Dear participants of the field mycology course,

The field course is approaching, and below we are delivering to you the second series of practical information.

The course starts on **Saturday, September 20th at 4 p.m.** in Białowieża Geobotanical Station, University of Warsaw (ul. Sportowa 19, Białowieża). Please be there on time!

To get there you can use buses or train to Hajnówka (the nearest railway station from where you can find local buses or we will be able to pick you up). The train connections can be checked on: https://portalpasazera.pl/. If you have any questions about getting to the place, let us know.

Here is the link to **the course webpage**: https://ibe.biol.uw.edu.pl/dla-studentow/lista-zajec/mykologia-terenowa/. All important information and materials will be shared there. You can see there draft program and the list of things you should bring with you. Please, remember that as this is a country border zone you should have your **IDs (or passport)** with you. It is also good to have your European Health Insurance Card. Be aware that there is a lot of mosquitos and ticks in this region.

Before the course, please create a personal **PlutoF account**, install the **PlutoF GO** app on your phone and join the course project. You can find step-by-step instruction on the next page.

In addition, we recommend you to install the Polish Forest Data Bank mobile app (https://www.bdl.lasy.gov.pl/portal/en) and mapy.com app (https://en.mapy.cz/). In mapy.cz, please download map of Poland to use it offline. This will allow you to navigate in the field, even when offline.

After completing this course students speaking Polish can take the national exam for mushroom classifier (klasyfikator grzybów świeżych). Official materials for this course are on shared google drive in Polish (link). The exam will be organized by WSSE Białystok on Friday, September 26th at 9 a.m. in Białowieża. The cost of the exam is 200 PLN. Please, declare whether you would like to take this exam or not by **September 15th**.

As you can see from the program on Thursday morning, we booked time for visit in the Strict Reserve of the Białowieża National Park. For those who are not familiar with the area, Białowieza Primeval Forest is large forest area located in Poland and Belarus. Part of it is protected as nature reserves (we have permits and part of the course will be in these places) and part as National Park. There is also the most valuable part of National Park, which is protected as Strict Reserve. This is the most valuable and unique part of Bialowieza Primeval Forest. The access to the Strict Reserve is limited and you can get there only with guides. As one guide can have only up to 10 participants, we need to know in advance who will be interested in entering to the Strict Reserve on Thursday. The cost of guide, including NP entrance ticket is 100 PLN/pers. **Please, let me know by sending email by September 15th at latest, whether you would like to join this excursion**.

Before arriving to Białowieża, it is worth setting your mobile phone to manual network selection to avoid high non-EU roaming charges that can happen near country border. In the field station you will have Wi-Fi access via **eduroam** (please check your passwords before coming).

For quick communication during the workshop, we created a group chat on WhatsApp, please join the chat via a link: https://chat.whatsapp.com/DIeeh5l8APGBwadwu4rzwb.

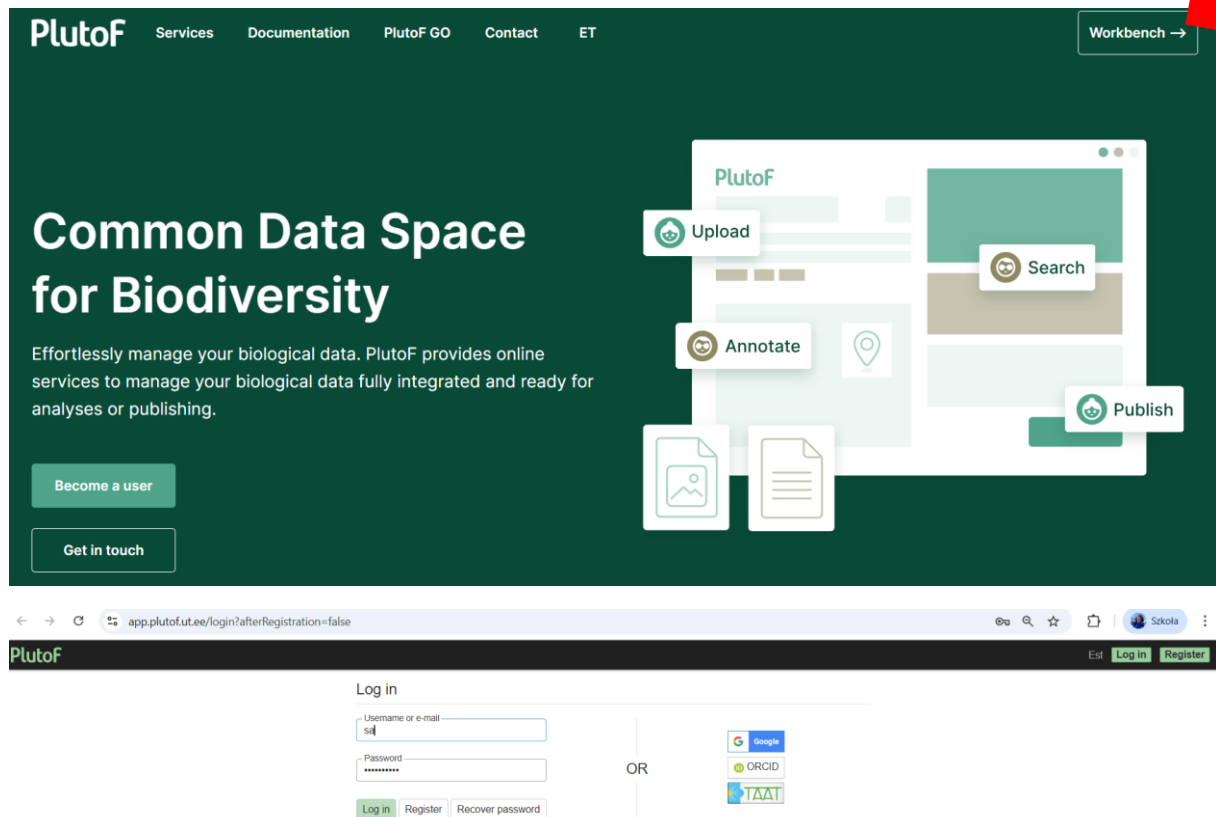If you have any questions, let me know (julia.z.pawlowska@uw.edu.pl or +48600327503).

Best regards,

Julia Pawłowska

on behalf of the course organizers
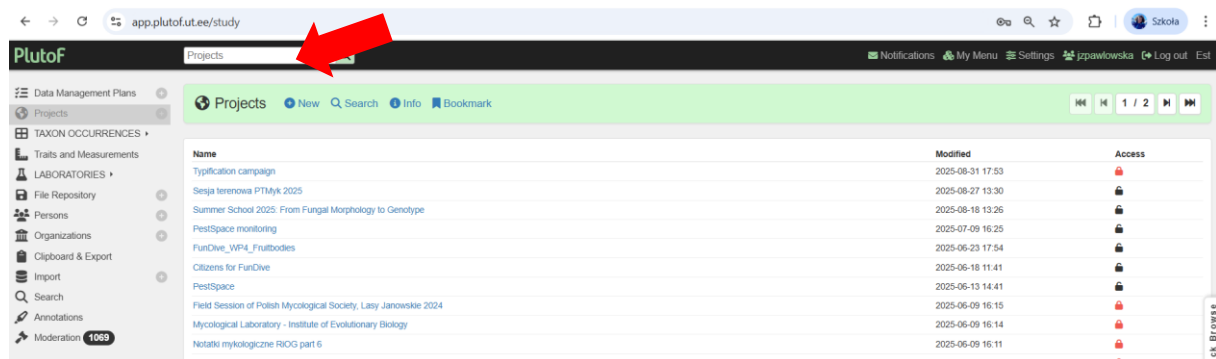
How to register and join the project in PlutoF?

1. Go to: https://app.plutof.ut.ee/register and register.
2. Next, go to: https://plutof.ut.ee/en, open workbench and login

3. In the left menu, go to 'Projects' section and search for 'Summer School 2025: From Fungal Morphology to Genotype' project

4. Select the project from the list, and click on 'join' button in the upper right corner. You can be asked to give the justification but you can just put there letter A (or any other 😊).
5. After joining you will be able to see project page. We will start from here during the course.
6. Next, please install also PlutoF GO mobile app: https://plutof.ut.ee/go
7. Use PlutoF registration data to login.
8. On the first day of course you will see how to link app to your project.