

## The field application of INBOVEG: a powerful tool to improve data collecting

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As a vegetation meta database, INBOVEG is a powerful vegetation data management tool (<https://www.vlaanderen.be/inbo/en-gb/data-applications/inboveg/>). Moreover, it contributes to the facilitation of vegetation research and the acquisition of robust results. It offers a standardized environment to collect data. Nonetheless, the success of this database is related to its widespread use. The development of an offline application to enter the data on field should be a time saver and minimize the errors due to the input of data via the web application. Furthermore, the use of mobile phones enables the use of many free and open sources applications related to the INBOVEG mobile application. The main properties of the Inboveg mobile application includes its user-friendly format, its flexibility concerning a wide variety of survey methods and ongoing development for its wider use. The types of surveys that can be built, imply unrelated plots, time series, belt transects or a combination of all these previously cited possibilities. Recently a new development has been released: the use of ppd (point to plant distances). In the future the development of the use of line transects could be considered. The mobile application possesses the opportunity for managing, visualization and the export of large amounts of data. Moreover, the collection of data can be performed by different mappers simultaneously.

Special needs can be provided by linking adapted lists related to specific research questions, packaged in drop down lists. In addition to the definition of the attributes of the different plots (plot information, taxa, cover/abundance,...) and the easy export to the database or server, the application represents a complete and powerful tool for data collection. Therefore, the use of a mobile application could offer new opportunities in the future to promote citizen science in Flanders.