



DiSSCO

Distributed System of Scientific Collections

**1,5 billion specimens, 5,000 scientists,
170+ institutions, 23 countries...
in 1 European digital collection.**



The Distributed System of Scientific Collections is a new world-class research infrastructure for natural history collections. It aims to create a new model for a single European collection that digitally unifies all European natural science assets under common access, curation, policies and practices.

**A true revolution
for natural history collections.**



Why DiSSCo?

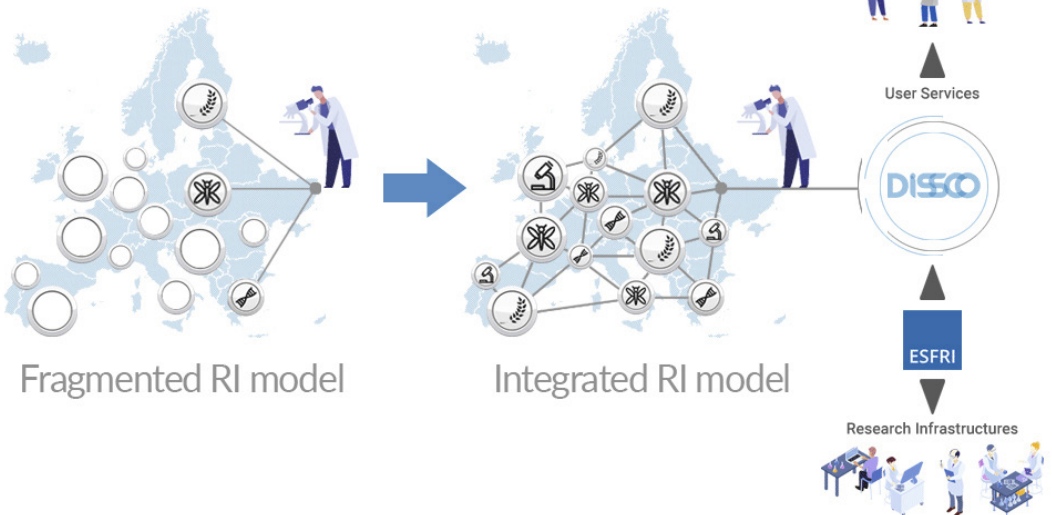
Many European environmental research infrastructures (RIs) aim to make use of geo- and biodiversity information for tackling big global challenges. The effectiveness of these initiatives, however, depends on the quality and availability of primary reference data, which is often scattered and incomplete.

DiSSCo creates a new scenario. By mobilising and harmonising the data of hundreds of European natural collections, and providing integrated access to it, DiSSCo fills a significant gap in the value chain of European RIs. For the first time, they can benefit from a fundamental, unified basis of scientific knowledge of unprecedented scale and precision.



Towards a new landscape of scientific research in Europe

DiSSCo will transform today's fragmented landscape of individual European natural history collections providing simple access to their data into a new reality: an integrated and sustainable model that links all data from institutions across Europe.





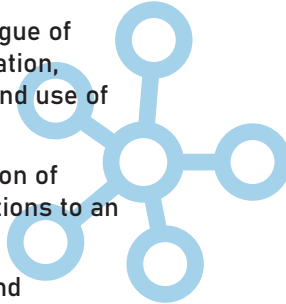
FAIR science, robust science

DiSSCo's technical architecture is based on the concept of FAIR Digital Object (FDO). An FDO combines the general attributes of a digital object (i.e. a unit of data and/or metadata that holds a persistent identifier (PID) and is regulated by a schema) while complying with the FAIR guiding principles. These principles ensure that all data is findable, accessible, interoperable and reusable, not only by humans but also by computer systems. The result is a data architecture that enhances the efficiency, robustness and reliability of science.

The “DiSSCo effect”

DiSSCo changes the landscape of European scientific research by:

- Creating a one-stop access point that provides linked data from natural history collection across Europe.
- Providing a full catalogue of services for interpretation, curation, annotation and use of that data.
- Accelerating digitisation of natural history collections to an industrial scale.
- Optimising physical and digital access to collections by improving curation and management practices, boosting efficiency and enabling strategies under a common research agenda.



DiSSCo represents the largest ever formal agreement between natural history museums, botanic gardens and collection-holding universities in the world.

More than 175 institutions from 23 countries are part of DiSSCo. Participating countries: Austria, Belgium, Bulgaria, Czech Republic, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Israel, Italy, Luxembourg, Netherlands, Norway, Poland, Portugal, Slovakia, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, United Kingdom.



Contact:

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