

ind updates on DiSSCo Research Infrastructure & DiSSCo Belgium, give the floor to digitized collections managers and users, learn how to contribute and how to benefit from the infrastructure.

Session 1/ DiSSCo from EU to Belgium



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Laurent Ghys (BELSPO):

Laurent Ghys is policy advisor at the Belgian Science Policy Office (BELSPO) coordinating the Belgian participation in research infrastructures. He is an ESFRI delegate and one of the Belgian delegates to the DiSSCo Funders Forum.





Source: [LinkedIn](#)

Serge Scory (Institute of Natural Sciences):

MSc in Civil Engineering and MSc in oceanography. Former head of the "Belgian Marine Data Centre" since its creation in 1997, Serge is now, for four years, part of the "Research Office" at RBINS. He has a long experience in participating in Belgian and European projects, in a wide variety of domains, such as data management, research vessels development, polar science policy or research infrastructures governance. At the international level, he contributes with his colleagues at RBINS to the definition

	of the legal framework in which DiSSCo ERIC will operate.
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 <p>Source: LinkedIn</p>	<p>Dimitris Koureas, DiSSCo Executive Director (Naturalis, NL):</p> <p>Dr. Dimitris Koureas is a renowned expert in digital innovation for research, particularly in biodiversity informatics. He currently leads digital initiatives at Naturalis Biodiversity Center and DiSSCo. With extensive experience in data management and infrastructure, he played key roles in the development of international organizations such as FAIR Digital Object Forum and TDWG.</p>
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 <p>Source: LinkedIn</p>	<p>Maarten Trekels (Meise Botanic Garden):</p> <p>With a background in physics, Maarten now works at Meise Botanic Garden as a data scientist, focusing on advancing biodiversity data accessibility and integration. Initially specializing in data standards and Linked Open Data, he currently coordinates the DiSSCo Flanders project, fostering collaboration and innovation in the digital curation of natural science collections.</p>
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Source: [MeiseBotanicGarden](#)

Patricia Mergen (Meise Botanic Garden):

Patricia works at the Meise Botanic Garden (80%, Project Management Office and Promotor of DiSSCo Flanders), and at the Royal Museum for Central Africa (20%, Liaison Office and International Relations). She has a background PHD in Biology and Biodiversity Information Standards, Open Science and Data.

Session 2/ Panel Discussion



Larissa Smirnova (Africamuseum):

Larissa Smirnova is a geologist by training and has been working as a scientific assistant at the Biological Collections and Data Management service at the AfricaMuseum since 2009. She has been involved in several European and national projects in the field of biodiversity, informatics and digitisation. She is currently responsible for the mobilisation of data from CS projects carried out at the museum. She is also part of the GBIF and DEST mentoring and training programmes for data publication.



Source: [Naturalsciences.be](https://naturalsciences.be)

Christophe Mallet (RBINS):

Christophe Mallet is an early career evolutionary biologist and paleontologist specialized in modern and fossil vertebrates. His research focuses on the evolution of skeletal elements at macroevolutionary scales and how functional constraints shape the Bauplan of terrestrial vertebrates. In this context, he deals on a daily basis with 3D data, especially bones.



Source: [Biodiversity.be](https://biodiversity.be)

André Heughebaert (Belgian Biodiversity Platform):

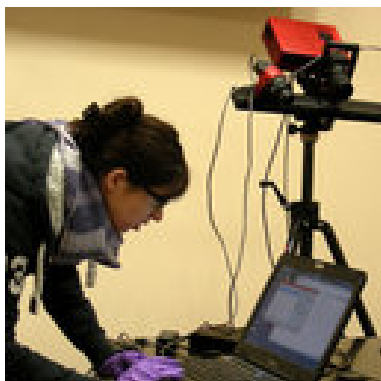
André is a senior IT engineer with 40+ years of experience in software development with open-source solutions. He is mostly working on Biodiversity Data management, cleaning and exchange standards. He is GBIF Node Manager for Belgium since 2005.



Source: [Plantentuinmeise.be](https://plantentuinmeise.be)

Ann Bogaerts (Meise Botanic Garden):

Scientific manager and head of the herbarium of Meise Botanic Garden, the 15th largest herbarium worldwide. She is responsible for the maintenance, development, conservation and accessibility of the herbarium, which consists of 4 million collection items.



Source: [Researchgate.net](https://researchgate.net)

Aurore Mathys (RBINS/Africamuseum):

Aurore Mathys is a researcher specializing in the digitization of collections through 3D imaging techniques, including structured light, photogrammetry, and μ CT, as well as multispectral imaging. She works at the Royal Belgian Institute of Natural Sciences and the Royal Museum for Central Africa. Holding a degree in archaeometry and computer graphics, she is currently pursuing a PhD focused on multispectral 3D imaging. Additionally, she serves as a teaching assistant at the University of Liège. Her research interests center on developing innovative methods for 3D data acquisition and analysis.

Session 3/ From institutions to EU



Source: [CETAF.org](https://cetaf.org)

Laura Tilley (CETAF):

Dr. Laura Tilley has a background in Earth Science and is Chair of the CETAF Earth Science Group. She is a Project Coordinator at CETAF, contributing to initiatives such as the CETAF Registry, DiSSCo Collection Digitisation Dashboard, DiSSCo-related projects, Biodiversity Genomics Europe, the Red List of Taxonomists, and CETAF led project TETTRIs.







Agnès Robin (European Commission, DG Research & Innovation):

Agnès Robin is head of sector for research infrastructures policy at the Commission, in the Directorate-General Research & Innovation.

She has been policy officer for research infrastructures in the field of environment and Earth sciences for several years.

Session 4/ Tools & Low-cost digitization methods demonstrations

Digitization of botanic collections	<p>Laurent Gohy (ULiège)</p>  A portrait of Laurent Gohy, a man with short reddish-brown hair, wearing a dark blue shirt. He is looking directly at the camera with a neutral expression. A small white tag with the year '2019' is visible on his shirt.
Digitization at container-level	<p>Laurence Cammaerts (ADIA)</p>  A portrait of Laurence Cammaerts, a woman with curly brown hair, wearing a light blue top. She is looking slightly to the right of the camera.
AI applied to drawer-level imaging	<p>Grégoire Noël (ULiège)</p>  A portrait of Grégoire Noël, a man with dark hair, wearing a dark suit jacket over a light-colored shirt. He is smiling at the camera.
2D+ digitization of specimens	<p>Jonathan Brecko (RBINS & Africamuseum)</p>  A portrait of Jonathan Brecko, a man with a beard and a shaved head, wearing a colorful patterned shirt. He is smiling at the camera.

Session 4/ Tools & Low-cost digitization methods demonstrations

3D digitization of specimens

Yann Pollet (RBINS)



Aurore Mathys (RBINS & Africamuseum)



Arnaud Henrard (Africamuseum)



Digitization of microscopic slides

Camille Locatelli (RBINS)



Session 4/ Tools & Low-cost digitization methods demonstrations

Crowdsourcing with Doedat

Larissa Smirnova (Africamuseum)



Ann Bogaerts (Meise BG)

