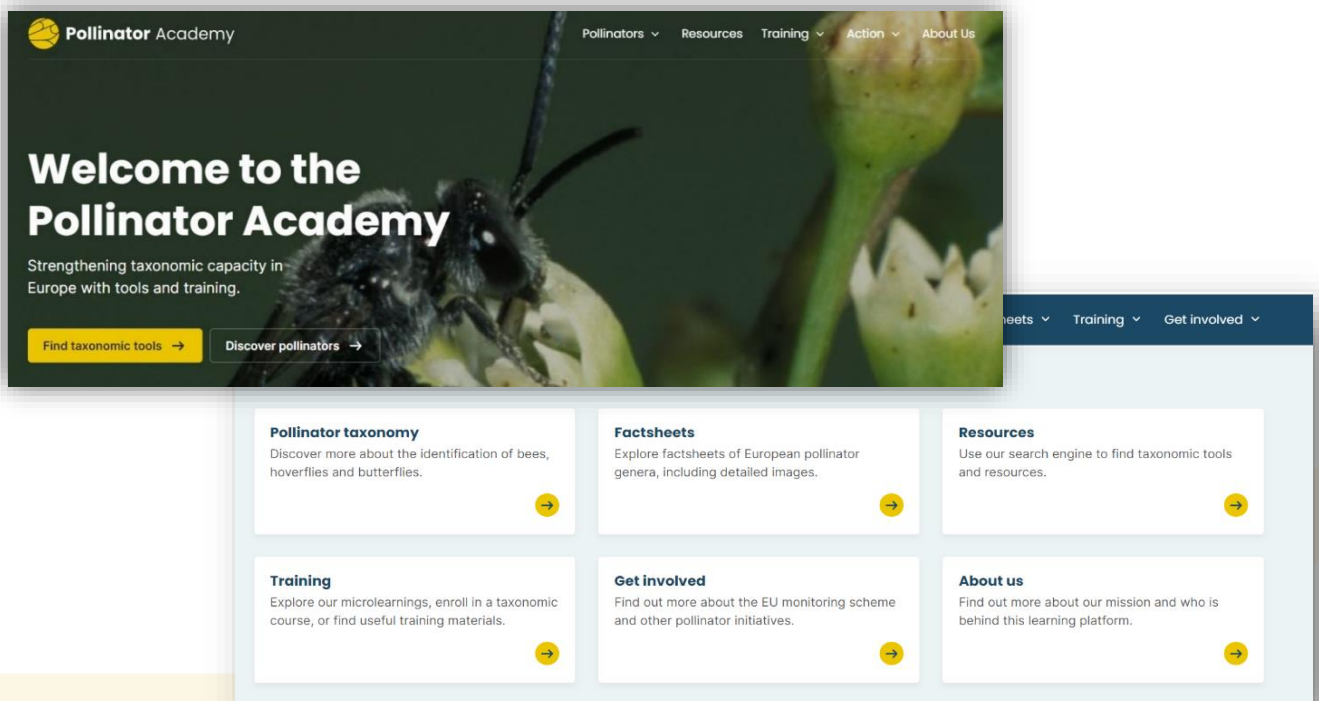


# SPRING launches Pollinator Academy

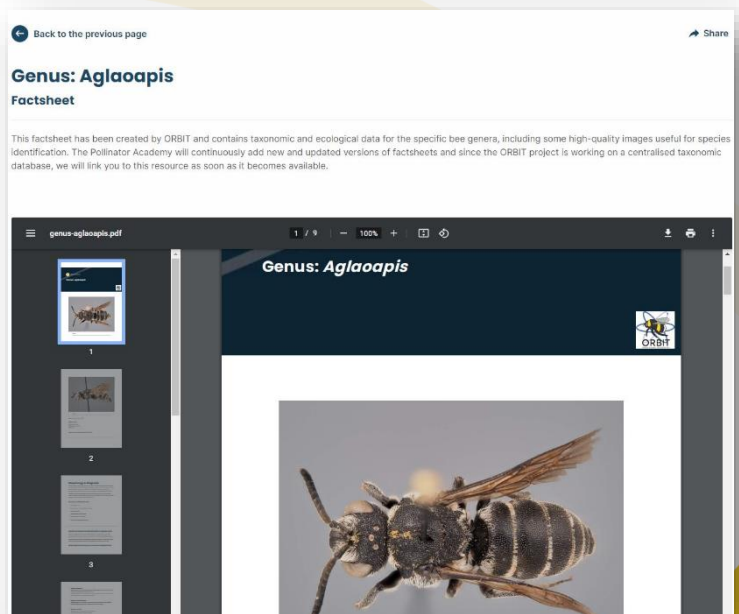
We are delighted to announce that our brand new website: [pollinatoracademy.eu](https://pollinatoracademy.eu) is now online! The website is a learning platform with integrated taxonomic tools and information on pollinators in Europe. It provides access to identification keys, genus factsheets, recommended scientific publications and more. [Click here](#) to explore.



## Genus factsheets

The factsheets about bees (ORBIT) and hoverflies (TaxoFly) on the Pollinator Academy, include information about the morphology, taxonomy and ecology of the specific genera. They also include high resolution images, showing taxonomic details helpful for identification. Follow these links for an alphabetical list of genera:

[Bees](#) or [Hoverflies](#).



# Many courses given over last 12 months

(Hover)fly on the wall during training courses:

**“Bumblebees are flying hamsters.”**

~ Course participant



© Isabel van Deijl

**“A taxonomist has to be suspicious, but not too much.”**

~ Dr. Tamara Tot (trainer)



© Isabel van Deijl

**“If you learn about them, you start to care about them”**

~ Merel Bozua-Hope (training coordinator)



© Isabel van Deijl

## SPRING courses are a success!

Over the last 12 months another **36** SPRING courses were delivered.

**138** participants filled in and returned our evaluation form.

The average overall satisfaction score was (again) a **9!**

Since the project started, over **450** participants attended our courses, coming from **30** different countries.

## Number of volunteers

### keeps growing

A lot of the fieldwork for SPRING is done by amazing volunteers. They are enthusiastic hard workers, and are greatly appreciated!



© Lisa Cabiddu

# New participating countries and a lot of data

To collect sufficient data about pollinators in Europe, a lot of fieldwork is necessary. Using pan-traps, placing malaise traps and walking transects, the SPRING fieldworkers collect all the data they can get. The number of sites being monitored, keeps growing. So far, there are over 250 active fieldwork locations. New participating countries this season are: **France, Belgium, Bulgaria, Cyprus, Slovenia, Ireland, Latvia, Estonia, Scandinavia and Austria.**



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## What happens with the data?

Josef Settele, project leader SPRING at UFZ in Germany explains: “The data will be analyzed nationally and internationally. This will be done on very different levels, for example: looking at the impact of certain agricultural measures on the diversity of pollinators. Scientists can use the results to advise policymakers and provide them with insight into whether certain measures are effective. The data can also be analyzed locally, where the results provide insight about the pollinators not only for scientists and the government, but also for the citizen scientists that are monitoring that area. They are able to



© André Künzelmann

Prof. Dr. Josef Settele  
Helmholtz Centre for Environmental Research

bring across important messages, which are based on solid data, collected across Europe. This makes them part of the big family.”

# Fieldwork

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An early morning rise  
For there is a lot of work to do  
A strong coffee will suffice  
And a heavy breakfast too  
You will need energy and focus  
Today's subject is rather small  
Although they outnumber us  
Only a good eye will see them all

Upon arrival at the location  
There is no time to waste  
Ten traps need to be stationed  
So you better make some haste  
After placing the last one  
It is time to eat your lunch  
You find a nice spot in the sun  
Enjoying the view while you munch

Feeling replenished and revived  
You have a transect to walk  
Starting with bees and hoverflies  
Concentrated, you do not talk  
Quickly writing what you see  
Is that wing cell elongated?  
Then it must be a honeybee  
Which you add to your data

Next up are the butterflies  
They are a little easier to spot  
But is nice to have two pairs of eyes  
Especially when there are a lot  
When these pollinators are noted down  
There are samples to collect  
You look around with a frown  
Which way to the first pan trap?

Being careful to collect each insect  
You empty the pans with a steady hand  
Even the tiniest ones have an impact  
Something you definitely understand  
When recording the surrounding flowers  
It's best to take your time  
You have been working long hours  
But it is important to get it right

When the work is finally done  
It is time to go back home  
This day was a long one  
But you are never in it alone  
Nature lovers are all around the globe  
Fascinated by insects, just like you  
You collect the necessary data in Europe  
With others who care for pollinators too.

# SPRING courses provide more than education

As SPRING advances, our course portfolio is advancing too. This year, around 450 European participants learned how to recognize pollinators in the field as well as in the lab. Intermediate level courses were given to the experienced fieldworkers, further enhancing their identification skills. Next to that, both the advanced hoverfly courses (organised by the specialist team at the University of Novi Sad, Serbia) and the advanced bee courses (organised by specialists at UMons, Belgium) were a great success. Participants experienced the training as informative, educational and useful. They formed friendships and collaborations between themselves, resulting in online communities in which they exchange information and help each other identifying species. Volunteers participating in the fieldwork training, indicated they felt ready to carry out the fieldwork and were happy with the instructions and materials they received regarding the methods used in the monitoring scheme. They are also eager to learn more. And finally we have started to release E-learning lessons for easy access and learning anytime you want.

**“This was the beginning, we all learnt a lot, both trainees and trainers. This project needs to continue!”** ~ Sara Reverte Siaz



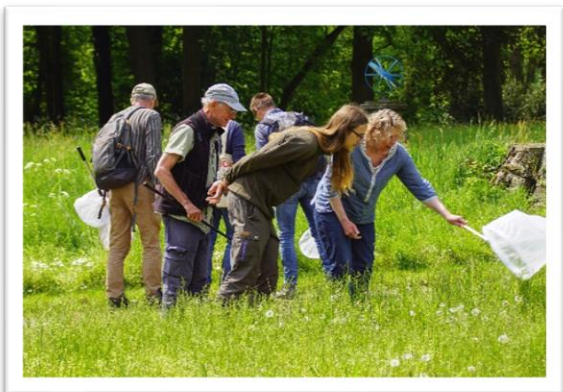
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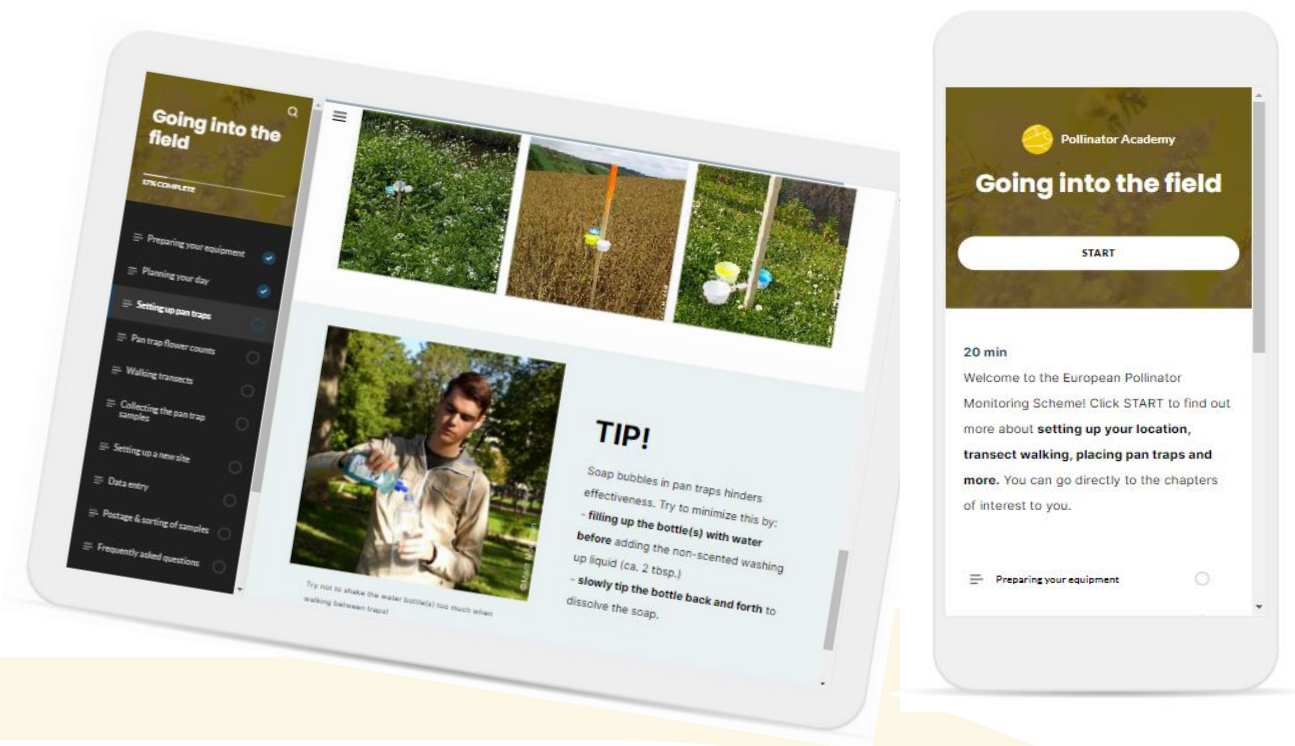
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## Prepare yourself with our E-learning module

With the field season in full swing, there is now an e-learning module available explaining the fieldwork protocol. The 'Going into the field' - module is accessible via phone, tablet and computer and takes you through all the aspects of doing fieldwork, step by step. You can use it as a guide, but also as a reminder. Completing the full module takes approximately 20 minutes. It is available in several languages. Click on the preferred language to access the module:

[English](#) [Italian](#) [Dutch](#) [Hungarian](#) [Greek](#)

(More languages will follow)



**“It’s exciting to be part of a large European group of people dedicated to the same thing.”** ~ Thomas Tscheulin (region coordinator)

### Links & credits

This newsletter has been created by the SPRING team in the Netherlands (Naturalis), working on Task 2, Taxonomic Capacity Building. Editor: Isabel van Deijl. Final editor: Merel Bozua-Hope.

More information regarding the project can be found at: <https://www.ufz.de/spring-pollination/index.php?en=49053>

E-learning module fieldwork: <https://rise.articulate.com/share/Ucq0SLT7bKWtR1pkZbELapERxXx7ZoSI>

Learn more about pollinator taxonomy: <https://pollinatoracademy.eu/>