

**GBIF Regional Nodes**  
**Preparatory Survey for the**  
**7th European Nodes Meeting**

## **Introduction**

### ***Purpose***

This survey is a preparatory exercise for the [7th European Nodes Meeting](#), 5-7 May 2015, Paris. The questionnaire contains 10 questions grouped in two scopes: **Node** and **Europe**.

### ***Audience***

Nodes managers from National Nodes or other Participants based in Europe.

### ***Guidance***

This survey is an opportunity for you to describe your Node current status and activities. Please answer with free text. References to existing documents or web links are strongly encouraged.

### ***Process***

Please send your input before April 15th to André Heughebaert ([a.heughebaert@biodiversity.be](mailto:a.heughebaert@biodiversity.be)). All answers will be compiled and published on GBIF Community Site. A brief analysis of the survey will be presented as an introduction to the European nodes meeting.

## Questionnaire

### *Preliminary question*

Q0: Are you planning to attend our Regional meeting this year?

### *Part 1: About your Node*

Q1: How established and sustainable is your Node?

Q2: Can you briefly describe your node Staff?

Q3: What are the top 3 projects you are working on?

Q4: What are the Strengths & Weaknesses of your Node?

Q5: What are the Opportunities & Threats for your Node?

### *Part 2: About Europe as GBIF region*

Q6: What are the top 3 broader projects you are involved in?

Q7: Did you have concrete collaborations with other GBIF Nodes this year?

Q8: What can you offer to other European Nodes?

Q9: What do you expect from other European Nodes?

Q10: What should/could we achieve together in Europe?

## Participation

The questionnaire was send to european country nodes and associated participants via the [GBIF-Europe mailing list](#) on March 24<sup>th</sup> 2015. Deadline for node input was extended to April 24<sup>th</sup>.

Some 15 countries took the survey: [Andorra](#), [Belgium](#), [Denmark](#), [Finland](#), [France](#), [Germany](#), [Ireland](#), [Israel](#), [Luxembourg](#), [Netherlands](#), [Norway](#), [Poland](#), [Spain](#), [Sweden](#) and [United Kingdom](#). We did not get any response from the associated participants.

## Nodes Responses

## Andorra

**Q0: Are you planning to attend our Regional meeting this year? Yes**

### **Part 1: About your Node**

**Q1: How established and sustainable is your Node?**

We have the support of the Ministry of Foreign Government of Andorra, however we do not have one person exclusively dedicated to the Andorran node. Therefore we cannot expend a lot of time improving the Node.

**Q2: Can you briefly describe your node Staff?**

The CENMA is a Research Center of Andorra. We work in different projects of biodiversity and geology from Andorra. We also work to develop the Node GBIF of Andorra and improve the number of data of biodiversity from Andorra.

**Q3: What are the top 3 projects you are working on?**

In the CENMA we are working in different projects in order to collect datasets of biodiversity from Andorra and to improve our database. We organize all biodiversity data in a platform called SIBA ([www.siba.ad](http://www.siba.ad)). SIBA is for us the first step to organize and publish our biodiversity data. After the introduction of all of the biodiversity data in SIBA platform, then we use SIBA database to convert all data and migrate to general website of GBIF.

We are working in a different specific projects in order to improve our biodiversity knowledge. For example we are sampling butterflies, little mammals, birds, vascular plants, fungi, etc.

**Q4: What are the Strengths & Weaknesses of your Node?**

The Strengths is the Andorra is a little country so it's very easy to contact of different partners that are involved in environment items. Add to that, we have to say that the small dimension of Andorra, allows collecting a high level of biodiversity data.

The Weaknesses is that we are a very small team (we are only 4 person) dedicated to a lot of different works (educational sciences for scholarships, forest management, cartography of landscapes, etc.). Furthermore we do not have budget for projects and we have to work only with our knowledge. This is a problem for the node, because sometimes we have to contract computers specialists in order to solve some informatics problems with the biodiversity database, and we do not have budget for it. In addition, we have to recognize that we do not manage comfortably in English but we are improving it year by year.

**Q5: What are the Opportunities & Threats for your Node?**

The most important opportunity for our Node is to collaborate with you (general GBIF organization) in order the learn more about how we can organized, manage, publish our datasets and above all, help us to solve problems with all of that. Our very big threat is the potential abandonment from the politics of the Andorran node.

### **Part 2: About Europe as GBIF region**

**Q6: What are the top 3 broader projects you are involved in?**

Now, we are not working on a specific project in GBIF (because we have no time either resource). This year, in our Research Center we expanded our database from different taxonomics groups of Andorra, and we have improve the number of citations.

**Q7: Did you have concrete collaborations with other GBIF Nodes this year?**

Last October we participated in the training "Curso de Cibertaxonomía" organized by GBIF-Spain. We have a very good relation with Spanish Node.

**Q8: What can you offer to other European Nodes?**

I think is difficult we can to help anybody, because we are in the process of starting to understand the overall functioning of the GBIF. However we are open minded and we are prepared to new ways of collaboration if we can help other European Node.

**Q9: What do you expect from other European Nodes?**

We would like to ask for help from other European Nodes (or maybe to the Secretariat) in order to complete the process to export data in GBIF with the tool IPT. At the moment we are not using the IPT (because we do not know how it works) and we must to send the new biodiversity database (in DwCformat) to the

GBIF Secretariat (Denmark), and then they publish our biodiversity database in the GBIF general platform.

**Q10: What should/could we achieve together in Europe?**

We should to be the reference point of the world that offer the datasets of biodiversity and answers for study the environment. Colleting most of the world the biodiversity data, we can detect extinctions, migrations, environmental impacts to biodiversity, etc. We also can help researchers to make interesting and useful studies, help political to choose the best environmental political decisions, etc.

Roger Caritg (Institut d'Estudis Andorrans)

## Belgium

**Q0: Are you planning to attend our Regional meeting this year?** Yes

### Part 1: About your Node

**Q1: How established and sustainable is your Node?**

Belgian Node was established in 2001 and is funded by the Belgian Sciences Policy (Belspo).

Our budget is re-evaluated every 4 years, current budget runs 2013-2017.

**Q2: Can you briefly describe your node Staff?**

Belgian Node is part of the Belgian Biodiversity Platform which consists of 10 people: 7 scientists and 3 IT experts of which GBIF activities cover about 3FTE.

**Q3: What are the top 3 projects you are working on?**

The Belgian Biodiversity Platform fosters biodiversity research by providing services related:

- Data publication and data use
- Science networking
- Training tools
- Think-tank Activities

Our 3 main projects this year are: [Invasive alien species](#), revamping our Data Portal with ALA tooling and our [Empowering Biodiversity Research](#) conference to be held on May 21<sup>st</sup> 2015.

**Q4: What are the Strengths & Weaknesses of your Node?**

Strengths: The Platform is a decentralised structure implemented in two federal institutions and two regional institutions. We do have a stable team of multi-disciplinary scientists and IT experts. We are well known in the Scientific/Academic community. We do have launched and supported strong spin-off projects such as [AntaBIF](#), [BioFresh](#) or [BioGR](#).

Weaknesses: We should increase the involvement of some stakeholders: Environment Ministry, Citizen science initiatives.

**Q5: What are the Opportunities & Threats for your Node?**

Opportunities: Being located at the heart of European Union.

Threats: Belgium Policy is under constant evolution driving federal competences to federated entities.

### Part 2: About Europe as GBIF region

**Q6: What are the top 3 broader projects you are involved in?**

At EU level we are part of the [BiodivERSa](#) network, hosting their website. We are also [IPBES](#) and [LifeWatch](#) national focal point.

**Q7: Did you have concrete collaborations with other GBIF Nodes this year?**

We did had successful mentoring projects with Mauritania and Togo.

We have strong collaboration with NlBIF and GBIF-France.

**Q8: What can you offer to other European Nodes?**

We have excellent expertise on IAS for which we recently developed and implement [Harmonia+](#), a first-line risk assessment protocol of potentially invasive alien species.

We have strong and stable IT team with good expertise in databases, GIS and web development.

**Q9: What do you expect from other European Nodes?**

Exchange of expertise on improving data quality, translations and MOOC...

**Q10: What should/could we achieve together in Europe?**

More collaboration around EU legislation such as Birds/Habitats directives, Inspire directive, and the new [EU Regulation 1143/2014](#) on Invasive Alien Species...

Develop regional use-cases of GBIF data on policy relevant themes.

André Heughebaert, Node Manager

## Denmark

**Q0: Are you planning to attend our Regional meeting this year?** Yes

### Part 1: About your Node

**Q1: How established and sustainable is your Node?**

Very established (since 2001, [www.danbif.dk](http://www.danbif.dk)), but uncertainty regarding sustainability: Current funding ends by the end of this year. We hope the universities science faculties will continue their support. We produce a yearly report and work plan for the Science faculty deans, but it is in Danish.

**Q2: Can you briefly describe your node Staff?**

1. 1 fulltime node manager and data-curator, incl. mobilising data.
2. 1 part-time (30h/week) Scientific Communications Officer & Web Editor
3. 1 part time project-based person organising the Danish authoritative checklist [allearter.dk](http://allearter.dk)
4. 1-day-a-week support / assistant to mobilise data
5. 2-3 ad-hoc project-based IT staff maintaining IPT and servers and mobilising data

PLEASE NOTE: Due to insufficient funding from the faculties, 1) and 2) works approx. one day a week on the EU BON project.

**Q3: What are the top 3 projects you are working on?**

1. Mobilising the datasets in our dataset pipeline, according to our work plan. This includes data from: The Natural History Museum of Denmark; Several citizen science and Atlas projects in Denmark; Management and conservation -based data, hopefully mobilising sample/site based data with the new DwC-extension.
2. Planning to prepare Scientific Data manuscripts with selected data providers, IPT2.2 and Data-Cite minting of dataset DOIs.
3. Initiating work in the CMEC + DanBIF: GBIF data users club - experience and wishes of the researchers regarding the use of GBIF-mediated data. Feedback on data quality and fitness for use that can be translated into practical improvements on the GBIF portal.

**Q4: What are the Strengths & Weaknesses of your Node?**

S: Very good contact with the data owners in Denmark and success in building a national checklist.

W: Too few people /resources to work beyond the borders of Denmark, i.e. interacting with the European Nodes regions. Too few people to engage more in helping people use GBIF-data; Limited ability to plan future work that includes obligations to external partners, because of uncertainty in continued funding.

**Q5: What are the Opportunities & Threats for your Node?**

O: Integration in a Danish national infrastructure for biodiversity, further implementation of the Danish national checklist ([www.allearter.dk](http://www.allearter.dk)) in official / governmental institutions.

T: Discontinued funding.

### Part 2: About Europe as GBIF region

**Q6: What are the top 3 broader projects you are involved in?**

EU BON

**Q7: Did you have concrete collaborations with other GBIF Nodes this year?**

No. However, we had concrete interactions / collaborations with the GBIF-secretariat: country pages review, IPT, Science Night at our museum.

**Q8: What can you offer to other European Nodes?**

We don't know specifically what we have to offer.

**Q9: What do you expect from other European Nodes?**

We don't know specifically what we expect, but we always feel inspired by the nodes meetings, both regional and global.

**Q10: What should/could we achieve together in Europe?**

We don't know specifically.

Isabel Calabuig, Node manager Denmark

## **Finland**

**Q0: Are you planning to attend our Regional meeting this year?** Yes

### **Part 1: About your Node**

**Q1: How established and sustainable is your Node?**

Well established, and sustainable in terms of continuing being a voting partner. Positioning GBIF activities in the national landscape continues being an issue, because our HoD does not represent the Science Academy, who pays the membership fee and we do not have a dedicated budget for GBIF functions.

**Q2: Can you briefly describe your node Staff?**

7 permanent ict-specialists 3 with technical background, 3 biologists and 1 both.

**Q3: What are the top 3 projects you are working on?**

FinBIF infrastructure for environmental administration (2,1 million €/3years)  
Invasive alien portal and early warning mechanism (150 000 € / 2 years)

**Q4: What are the Strengths & Weaknesses of your Node?**

Strengths: Stable status as voting participant, good amount of project funds  
Weaknesses: Better positioning and affiliation with ministries needed

**Q5: What are the Opportunities & Threats for your Node?**

Opportunities: Offering services to decision makers can strengthen our position nationally

Threats: No budget or continuity guaranteed after the project period ends

### **Part 2: About Europe as GBIF region**

**Q6: What are the top 3 broader projects you are involved in?**

None

**Q7: Did you have concrete collaborations with other GBIF Nodes this year?**

LifeWatch Nordic - in preparation together with Norway, Sweden and Baltic countries.

**Q8: What can you offer to other European Nodes?**

Input to H2020 funding proposals

**Q9: What do you expect from other European Nodes?**

Exchanging experiences and ideas

**Q10: What should/could we achieve together in Europe?**

Promoting GBIF as a data sharing mechanism for EU level decision making (EEA, EASIN, ...)

Hanna Koivula

## France

**Q0: Are you planning to attend our Regional meeting this year? Yes**

### Part 1: About your Node

**Q1: How established and sustainable is your Node?**

The GBIF France node is well established (since 2006) and integrated in the MNHN- Direction of Collection in Paris.

The funding of the French GBIF node is via the ANR project: e-Recolnat and planned until the end of 2016. We don't know yet for the years after but we are exploring several possibilities with a good potential, and we have a strong support from the people in charge of GBIF in the Ministry of Research.

**Q2: Can you briefly describe your node Staff?**

2 Part time coordinators (<20%):

- Eric Chenin : coordinator and Head of Delegation
- Régine Vignes-Lebbe: scientific coordinator

4 full time positions:

- Anne-Sophie Archambeau : node manager
- Marie-Elise Lecoq and 1 ongoing recruitment : IT engineers
- Sophie Pamerlon : Data engineer, help to the providers

**Q3: What are the top 3 projects you are working on?**

- - The SEP2D project has been accepted (to continue SEP-CEPDEC efforts) and will begin within a few months.

Sud Expert Plantes Développement Durable (SEP2D) aims at helping developing countries better know, preserve and use their biodiversity. During a first phase (2006-2012) it has developed a unique approach combining training, research, support to collections, and involvement of scientists in policy making. The first phase was more focused on basic topics; the new phase (2015-2019) will turn to applied issues in biodiversity management, conservation and sustainable use, and to the interface between research and action, with a focus on partnerships with the private sector, around four main themes, which cover the key issues regarding plants conservation and sustainable use: (1) forestry / REDD+, (2) mining, (3) cosmetics and pharmacy, and (4) agriculture.

SEP2D is a large scale multilateral program: it targets 22 countries in Africa, the Indian Ocean and South-East Asia, and promotes South-South as well as South-North networking and sharing of experience, knowledge and know-how. The funding already secured is € 5.3M, with a total budget, including in kind FTE contributions of partners, of around € 20M.

- The implementation of the ALA portal at national level and for the GBIF community.
- At national level, we contribute to the e-Recolnat project: the aim is to develop digitization, access and use of specimen data, and to the development of "Les Herbonautes", crowdsourcing project on herbarium labels transcription.

**Q4: What are the Strengths & Weaknesses of your Node?**

Strength:

Launch of the national GBIF user group and development of a strong cooperation with other biodiversity data related structures at national level.

SEP2D project launched

Weaknesses

Non-permanent positions = difficulty to maintain the staff, loss of knowledge

Complexity and lack of governance for the national data flow

**Q5: What are the Opportunities & Threats for your Node?**

Opportunities:

Mentoring projects, involvement in proposals for H2020 projects



## Threats

Future funding for the French subscription and for the node after 2016

### Part 2: About Europe as GBIF region

#### Q6: What are the top 3 broader projects you are involved in?

- Following the mentoring with Spain and Portugal, GBIF France connected with the ALCUE NET project.  
ALCUE NET supports the European Union and the Community of Latin American and Caribbean (EU-CELAC) Policy Dialogue process on S&T & the implementation of the Joint Initiative for Research and Innovation during 2013-2017, reflecting the suggestions and recommendations of the Senior Officials Meetings  
ALCUE NET aims to establish a common platform for EU-CELAC policy makers, research institutions and the private sector
- We became associate partner of EUBON (with MNHN as legal institution)
- Organisation of trainings with BioVel

#### Q7: Did you have concrete collaborations with other GBIF Nodes this year?

- Mentoring France - Spain - Portugal  
The node partners involved have identified complementary weaknesses and strengths. This mentoring aims to enhance capacities and impact of the involved nodes by leveraging on their capacities.  
The areas identified are:
  - Data visualization
  - Crowdsourcing
  - Training & e-learning
  - Data quality tools and procedures
  - Persistent Identifiers
  - Data paper proceduresThe nodes involved have well-built linkages with their own overseas language communities, which involve key countries in terms of biodiversity richness and related challenges; These nodes also have a strong tradition of scientific cooperation with these countries in and outside GBIF (e.g. SEP-CEPDEC, I3B, etc.). The potential involved in enhancing these specific aspects of the partner nodes for the GBIF network at large is, at least, significant.
- IT Development  
The French ITs are working in collaboration with Canadensys on the «DarwinCore Validator». specifications and development took place in 2014.
- workshop ALA

#### Q8: What can you offer to other European Nodes?

Contribution and cooperation around the implementation of ALA portal at European level

Development of tools:

- "simple-harvest" tool for indexation (available in GBIFLab)
- "SAGG" for Statistics and Analyses of Gaps on GBIF. This tool provides statistics and new data visualization to evaluate the biases in the results of the requests.

training material that can be translate

see Q7 mentoring

#### Q9: What do you expect from other European Nodes?

Best practices and Return of experience, collaboration in EU projects

Going on with the strengthening of the community, the project around the ALE implementation is a good way of working together

#### Q10: What should/could we achieve together in Europe?

We could focus on communication, GBIF is not enough known by the potential actors and users. We could try to take part in most European meetings about biodiversity. At least having a list of meetings and knowing who goes where.

Share our ideas of themes, objectives, and activities for common projects and share information about opportunities for submitting proposals, so as strengthen the capacity of the European Nodes community to build relevant and strong projects and take advantage of the best opportunities in EU funding.

Better recognition by EC should be great.

We should try to involved more countries; lack of countries is directly correlated with lack of data.

Content: raising the number of data and trying to fill the gaps must stay a priority

So organising Digit call when possible should go on.

Anne-Sophie Archambeau

## Germany

**Q0: Are you planning to attend our Regional meeting this year?** Yes

### Part 1: About your Node

**Q1: How established and sustainable is your Node?**

Well institutionalised with 9 sub-nodes for certain thematic/taxonomic groups (e.g. insects)

**Q2: Can you briefly describe your node Staff?**

~20 people at the different institutions, most of them on permanent positions paid by the respective institution (not GBIF-DE).

**Q3: What are the top 3 projects you are working on?**

[Edaphobase](#) (soil zoology network), [GFBio](#) (German Federation for the curation of Biological Data)

**Q4: What are the Strengths & Weaknesses of your Node?**

+ thematically specialised staff in each node  
+ many institutions involved lead to many projects and project spin-offs  
- coordination involves a lot of people

**Q5: What are the Opportunities & Threats for your Node?**

+ Thematically oriented nodes lead to several special interest networks with specialised portals

(e.g. for [algae & protists](#), [German botany](#), [German Virtual Herbarium](#), [GeoCAsE](#))

- No direct funding for GBIF-DE (only by supporting institutions)

### Part 2: About Europe as GBIF region

**Q6: What are the top 3 broader projects you are involved in?**

[GGBN](#) (Global Genome Biodiversity Network), [AnnoSys](#) (generic Annotation System), [BioCAsE Provider Software](#)

**Q7: Did you have concrete collaborations with other GBIF Nodes this year?**

no

**Q8: What can you offer to other European Nodes?**

[GGBN](#) (Data standard + portal), [AnnoSys](#) (software), [BioCAsE Provider Software](#) (software + helpdesk/support), [HIT+](#) (Harvesting software)

**Q9: What do you expect from other European Nodes?**

Collective initiatives on digitisation and for shared floras/faunas

**Q10: What should/could we achieve together in Europe?**

Concerted efforts to fill major data gaps in Europe. Combine strength of individual European GBIF nodes for a multilanguage portal of European biodiversity. Concerted efforts for EU funding applications. Support European institutions in countries that are not yet a GBIF node to share their data via GBIF.

Gabi Dröge, Jörg Holetschek

## **Ireland**

**Q0: Are you planning to attend our Regional meeting this year?** Yes

### **Part 1: About your Node**

**Q1: How established and sustainable is your Node?**

Established and fully operational

**Q2: Can you briefly describe your node Staff?**

Core staff of 7: Centre Director, 2 x Ecologists, 1 Office Manager, 1 Data & ICT Manager, 1 Invasive Species Research Officer and 1 Ph.D. Researcher.

**Q3: What are the top 3 projects you are working on?**

The Node is working a large work programme, with many elements. Currently, the following three are taking up a significant investment in resources:

National insect monitoring programmes

National Sampling Framework on-line system development

Atlas of Mammals in Ireland

**Q4: What are the Strengths & Weaknesses of your Node?**

Strength: having a Management Board and an agreed Strategic Plan, with clearly identified objectives and work packages

Weakness: Insufficient human and financial resources to enable the Centre to expand to meet the national bioinformatics needs.

**Q5: What are the Opportunities & Threats for your Node?**

Our operational model, by way of 5-year Service Level Agreement, provides the framework for rapid and clear expansion, should additional resources become available.

The main threat is the absence of job security or clear career path for the incumbent staff.

### **Part 2: About Europe as GBIF region**

**Q6: What are the top 3 broader projects you are involved in?**

Delivery of web-services to partner organisations & citizen scientists.

Developing and making operational suite of National Biodiversity Indicator

National Sampling Framework

**Q7: Did you have concrete collaborations with other GBIF Nodes this year?**

No

**Q8: What can you offer to other European Nodes?**

Exchange of expertise in terms of project and data management, and delivery of on-line biological recording software development.

**Q9: What do you expect from other European Nodes?**

Engagement in terms of knowledge transfer - learning of examples of best practice and successful project delivery.

**Q10: What should/could we achieve together in Europe?**

Close collaboration to enable thematic data mobilisation to inform policy development, particularly for European Commission.

Liam Lysaght

## **Israel**

**Q0: Are you planning to attend our Regional meeting this year?** Yes

### **Part 1: About your Node**

**Q1: How established and sustainable is your Node?**

The node is quite young however our biodiversity information site (BIOGIS) is quite old (10 years)

**Q2: Can you briefly describe your node Staff?**

1. Head of delegation, 2. Academic advisor (professor at the Hebrew U) 3. Node manager, 4. Programmer, 5. GIS expert,

**Q3: What are the top 3 projects you are working on?**

- Upgrading the site design and UI
- Expanding the data base
- Developing tools to analyze the data online

**Q4: What are the Strengths & Weaknesses of your Node?**

Well established, good connection with nature authorities in Israel and the science community

Weaknesses - funding

**Q5: What are the Opportunities & Threats for your Node?**

Opportunities - The government and public understanding of the importance of local and international GBIF

Threats- none

### **Part 2: About Europe as GBIF region**

**Q6: What are the top 3 broader projects you are involved in?**

Working with urban planner in order to bring to their attention the importance of using biodiversity data

Working with high school teens

**Q7: Did you have concrete collaborations with other GBIF Nodes this year?**

Not yet - we are quite new

**Q8: What can you offer to other European Nodes?**

After the meeting I will be able to say

**Q9: What do you expect from other European Nodes?**

After the meeting I will be able to say

**Q10: What should/could we achieve together in Europe?**

After the meeting I will be able to say

Royi Zidon

## Luxembourg

**Q0: Are you planning to attend our Regional meeting this year?** Yes

### Part 1: About your Node

**Q1: How established and sustainable is your Node?**

Well established but understaffed.

**Q2: Can you briefly describe your node Staff?**

Tania Walisch, node manager, curator of natural heritage informations system at the natural history museum and researcher in plant ecology

Armand Turpel, part-time technical assistant of natural heritage informations system

Guy Colling, associate scientist, GBIF and collection information

**Q3: What are the top 3 projects you are working on?**

1. Data portal for data entry and retrieval by naturalists. Includes a citizen science part. [data.mnhn.lu](http://data.mnhn.lu)
2. Central Museum database for digitizing and managing specimen and observation records - data import and management, data quality, data access.
3. Data portal for professionals [map.mnhn.lu](http://map.mnhn.lu)

**Q4: What are the Strengths & Weaknesses of your Node?**

Strengths: GBIF node is assured by database team of the museum that exists since 2000 and has a good experience and overview of data management and networking. As a small country we are the main central data provider. We also conserve the national reference collections and establish national red lists and checklists, on the basis of data and expert knowledge.

Weaknesses: not enough staff, slow response as too many tasks to handle, not enough support from data users and provider institutions. Informatics infrastructure is suboptimal.

**Q5: What are the Opportunities & Threats for your Node?**

Opportunities: enhance communication and collaboration with data user and data producer organisations, build an intergovernmental GBIF platform will increase the visibility of the node.

Threats: communication needs time, might slow down basic tasks even more unless we get more human resources. Lack of resilience - work and processes are known only by one max 2 people.

### Part 2: About Europe as GBIF region

**Q6: What are the top 3 broader projects you are involved in?**

none

**Q7: Did you have concrete collaborations with other GBIF Nodes this year?**

no

**Q8: What can you offer to other European Nodes?**

Share experience working with taxonomic lists, synchronising/updating taxa in national lists with international lists, specimen and observation database Recorder, online data entry.

**Q9: What do you expect from other European Nodes?**

Assistance if asked for (communications on experiences with tools, programmes)

**Q10: What should/could we achieve together in Europe?**

National dataportals package easy to install and maintain with login for sensitive data.

Tania Walisch

## **Netherlands**

**Q0: Are you planning to attend our Regional meeting this year?** Yes

### **Part 1: About your Node**

**Q1: How established and sustainable is your Node?**

Well established in terms of data, data network, web presence, financing, and legal mandate.

The governance structure of the Node is subject to changes at the moment, the sustainability of the Node is very much related to these developments. An element at stake is the way NLBIF will contribute to European and international GBIF developments in the future.

**Q2: Can you briefly describe your node Staff?**

Yes, a part time Node manager (0.8 fte, means 4 days a week) and a technical assistant (contractor) for 2 days a week. All the other work (communication, data and website hosting, financial management, etc.) is outsourced. NLBIF works mainly project based with many organisations, most projects focus on more and better data.

**Q3: What are the top 3 projects you are working on?**

- Building a network of IPT's
  - Including IPT customisation for several themes and organisations.
  - Blogs to support IPT use specifically and GBIF promotion in general (<http://nlbif.blogspot.nl/>). For the time being only in Dutch but soon bilingual.
  - Seed money projects for data mobilisation.
- Metadata mobilisation
  - Promoting use of EML, promoting the use of the data paper possibilities of the IPT.
  - Seed money projects for metadata mobilisation (for a series of dedicated organisations / institutes).
  - Metadata exchange projects with (national) academic networks.
- Communication with the Dutch research community on the possibilities of new and more complete data sharing (i.e. try to build DarwinCore extensions).
  - For aquatic monitoring data
  - For soil biodiversity data
  - For automatically generated data such as Batlogger data

**Q4: What are the Strengths & Weaknesses of your Node?**

Strengths: proper funding, experienced, large network of data and knowledge institutes and organisations.

Weaknesses: no proper means to employ staff, inadequate governance structure.

**Q5: What are the Opportunities & Threats for your Node?**

Strictly in the opinion of the Node Manager:

There are many opportunities; most interesting I think would be the interaction with the e-science community in the Netherlands.

Biggest threat is the reduction of NLBIF to simply a funder of the existing national data infrastructure without scientific or international ambitions left.

### **Part 2: About Europe as GBIF region**

**Q6: What are the top 3 broader projects you are involved in?**

- LifeWatch
- Biodiversa (indirectly)
- European Bird Census Council (European Breeding Bird Atlas)

**Q7: Did you have concrete collaborations with other GBIF Nodes this year?**

No

**Q8: What can you offer to other European Nodes?**

A lot of experience

**Q9: What do you expect from other European Nodes?**

- A few joint data projects in the scope of European (EC) ambitions.
- Much better exchange of knowledge, experiences, etc. Especially at the level of governance, strategic decisions, funding mechanism, etc.
- Jointly increase the number of European participant countries.

**Q10: What should/could we achieve together in Europe?**

- A few flagship projects, preferably with other (European) initiatives and / or organisations.
- A significant increase of the number of European (national) GBIF participants.

Cees Hof (NLBIF)



## Norway

**Q0: Are you planning to attend our Regional meeting this year? Yes**

### Part 1: About your Node

**Q1: How established and sustainable is your Node?**

I would say well established and sustainable. The first years the node had a 3-year funding period for operation of the node. Starting from the current funding period (2012-2016) the node has a 5-year funding period. However, the funding includes only 1,5 positions - which is insufficient for basic operation of the node - mandating additional funding (from the hosting institute or other sources) to be secured each period. Insufficient staffing is NOT sustainable.

**Q2: Can you briefly describe your node Staff?**

Node manager, Dag Endresen, 50% position with funding from core node budget and 50% position with supplementary funding from other project sources (on an annual ad hoc basis).

Technical helpdesk for data publishing, database manager, programmer, Christian Svindseth, 100% fulltime funding from the core node budget. However, too many tasks for one single position, mandating a strong prioritizing of tasks.

**Q3: What are the top 3 projects you are working on?**

1. Continued mobilization of Norwegian occurrence data sets not yet published in GBIF.
2. Mobilization of the Norwegian taxon names checklist, and other names checklists such as Red list, black list, etc.
3. Data validation routines with feedback to the data owner of flagged issues related to suspicious localities and coordinates; taxon names not following the national checklist; temporal issues, etc.

**Q4: What are the Strengths & Weaknesses of your Node?**

**Strengths:** GBIF Norway has excellent backing from and partnership with a very strong and collaborative national network for biodiversity information. Good national understanding and support for the GBIF mandate of free and open access to biodiversity information world-wide. National partners and data owners are within their own time-limitations in principle always positive to sharing biodiversity data open and freely.

**Weakness:** Lack of resources to support the scientific use of GBIF-mobilized biodiversity data (1). Insufficient staff resources for mobilization of Norwegian datasets not yet published in GBIF (2). Lack of a formalized culture for including data management plans, archiving and publishing in project based nationally funded biodiversity activities (3).

**Q5: What are the Opportunities & Threats for your Node?**

**Opportunities:** New project period from 2017 might perhaps provide an opportunity to secure some additional staff resources for supporting scientific use of GBIF-mediated data. Further automatisation and perhaps some delegation of technical tasks to other national partner institutes in Norway might release staff resources at the node for coordination, data quality routines and adding support for scientific use of GBIF-mediated data.

**Threats:** The 5-year project periods is expected to be renewed and continued for as long as there is a need for a Norwegian GBIF-node. However, there is also no guarantee for continued funding.

### Part 2: About Europe as GBIF region

**Q6: What are the top 3 broader projects you are involved in?**

GBIF Norway is part of a prototype Norwegian LifeWatch activity coordinated from the Norwegian Institute for Nature Research (NINA.no).

The UiO Natural History Museum, hosting the Norwegian GBIF-node, is an active partner in CETAF.

GBIF Norway represents the hosting museum as partner in the (new) Norwegian node of the Long Term Ecological Research Network (LTER), coordinated from NINA.

**Q7: Did you have concrete collaborations with other GBIF Nodes this year?**

Yes, Dimitri Brosens from GBIF Belgium provided invaluable assistance for organisation and teaching at the second Norwegian data paper writing workshop in Trondheim in March.

**Q8: What can you offer to other European Nodes?**

Collaboration on technical solutions and/or algorithms for data validation (1). GBIF Norway can contact and support Norwegian institutes for targeted data mobilization of biodiversity data not yet published to the GBIF network, when the demand for such Norwegian datasets are identified by nodes in other countries (2).

Collaboration on technical solutions for transcribing label information from images of herbarium material (3).

Collaboration on technical solutions to support the scientific use of GBIF-mediated data including API and programming with R (4).

Collaboration projects including other Norwegian partner institutes such as the Norwegian Biodiversity Information Center (<http://www.biodiversity.no/>) or the Norwegian Institute for Nature Research (<http://www.nina.no>) (5).

**Q9: What do you expect from other European Nodes?**

Collaboration on technical tasks and administrative responsibilities such as data validation and data mobilisation. Moving towards actual delegation of common responsibilities between EU nodes.

**Q10: What should/could we achieve together in Europe?**

Common targets for (joint) data mobilization with focus on identified demand for data types, species groups, or similar. Mobilizing data that are in demand is the primary purpose of nodes.

Collaborative technical solutions for data validation or other tasks that all nodes have. Delegation of responsibilities could release staff time to start addressing other demanded tasks.

Common goals and activities for supporting scientific use of GBIF-mediated data. Assisting scientists with programmatic solutions for accessing GBIF-mediated data and combing occurrence or names checklist data with data from other sources such as climate or environment data, phenotypic data, molecular data, etc.

Dag Endresen, GBIF Norway

## Poland

**Q0: Are you planning to attend our Regional meeting this year?** Yes

### Part 1: About your Node

**Q1: How established and sustainable is your Node?**

It is working and safe although currently not funded.

**Q2: Can you briefly describe your node Staff?**

It is me - the node manager and my colleague as an IT specialist - both part time.

**Q3: What are the top 3 projects you are working on?**

There is just one - the Biodiversity Map (<http://www.biomap.pl/en>), currently not funded, although developeing.

**Q4: What are the Strengths & Weaknesses of your Node?**

**Strengths:** Ability to grow and react quickly - good IT background, decent hardware, the established network of cooperators, good recognition in the local scientific community, being a member of GBIF Europe :-)

**Weaknesses:** No single funding project active, weak connection or no real support from the Ministries (Environment, Science)

**Q5: What are the Opportunities & Threats for your Node?**

I am looking for any good opportunities. **Threats** - after one or two years without funding we will become obsolete in the country and, as the Ministry of Science has not decided yet to change status of Poland to a VP, in 2017 Poland may be degraded to an Observer.

### Part 2: About Europe as GBIF region

**Q6: What are the top 3 broader projects you are involved in?**

There is no project we are involved in.

**Q7: Did you have concrete collaborations with other GBIF Nodes this year?**

No.

**Q8: What can you offer to other European Nodes?**

Experience in digitizing old literature data and acquisition of occurrence records, IT skills - PostgreSQL, PostGIS, PHP, MapServer, OpenLayers, experience in managing large taxonomic datasets (to cover checklists and synonymies).

**Q9: What do you expect from other European Nodes?**

Not being a member of any consortia or working groups in the GBIF community, I think the most needed thing would be the will to cooperate and to create joint initiatives where we could be an active partner. Such initiatives should include (or generate) funding and increase awareness of GBIF in the local scientific community and ministries.

**Q10: What should/could we achieve together in Europe?**

Technically, a joint project like in Q9. Its outcomes could be targeted on science, applications (e.g. conservation) or education. There is a wide array of possibilities and maybe there should be room for multiple case studies - like species distributions, invasives, migratory birds, species relationships, or a region.

Piotr Tykarski, Poland

## Spain

**Q0: Are you planning to attend our Regional meeting this year?** Yes

### Part 1: About your Node

**Q1: How established and sustainable is your Node?**

We have a legal mandate, we have a budget; we struggle to make ourselves useful, relevant and understood in a very difficult institutional landscape

**Q2: Can you briefly describe your node Staff?**

- Francisco Pando de la Hoz, Node manager
- M<sup>a</sup> Carmen Lujano Bermúdez, Developer
- Santiago Martínez de la Riva Vivanco, data architecture & developer
- Katia Cezón García, Helpdesk, data quality, documentation & training
- Cristina Villaverde Úbeda-Portugués, Web master, training program
- Ana Cruz botello, Data publication
- Felipe Castilla Lattke, Data publication

**Q3: What are the top 3 projects you are working on?**

Data portal based on ALA

Data infrastructure (identifiers, national checklists and other controlled vocabularies, data quality, data hosting)

No clear third: citizen science, species level info, support for data providers

**Q4: What are the Strengths & Weaknesses of your Node?**

A competent team in a number of areas

Direct support for data holding institutions is a problem in the Country

Our host Institution (CSIC, National Research Council) fast growing bureaucracy adds inefficiencies in many of the things we do; CSIC's lack of understanding of what a National GBIF Node is also creates problems.

**Q5: What are the Opportunities & Threats for your Node?**

Lifewatch is an opportunity and a threat at the same time

GBIF is not a new thing any longer; maintaining initiatives is much harder than creating new ones

### Part 2: About Europe as GBIF region

**Q6: What are the top 3 broader projects you are involved in?**

Aiming to prepare a COST action for this year, as for the rest,

Part of EGI-Engage <https://www.egi.eu/about/egi-engage/>

As for the rest, see answer under Q7

**Q7: Did you have concrete collaborations with other GBIF Nodes this year?**

- A project around "ALA for nodes" funded by the European Commission (ERANET-LAC) and involving nodes of Argentina, Brazil, Costa Rica, France, Portugal (and Spain)
- 4th year of the "Iberoamerican Infrastructure for Biodiversity Information", thematic network supported by CYTED, involving 12 countries
- A collaboration on a data standard for Species-level information (Plinian Core), supported by GBIF, involving Mexico, Costa Rica, Colombia and Spain

**Q8: What can you offer to other European Nodes?**

An experienced node active and experienced in a number of areas: training (inc. e-learning), data portals, community building, etc.

**Q9: What do you expect from other European Nodes?**

Willingness to do things together so we can share the burden and get things done with less resources while having fun along the way

**Q10: What should/could we achieve together in Europe?**

A network of functional nodes as a coherent distributed infrastructure

Francisco Pando

## Sweden

**Q0: Are you planning to attend our Regional meeting this year? Yes**

### Part 1: About your Node

**Q1: How established and sustainable is your Node?**

WELL ESTABLISHED SINCE 2003

**Q2: Can you briefly describe your node Staff?**

NORMALLY ONE NODE MANAGER AND ONE SYSTEMS DEVELOPER - LAST YEAR TEMPORARILY WITH TWO EXTRA NODE ASSISTANTS

**Q3: What are the top 3 projects you are working on?**

1. DATA FLOW AND DATABASE STRUCTURING
2. NODE PORTAL
3. NATIONAL BIODIVERSITY INFORMATICS COLLABORATION

**Q4: What are the Strengths & Weaknesses of your Node?**

#### STRENGTHS:

1. ESTABLISHED GBIF NODE SUPPORTED BY THE SWEDISH RESEARCH COUNCIL.
2. LOCATED WITHIN BIOINFORMATICS AND GENETICS UNIT AT THE SWEDISH MUSEUM OF NATURAL HISTORY.
3. GOOD NATIONAL AND INTERNATIONAL NETWORK
4. WELL ADVANCED PROVISIONING OF DATA TO GBIF

#### WEAKNESSES:

1. INSUFFICIENTLY SIZED STAFF
2. HUGE BACKLOG OF COLLECTION DATA
3. RELUCTANT PRESUMPTIVE (SWEDISH) USERS

**Q5: What are the Opportunities & Threats for your Node?**

#### OPPORTUNITIES:

1. PARTNER IN NATIONAL BIODIVERSITY RESEARCH INFRASTRUCTURE CONSORTIUM (SeIBER) ORGANIZED BY THE LEADING NATIONAL NATURAL HISTORY COLLECTION AND BIODIVERSITY RESEARCH INSTITUTE
2. INTEGRATION WITH GENOME TO ENVIRONMENTAL MONITORING INFRASTRUCTURES
3. PROVIDED LARGE-SCALE DIGITIZATION PROJECT IS FUNDED ADDITION OF 25 MILLION NATURAL HISTORY COLLECTION SPECIMEN

#### THREATS:

1. INSECURE FUNDING AFTER 2016 - COMBINED NATIONAL RESEARCH INFRASTRUCTURE APPLICATION PENDING
- 2.

### Part 2: About Europe as GBIF region

**Q6: What are the top 3 broader projects you are involved in?**

SEE ABOVE Q4 AND Q5 (SeIBER INCL. DIGITIZATION AND MOLECULAR- ENVIRONMENTAL DATA ACQUISITION).

**Q7: Did you have concrete collaborations with other GBIF Nodes this year?**

WELL, WE HAVE MET ON SEVERAL OCCASIONS OUTSIDE PURELY GBIF ACTIVITIES (E.G. TDWG, LIFEWATCH ETC.)

**Q8: What can you offer to other European Nodes?**

SEE Q5: ACCESS TO PARTS OF THE SeIBER INFRASTRUCTURE

**Q9: What do you expect from other European Nodes?**

LIKEWISE; COLLABORATION ON DEVELOPMENTAL ISSUES.

**Q10: What should/could we achieve together in Europe?**

1. A MORE TIGHTLY KNIT WEB FOR COLLABORATIVE EFFORTS
2. REGIONAL STRUCTURING OF INTERESTS/ACTIVITIES
3. PROMOTING GBIF INTEREST IN NEIGHBOURING NON-MEMBER COUNTRIES



## **United Kingdom**

**Q0: Are you planning to attend our Regional meeting this year?** Yes

### **Part 1: About your Node**

**Q1: How established and sustainable is your Node?**

Reasonably - everything is slightly vulnerable at the moment!

**Q2: Can you briefly describe your node Staff?**

Depends on how broadly you define "Node". We have one full time data loader post. One post more or less full time on custom reporting and help. A developer wing that expands and contracts but never less than half a post. A portion of a manager and a portion of an overseer.

**Q3: What are the top 3 projects you are working on?**

Exploration of implementation of Natural Capital and what the data needs are / role of my organisation

Exploring use of satellite and aerial imagery to create products and support the agenda above

Beginning to look at biodiversity auditing (obviously including integration with the above)

**Q4: What are the Strengths & Weaknesses of your Node?**

Very close to the business (though we need to do more to get closer to Natural capital). Technically very strong and diverse. Not enough depth - too reliant on a small number of individuals within a domain.

**Q5: What are the Opportunities & Threats for your Node?**

Rising agenda of Natural Capital to frame value of nature in a more mainstream way. However, the field is going to be popular with others too - so important to get a foot hold and at least make sure the evidence we produce is being optimally used.

### **Part 2: About Europe as GBIF region**

**Q6: What are the top 3 broader projects you are involved in?**

Possibly the seabird data capture. But other than that nothing.

**Q7: Did you have concrete collaborations with other GBIF Nodes this year?**

Not really.

**Q8: What can you offer to other European Nodes?**

Knowledge of the policy and biodiversity business and how we at least are adapting to that

**Q9: What do you expect from other European Nodes?**

It would be very nice to identify some shared priorities (which are genuinely that)

**Q10: What should/could we achieve together in Europe?**

This depends on how shared the agendas are. To my mind the biggest weaknesses at the moment is that the Nodes generally act within the domain that they know. This could be, for example, collections. There are not strong enough at joining up into other domains. This makes it very difficult to identify shared agendas since it is slanted to what is in the room.

Steve Wilkinson