**Towards a Taxonomic Backbone for Europe**


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**What?**

**Integrating EU taxonomic e-infrastructures**

Both regional and global, expert-edited species databases have emerged in Europe:

- Fauna Europaea
- Euro+Med PlantBase
- European Register of Marine Species
- World Register of Marine Species
- Index Fungorum
- AlgaeBase and other Global Species Databases that contribute to Species 2000 and its Catalogue of Life.

BUT, the content, supporting technical infrastructure, governance and management, and plans for their long-term sustainability vary significantly.

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**What next?**

The *Pan-European Species-directories Infrastructure* (PESI) project ([www.eu-nomen.eu/pesi](http://www.eu-nomen.eu/pesi)) is integrating both European expertise and information networks and infrastructures …

- **upgrading databases content and infrastructures** to make them more compatible in terms of content, enable data integration using data standards, and create proper information infrastructures.
- **building the network of experts** in species taxonomy across Europe and Palaearctic, updating and controlling the quality and taxonomy of species inventories ([www.editexpertnet.org](http://www.editexpertnet.org)).
- **establishing long-term governance** of the databases through the scientific Society for the Management of Electronic Biodiversity Data (SMEBD) ([www.smebd.eu](http://www.smebd.eu)).
- **create a common data-portal** to service a wide range of users, providing the first synonymised inventory of all species in Europe ([www.eu-nomen.eu/portal](http://www.eu-nomen.eu/portal)).
- **contribute to global advancements on taxonomic indexing** supporting the efforts on establishing a *Global Names Architecture* as a common taxonomic reference service coordinated by GBIF ([www.gbif.org/informatics/name-services](http://www.gbif.org/informatics/name-services)).
- **develop strategies** for securing the long-term sustainability of these networks and infrastructures as part of the LifeWatch construction plan ([www.lifewatch.eu](http://www.lifewatch.eu)).