



The BIOTALENT Project

Innovative Education, the Best Investment to Increase Engagement in Science

Isabella Van de Velde
Project coordinator
Management and Administration
Royal Belgian Institute of Natural Sciences



The BIOTALENT project

www.biotalent.myspecies.info

- funded by European Commission
- ERASMUS+ programme
- 3 years project
- start: 01 September 2016 - end: 31 August 2019
- 5 partners in 4 EU countries

Why BIOTALENT?





Training and e-Learning Group

survey → detected several needs in training

- ✓ biodiversity loss
- ✓ biodiversity conservation
- ✓ threats to biodiversity

Attitudes of Europeans towards biodiversity

28 EU Member States

Survey 2015	Survey 2017
27.718 respondents	27,643 respondents

FACTS

- ✓ majority have heard of the term biodiversity
60% 71%
- ✓ know what biodiversity means
30% 41%

Source: Special Eurobarometer 481 – December 2018 “Attitudes of Europeans towards Biodiversity”
http://open-data.europa.eu/en/data/dataset/S2091_83_4_436_ENG



**environmental education can bring about
a fundamental shift in how we think, how we act**

- ✓ science should be taught in early childhood
- ✓ science educators must have the necessary competencies

Climate change is one of the most acute threats the world is facing today



“Future generations of children need to understand how to mitigate and adapt to contingencies that are set to take place in the not too distant future” (IPCC, 2012)

What do people really know about

- ✓ climate change
- ✓ global warming
- ✓ biodiversity



FACTS

Climate knowledge survey 2015 - Belgium

107 secondary schools - 3.236 students

81% of the students

- ✓ cannot explain green house effect
- ✓ do not know which human activities contribute to global warming

Source: Aped-Ovds (2015). School, Energie, Klimaat. (Appel pour une école démocratique - Oproep Voor een Democratische School).

<http://www.skolo.org>

FACTS

Trainee teachers survey 2016 - Belgium

primary & secondary education – 6 HE schools
430 trainee teachers

- ✓ only 1 out of 5 trainee teachers can explain mechanism of green house effect
- ✓ 95% consider hole in ozon layer as causing global warming

Source: Boussemaere, P. (2016). De aarde warmt op door een gat in de lucht. Een onderzoek naar de klimaatkennis van de Vlaamse leerkracht in opleiding. VIVES hogeschool Brugge

Partnership created
5 partners in 4 EU countries

- ✓ writing a proposal
- ✓ finding the necessary funding!



Education and Training

[Home](#)

[Education in the EU](#)

[Policies](#)

[Resources and tools](#)

[News](#)

[Events](#)

Funding opportunities

The EU offers a wide range of funding opportunities for research, training and education.
Closing dates and more information are listed below.

Topic

Profile

Sort by

<https://ec.europa.eu/>



Research & innovation
€80 billion in funding
(2014-2020)

Education & training
€14.7 billion in funding
(2014-2020)



- individuals: studying abroad
- organisations: development and networking activities

BIOTALENT target audience

- **biology teachers** in secondary education
- **educators** in science museums, botanical gardens, science centres and environmental organisations
- **biologists, conservation managers** at nature reserves, national parks and civil organisations
- and open to **anyone interested** in the topic

Education can bring about a fundamental shift in
how we think, how we act!

- increase knowledge and skills on biodiversity and climate change
- engage people in conserving Europe's biodiversity
- trigger a passion for science

How did BIOTALENT do it?

- established an open source virtual learning platform to deliver e-content of a course
BIOTALENT e-learning platform
<http://biotalent.ucdc.uoc.gr/>
- delivered a **pilot blended e-learning course** on biodiversity:
‘Biodiversity in a changing climate: e-learn more’
- developed a **matrix for future training courses**



The BIOTALENT course

The online part of the course has come to an end. The attended part is held in Crete from 20-24 May 2019. Have a look at the programme [here](#). Big thanks to the Cretan Cooking School 'Taste Academy' for providing the field trip lunches. More info: click the banner.



BIODIVERSITY IN A CHANGING CLIMATE: E-LEARN MORE

Registration is now open!
More information ▶

Free course - Earn your ECVET Certificate & Europass Diploma Supplement

Cretan wildcat (*Felis silvestris cretensis*) ©NHMC-Trichas A.

BIOTALENT is a blended e-learning biodiversity training programme. Biodiversity and its protection can only be achieved by a strong investment in environmental education. **BIOTALENT** creates talent in biodiversity through innovative education and new skills to increase engagement in science.

[COURSE BROCHURE](#)

A course for the development of knowledge, skills and competences of science educators, nature guides and anyone interested in biodiversity.



www.biotalent.myspecies.info

What makes BIOTALENT different?



relies upon expertise,
experiences, resources
of our partners

offers unique transnational
access to partners' facilities



Learning method - Inquiry Based Learning

not just presenting the facts

questions

case studies

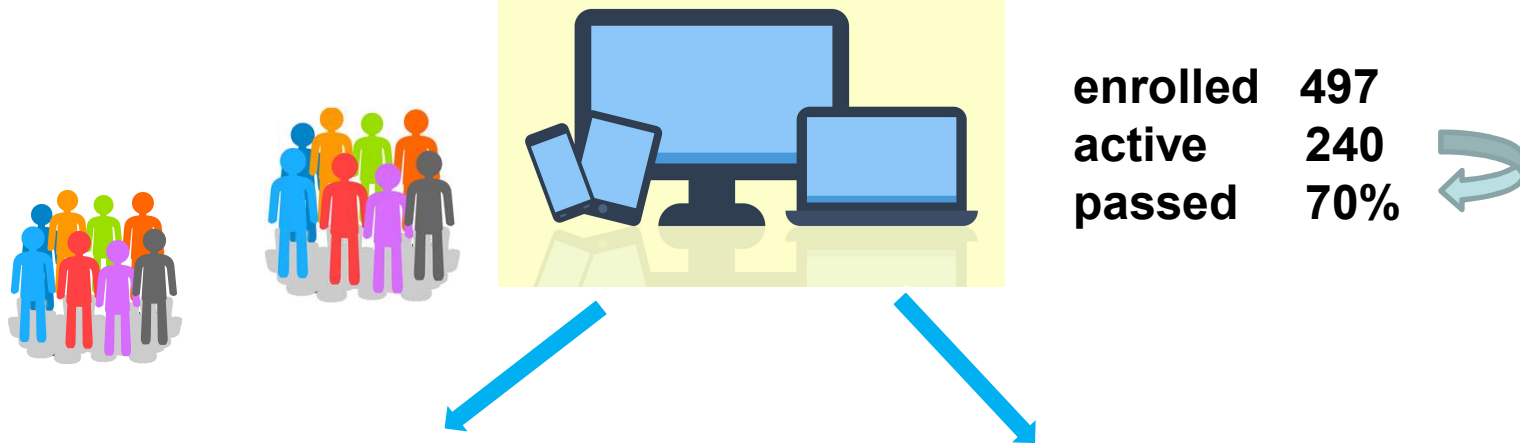
scenarios

engage with others

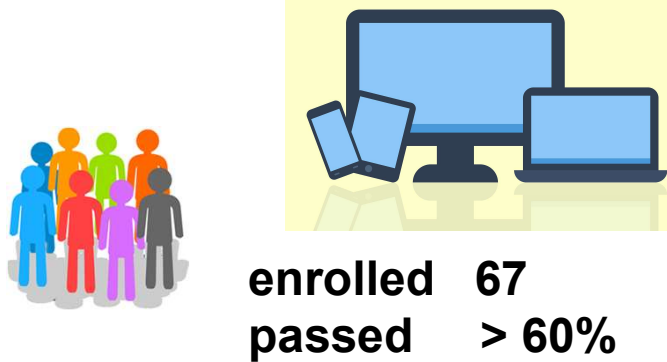


BIOTALENT results

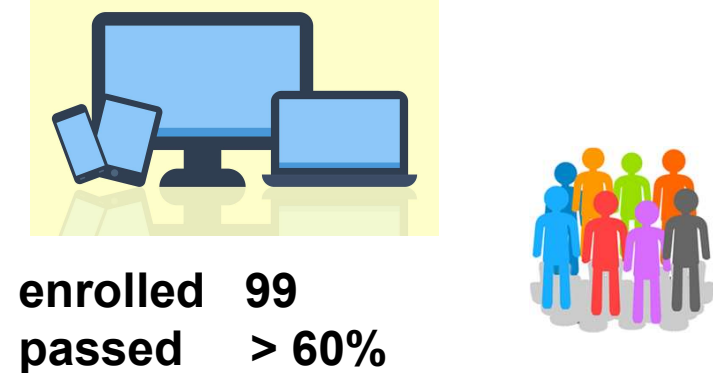
ON LINE MODULE: Biodiversity and Climate Change



ON LINE MODULE: Herpetofauna



ON LINE MODULE: Medicinal Plants



FACE TO FACE MODULE: 20 participants selected for training on-the-job in Crete

What participants say about the course...

“It has been an amazing experience, very interesting course and the group work helped us find new friends abroad.” B.P., 21 April 2019, Greece

“It was nice working with all of you. I learned a lot from the module.” M.M., 22 April 2019, Philippines

“I liked being a participant of it, you provided excellent materials for each topics. It was also great to see the values of mother nature through the eyes of colleagues participating from all over the world.” B.V.F., 23 April 2019, Hungary

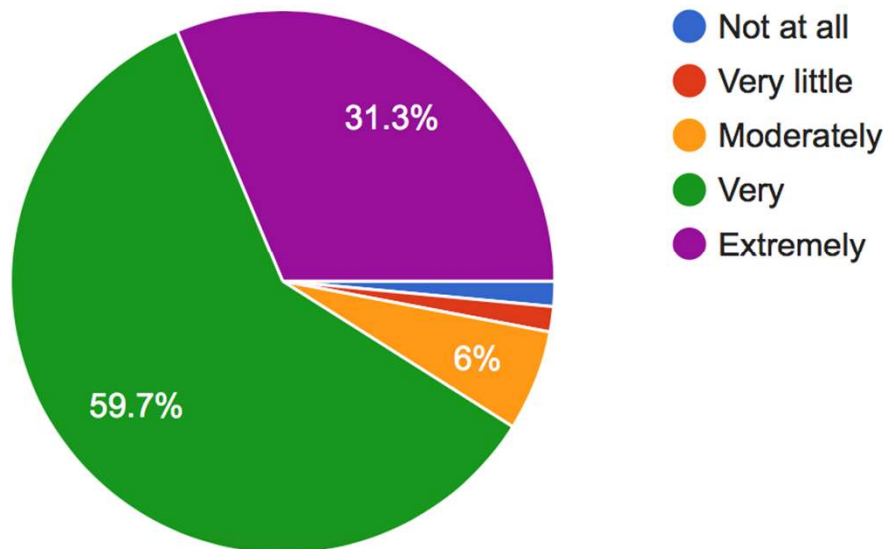
“Both e-learning modules and contents were super interesting and I am glad I could be part of it. I have learned a lot!” C.G., 23 April 2019, Belgium

“This course was a wonderful experience. I learned a lot and met new friends. I am proud to be a participant in this course.” M.K., 24 April 2019, Montenegro

General module: Biodiversity & Climate change

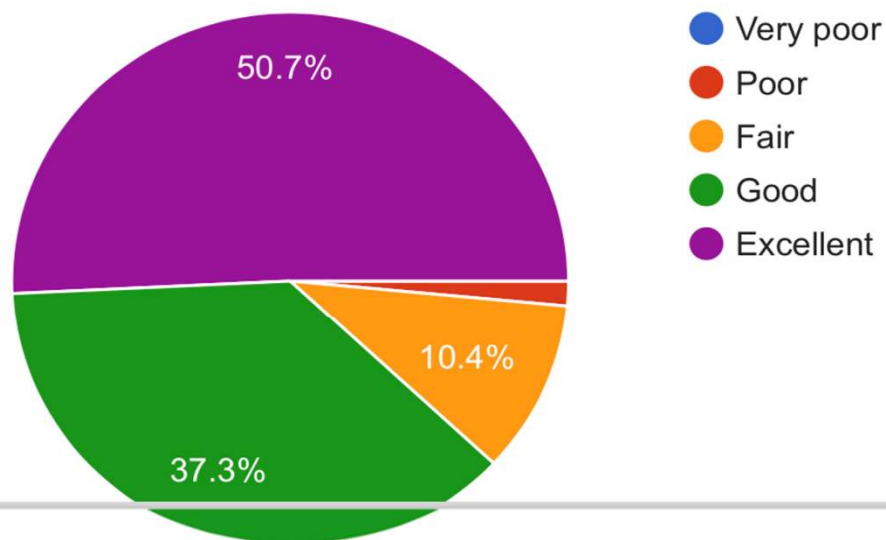
1. Were the themes of the module and their content arranged in a clear and logical way?

67 responses



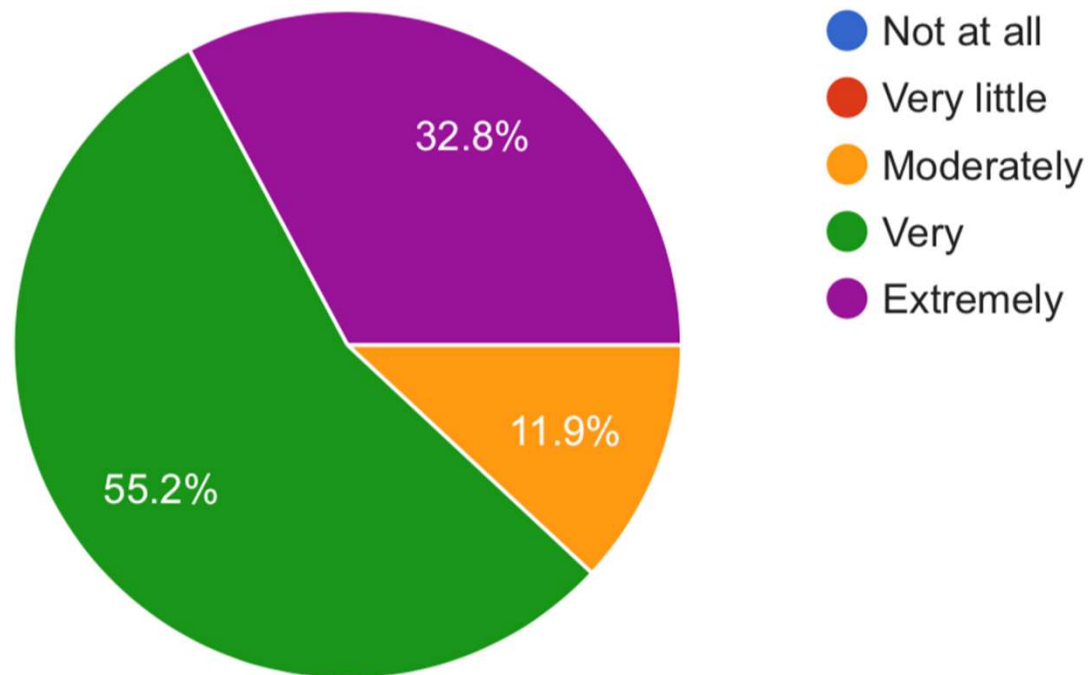
2. How would you rate the quality of the reading material used in this module?

67 responses



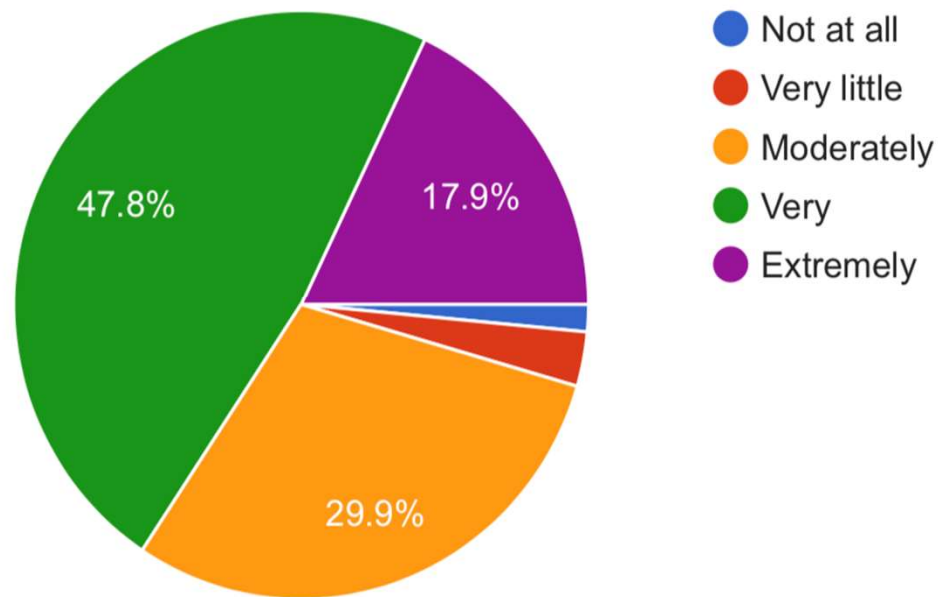
3. Did the module meet its learning objectives?

67 responses



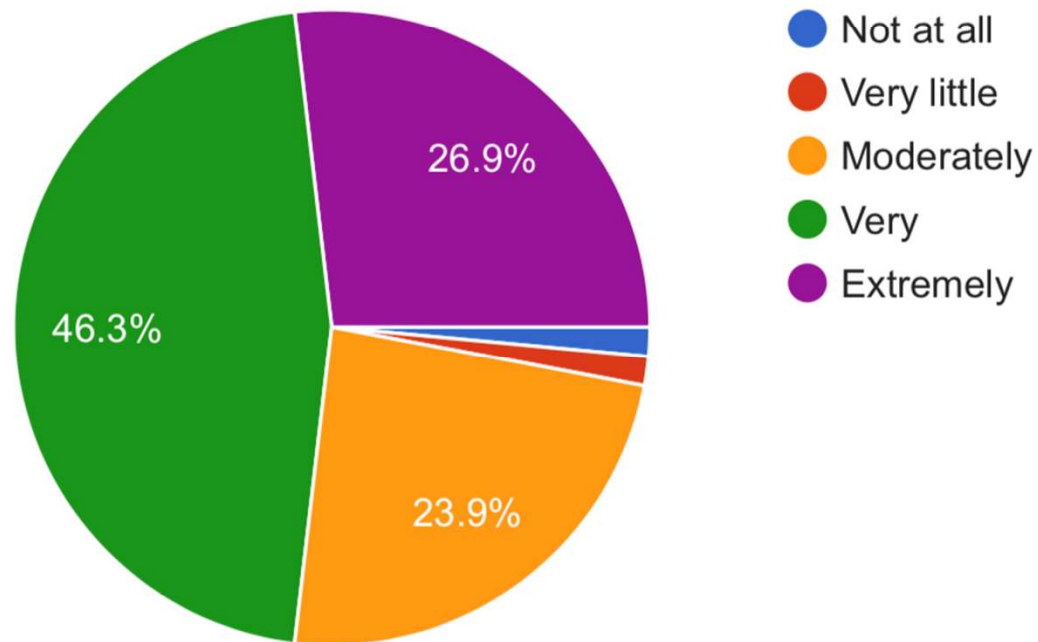
4. Were the consolidation activities in STEP 3: Create, easy for you to understand and to implement?

67 responses



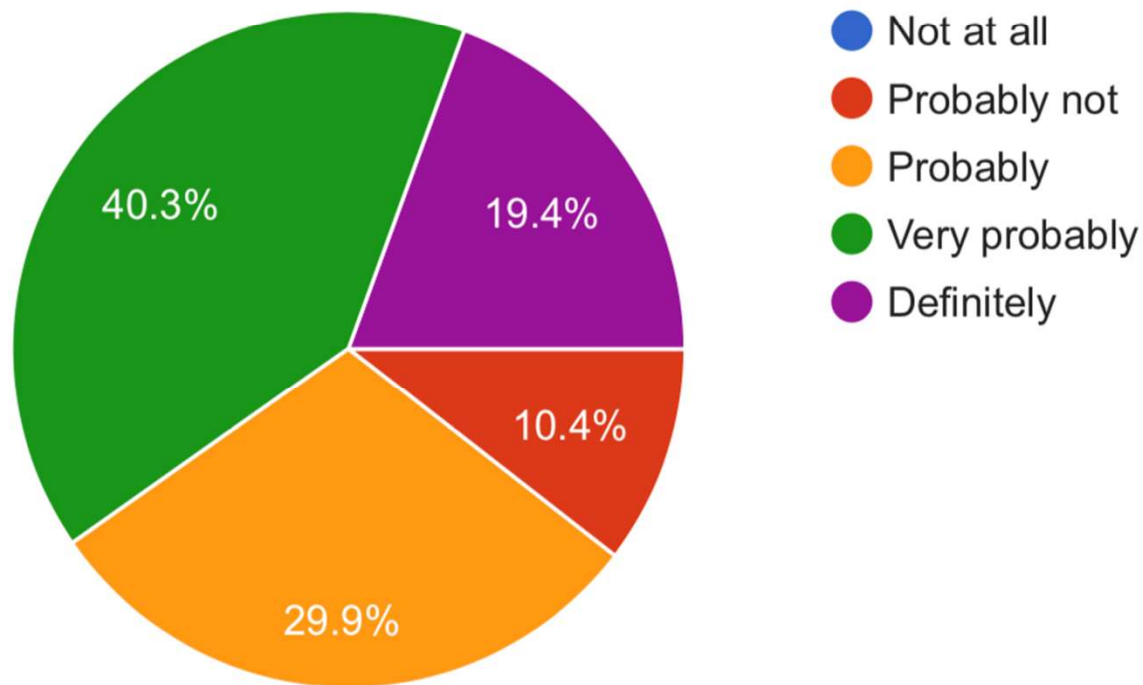
5. Was the e-learning platform easy to use and to work with?

67 responses



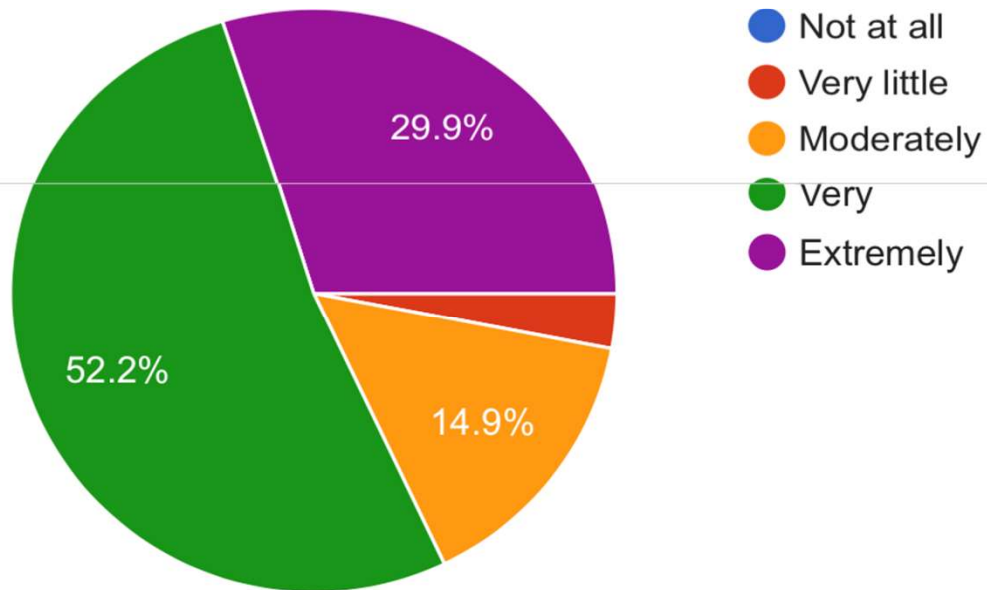
6. Do you intend to implement any follow-up activities?

67 responses



7. Did the module in general meet your original expectations?

67 responses

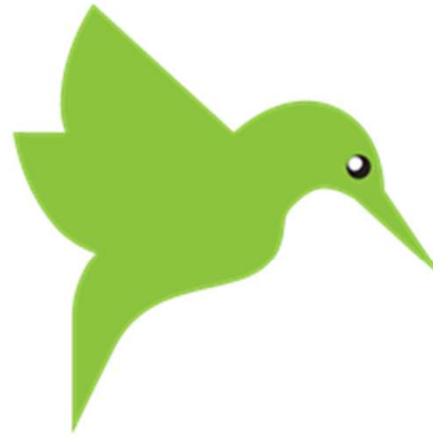


upon successful completion of the course
participants are awarded with

BIOTALENT ECVET* Certificate
EUROPASS Certificate Supplement

*European Credit system for Vocational Education and Training

biotalent
TALENT IN BIODIVERSITY



biotalent.myspecies.info

Thank you for your attention
Any questions?

Isabella Van de Velde
Project coordinator
Royal Belgian Institute of Natural Sciences
Isa.Vandevelde@naturalsciences.be