



Thomas Giesecke

I am running as a candidate for chairperson of the EPD to help develop and maintain it as a community database that is an up to date research tool and secure data repository.

My vision for the EPD is to help foster a community that works together on questions of past environmental change in Europe, and which develops the subject in research and teaching. I like to help data contributors to gain benefits from making their data available by increasing the visibility and citation of their work, while enabling them to analyse their data in conjunction with other datasets in the EPD. Projects using the database often need to develop new tools, age models or taxon groupings. I like to encourage database users to develop these tools and resources in cooperation with the active community and to make them available at the end of their project. I also like to encourage projects collecting new datasets to use the database infrastructure and make the newly collected data freely available at the end of the project.

I have already represented the EPD in meetings developing the database platform NEOTOMA and I am prepared to continue this work ensuring EPD ideas and interests can be developed within this new platform. I am interested to work with other European palaeoecological communities whose data could be stored in NEOTOMA alongside the European pollen data, to facilitate interdisciplinary analyses.

My motivation to get involved with the EPD dates back to my PhD on the spread of Spruce in Scandinavia, where I reviewed pollen diagrams from Fennoscandia and neighbouring regions to compile maps depicting the timing of population expansions. The EPD was the starting point for my literature search, but I found many more published diagrams and wished that all these datasets were available in the EPD. I also found mistakes in the database and wanted to get involved and help correct them, but had to realize that at the time this was very difficult. Thus I helped organize the open meeting in 2007 and pushed for a new open structure where it would be easier to get involved. Since 2007 I have helped to develop the EPD while using it for my own research.