

# Bérangère LEYS



I am running as a candidate for vice-chairperson of the European Pollen Database (EPD) to promote and highlight the importance of this database and their contributors to answer key ecological questions, and to better frame consequences of climate change.

I joined the EPD board in 2021 following an old tradition at Institute of Mediterranean Biodiversity and Ecology of playing part of the database development and expansion, and its European influence. I had the opportunity to take part of the uploading of EPD database into Neotoma database, and to participate to the elaboration and coordination of the Open Science Meeting taking place in Prague in June 2022. From these two important events I measured the importance of the EPD worldwide and the willing from all steering committee members to keep it accessible and accurate.

I have now the wish to engage myself to maintain the quality of the data, and to promote them to the best visibility and accessibility. The EPD is an incredible set of data relevant to efficiently answer relevant ecological question, bringing the historical perspectives of vegetation establishment and dynamics. I would like to help make it clear and unquestionable the need of accounting for the ecological legacy to resolve conceptual models of vegetation or ecosystem functioning and future ecosystem dynamics.

I used to work mostly with charcoal data, and functional traits to contextualize the vegetation response or trajectory. The Global charcoal database will join soon Neotoma, bringing the



opportunity of innovative cross-cutting initiatives that combines those datasets, and I would like to help foster dialogue between the communities of data collectors and help develop tools that connect these communities.