

A European Pollinator Academy

Developing an online platform for taxonomic capacity building



Funded by
the European Union

Mark van Nieuwstadt
Merel Bozua-Hope





\$ 50 million

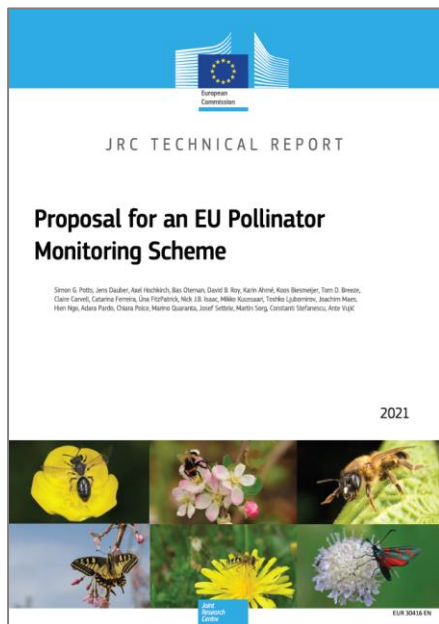


Context: The EU Pollinators Initiative

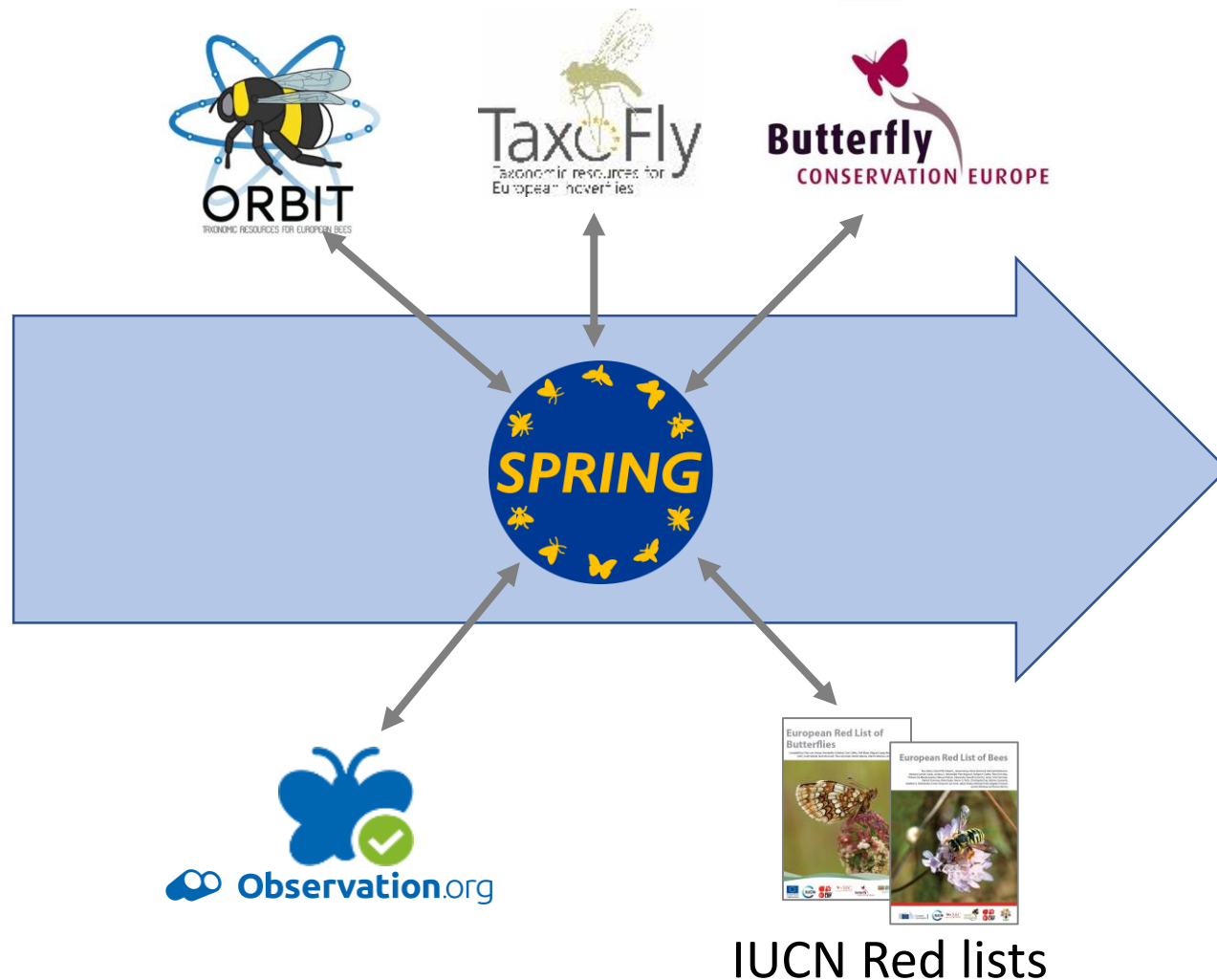
Design

Pilot and refine PoMS & build capacity

Roll out



EU PoMS
expert report:
Potts et al. 2021



EU PoMS:
European Pollinator
Monitoring Scheme

**Evidence based
policies**



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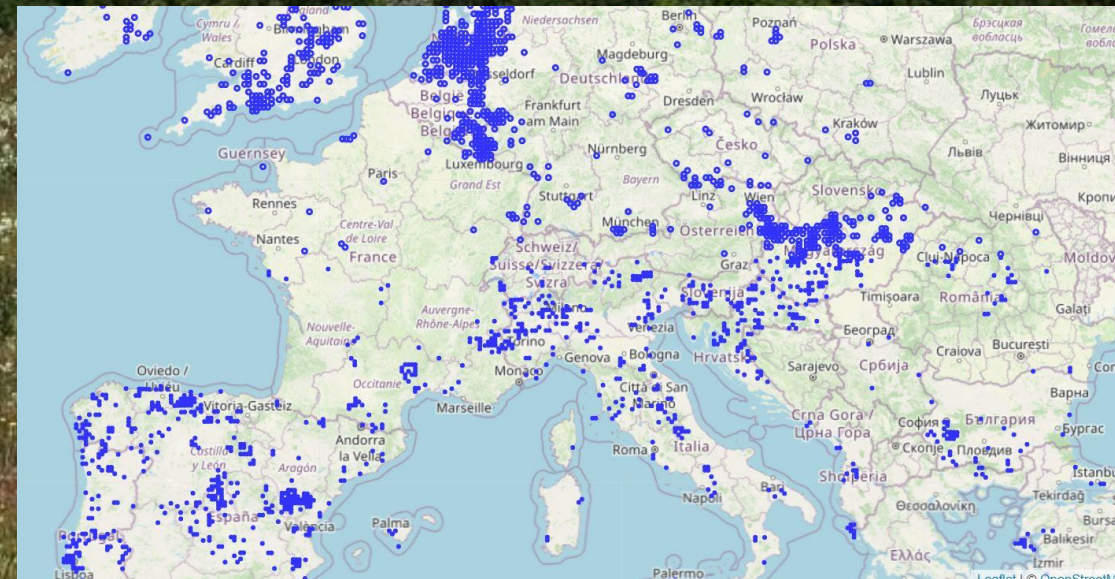


PoMS: Butterflies, bees & hoverflies - transect walks & pan traps

PoMS



eBMS



Future goal:
2000 sites across Europe

Photo: Swe, Oland, Morbylanga, Stenasa 4, Saxifraga-Marjan van der Heiden, CC BY-NC-SA. www.freenatureimages.eu/

Capacity: who?



1. Field workers

citizen scientists or professionals

2. Taxonomists

experienced identifiers of collected specimens



SPRING: Courses and supporting materials

1. Curriculum of taxonomy courses
2. Training materials and identification tools





European Pollinator Academy

Strengthening taxonomic capacity in Europe with tools & training

In a nutshell

Build the taxonomic capacity
that is needed for PoMS and the protection of pollinators

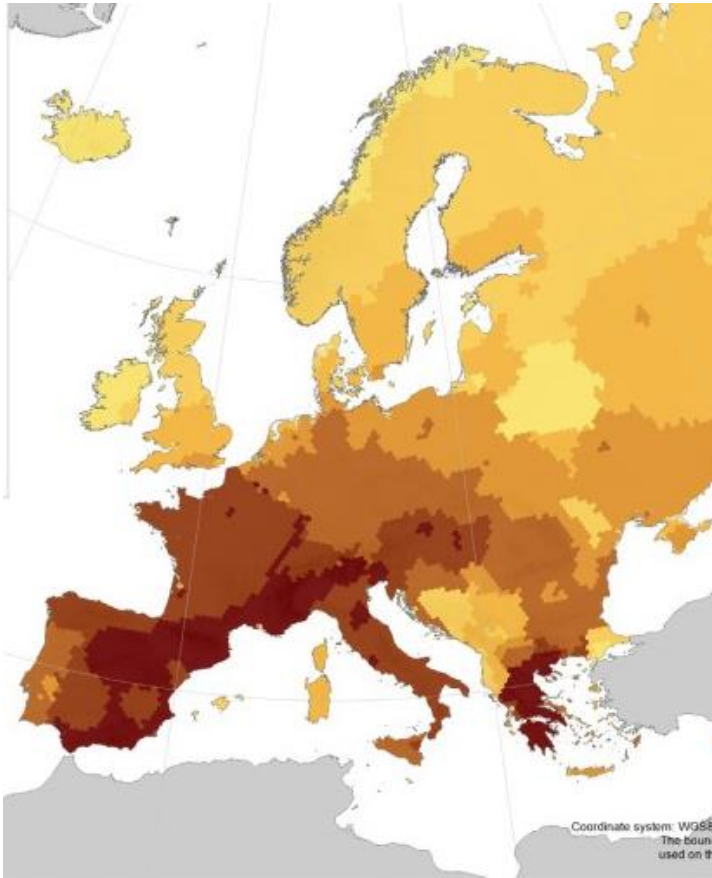
A European, collaborative, open source platform
for training and education

For and by specialists and trainers

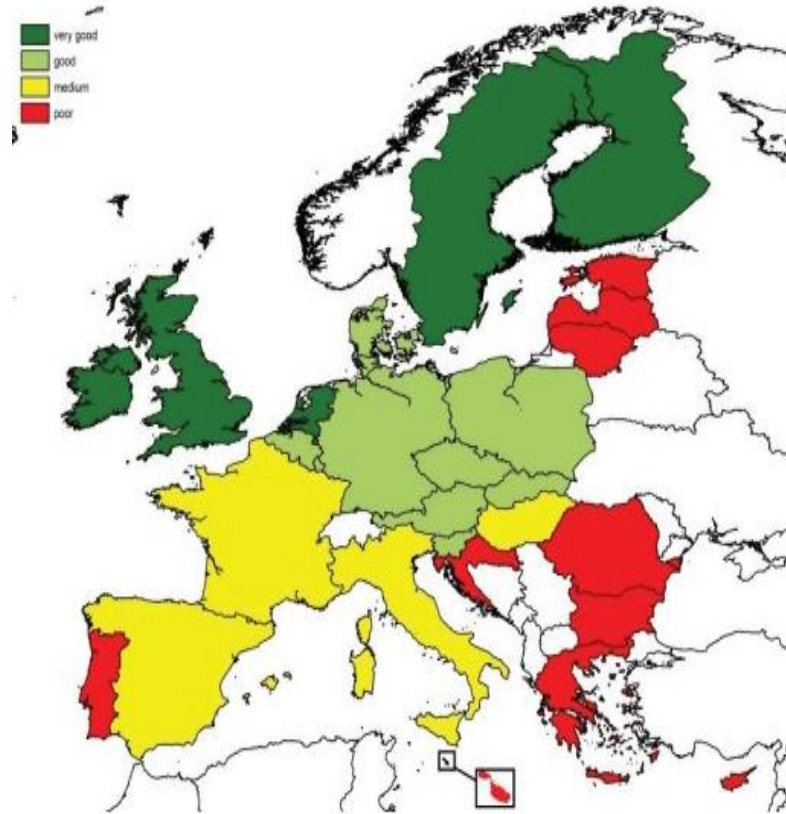


Ms. Anselmus de Boodt, ca. 1600.

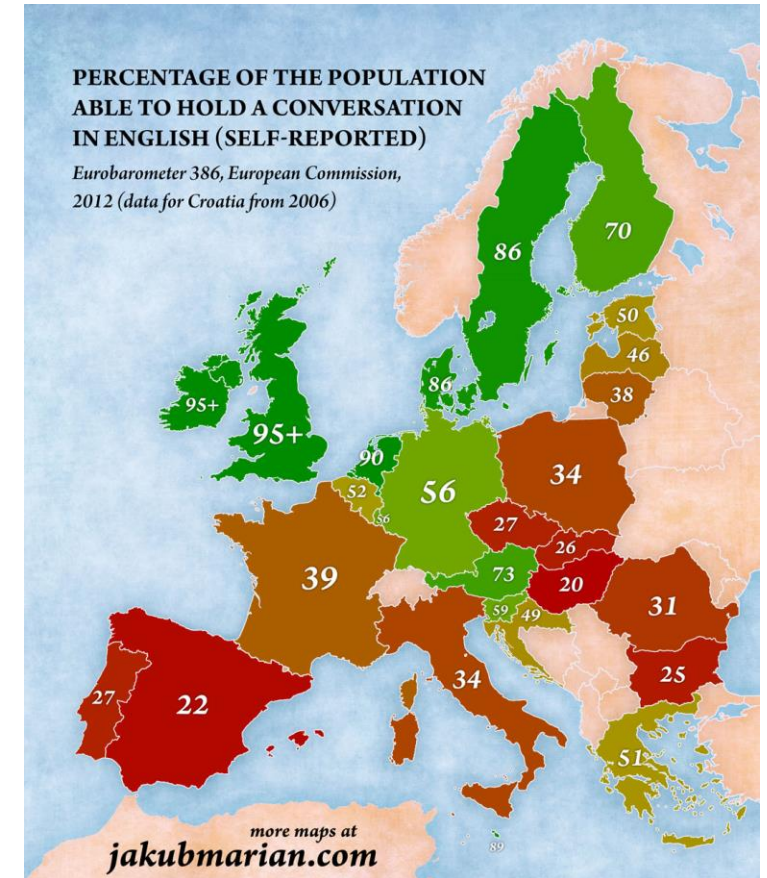
Country cases: varying needs, shared goals



Species richness of European bees (Nieto et al. 2014)



Availability of **taxonomic resources** to identify wild bees (Potts et al. 2021)



A proxy for the suitability of **English language** resources



For whom? From general public to specialists

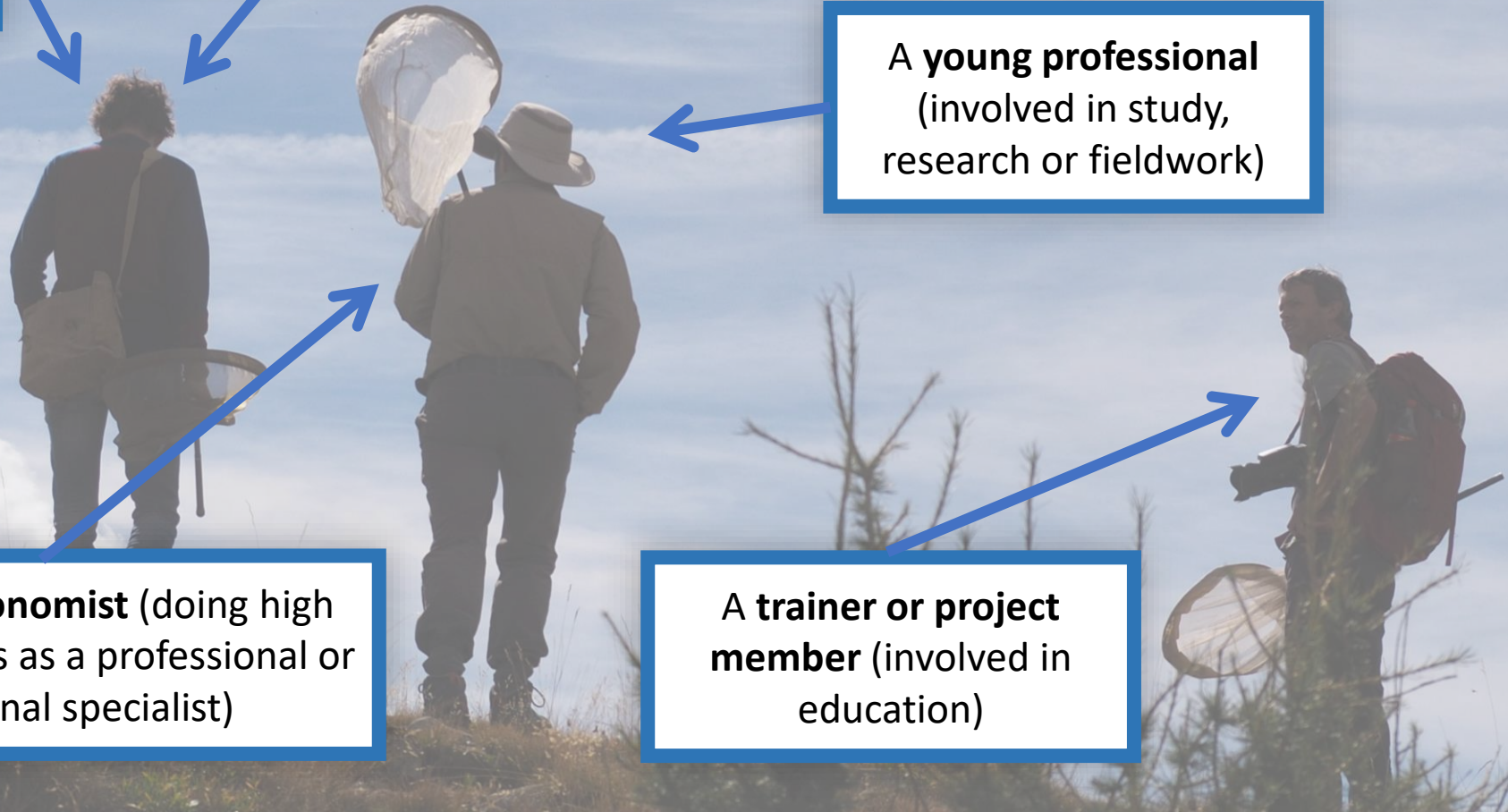
A member of the **general public** (curious about pollinators)

A **citizen scientist, farmer, or conservationist** (active in data collection or observation)

A **young professional** (involved in study, research or fieldwork)

An **advanced taxonomist** (doing high level identifications as a professional or non-vocational specialist)

A **trainer or project member** (involved in education)





How? 'Blended' learning

Support, not replace live training courses



Knowledge *and* skills

Online, class room and field

Explicit didactical approach



European Pollinator Academy

Strengthening taxonomic capacity in Europe with tools & training

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E-learning

Tools

Knowledge

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Courses

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Taxonomic tools

General

ObsIdentify

Multi access key for higher taxa

Bees

Multi access key for genera

Library of taxonomic keys

Traits database

ORBIT species database

Hoverflies

Pictorial key for genera

Dichotomous key for genera

TaxoFly species database

Library of taxonomic keys

Butterflies & moths

Knowledge
database

Taxonomic
shortfalls

Data
Maps

Traits
databases

General
biology of taxa

Course information

E-learning

Modules for self-study

[select your language ↓](#)

Pollinators & pollination

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Hoverflies

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Bees

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Butterflies & moths

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News

Trainer login >>

Course designs

Training modules

Interactive exercises

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European Pollinator Academy

Strengthening taxonomic capacity in Europe with tools & training

And the future?

We like to believe that...

the European Pollinator Academy has a few
important advantages

- building upon an active & growing international partnership
 - serve a very specific goal: a *functional EU PoMS*





Please share your thoughts...



- How could butterflies fit into this?
- What would you like to find there?
- Do you see opportunities for 'cross pollination'?
- Would you like to share or (help to) build content?

Contact: Cristina Sevilleja, Mark van Nieuwstadt

