 'Training, outreach and community support'. RBINS is leading the Distributed European School of Taxonomy (DEST). RBINS hosts the secretariat of CETAF. RBINS serves as Belgium's National Focal Point to the CBD. Within the framework of the BioFresh project, RBINS gained a rich experience in data mobilisation and integration in the freshwater community. It also has strong links to the Belgian GBIF node through the Belgian Biodiversity Platform.

WHAT WE DO IN EU BON

- » Contribute to the assessment of relevant biodiversity data sources and data mobilisation in the freshwater realm
- » Contribute to the taxonomic backbone by engaging with the Freshwater Animal Diversity Assessment (FADA) network
- » Support the development of the information architecture and standards with expertise gained during BioFresh
- » Promote the EU BON activities and training through DEST
- » Provide support and advice on training organization

IN EU BON WE MAINLY CONTRIBUTE TO

- WP 1** Data sources: requirements, gap analysis and data mobilization
- WP 2** Data integration and interoperability
- WP 5** EU BON testing and validation of concepts, tools, and services



WE ARE ALSO INVOLVED IN

- » CETAF
- » SciColl
- » DEST
- » OpenUp!
- » SYNTHESYS
- » ViBRANT
- » EUROFLEETS
- » SeaDataNet
- » BioFresh
- » Belgian Biodiversity Platform

Prof. Dr. Koen Martens



- » Head Department Nature and Education
- » Editor-in-chief of Hydrobiologia and the European Journal of Taxonomy
- » Research interests: phylogeny, taxonomy and evolution of non-marine Ostracoda

Dr. Aaike De Wever



- » Experience as data manager for the BioFresh project
- » Experience as scientific coordinator of web portal development
- » Research interests: remote sensing in aquatic environments, aquatic microbial biodiversity

Dr. Isabella Van de Velde



- » Involved in EU biodiversity projects for training, outreach and community support
- » Coordinator of Distributed European School of Taxonomy (DEST)
- » Interests: taxonomy training, social networking tools for biodiversity

Dr. Patrick Grootaert



- » Head Department of Entomology
- » Head of CBD National Focal Point
- » Involved in management of national and international biodiversity projects
- » Research interests: taxonomy, systematics and ecology of Diptera