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Title:

Biochem-Env, a platform of environmental biochemistry for research in ecology and ecotoxicology

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The consortium ANAEE France (http://www.anaee-s.fr) aims at understanding and predicting the biodiversity and ecosystems dynamics in a context of global change. It will allow improving the understanding of biotic processes/environment interactions, mobilizing experimental and modelling platforms devoted to the biology of continental ecosystems, both terrestrial and aquatic.

In this context, the objectives of the platform Biochem-Env (http://www.biochemenv.fr) are to provide skills and innovative tools for biochemical characterizations of soils, sediments, and living micro-macroorganisms. These approaches are related to the assessment of ecosystems functioning.

The scope of the platform Biochem-Env includes:
- the technology intelligence and the development of tools used for the biochemical characterization of solid environmental matrices and macrofauna,
- the development of an Environmental Information System (referential for functional biodiversity) for managing the traceability of samples and data, and improve our ability to characterize the biological status of environmental matrices.

Available as a scientific partner in the frame of collaborative research projects, the platform's abilities ranges from advice providing (sampling, protocols and data analysis), to technical training, including analysis and experimentation in regional, national and international research programs.

The tools of the platform have been deployed in programs targeted at assessing the sensitivity and restrictions of biological indicators of soil quality, subjected to various constraints (waste landfilling, farming practices, contaminated sites and soils…).

For example, long-term experimental sites provide opportunities to assess the effects of pressures and threats on soils and their functioning. In a context of soil contamination, we can conclude using global soil enzymatic activities that soil functioning is enhanced in biological farming comparatively to conventional practices.

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