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A data platform for long-term monitored population – let's start with the great tit

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As a part of the 3 year NWO (The Netherlands organization for scientific research) funded research project on the stability of pair-bonds between males and females, I will be developing a platform for data-sharing and collaboration among ecologists working with long-term wild populations. This platform will serve to depositing data and/or metadata (data about the datasets) on long-term monitored populations, starting with the great tit, and hopefully hosting other species to in the future. The main aim of the platform is to enable more efficient collaborative projects, as it will make easy to locate populations that contain data of interest (e.g. behavioural data, genetic data). Currently, I have secured the access to data on 62 populations, with the standard breeding season data (parental identity, breeding success) available for all populations. General winter social data (are flocks formed, is the population resident) are available for >30 populations, and the social network data for three populations. The platform will be developed in a collaboration with EU Open Science programs (e.g. OpenAIRE). The participating populations will contribute the relevant information on the data that have been collected, but will not have to (but can choose to) expose their raw data. To achieve the most ambitious level of data acquisition, I will organise a stake-holder workshop (data-providers and developers of the data-hosting platform) at the end of 2018 at the NIOO-KNAW. In this way we can identify the main concerns that data-providers have for wider availability of their data, establish relevant, community-driven meta-data fields for the platform, and efficiently communicate the benefits that researchers gain by openly exposing their meta-data (and data). Herby, I also call for PA's to contact me if they would like to contribute their data or meta-data to this project.