



"There is a world of tools, standards and data out there, ready for you to use!"

Dear colleague,

The [Belgian Biodiversity Platform](#) and several key Biodiversity Informatics related [partner institutes](#) are pleased to invite you to the Conference "**Empowering Biodiversity Research**", which will take place on May 21st 2015 in Brussels at the [Palace of Academies](#).

The conference will bring together representatives of national and international scientific institutes to explore and discuss the opportunities and strengths related to **Biodiversity Informatics and Open Data**. Three keynote speakers will start the day :

1. Vince Smith, research leader in informatics at the [Natural History Museum](#), London
2. Dr Hilde Eggermont, Scientific Coordinator at the [Belgian Biodiversity Platform](#)
3. Pieter Colpaert, Researcher at [Open Knowledge Belgium](#)

This will be followed by a series of lightning talks illustrating Belgian research projects making use of biodiversity informatics tool. In the afternoon, we will showcase some related state-of-the-art projects. During the breaks, there will be, in addition to coffee and sweets, a [poster session](#) and a [fair](#) where you can find information and tools which can help you in your future research.

Biodiversity Informatics deals with the application of informatics techniques to biodiversity information for improved management, presentation, discovery, exploration and analysis of scientific data. Combined with open data sources on the Internet, this is a powerful new approach in doing research. We hope this conference will offer networking opportunities and foster debate among participants. Through your participation, you can help developing issues to be further explored by the project, and to be fed into a series of dedicated workshops that will be organised after the conference.

For more information on programme and registration (small registration fee of 10 euro): <http://www.biodiversity.be/conference2015/>

If you have any questions, please [contact us](#). Please feel free to also forward this invitation to other potentially interested colleagues or organisations.

We are looking forward to seeing you at our "Empowering Biodiversity Research" Conference 2015!

Kind Regards,

The [Belgian Biodiversity Platform](#) and partners:

- [Lifewatch Belgium](#)
- [Royal Belgian Institute of Natural Sciences](#)
- [Royal Museum for Central Africa](#)
- [Botanic Garden Meise](#)
- [Flanders Marine Institute](#)
- [Université catholique de Louvain](#)
- [Research Institute for Nature and Forest](#)
- [Université Libre de Bruxelles](#)
- [Gembloux Agro-Bio Tech](#)
- [Belgian Science Policy \(BELSPO\)](#)