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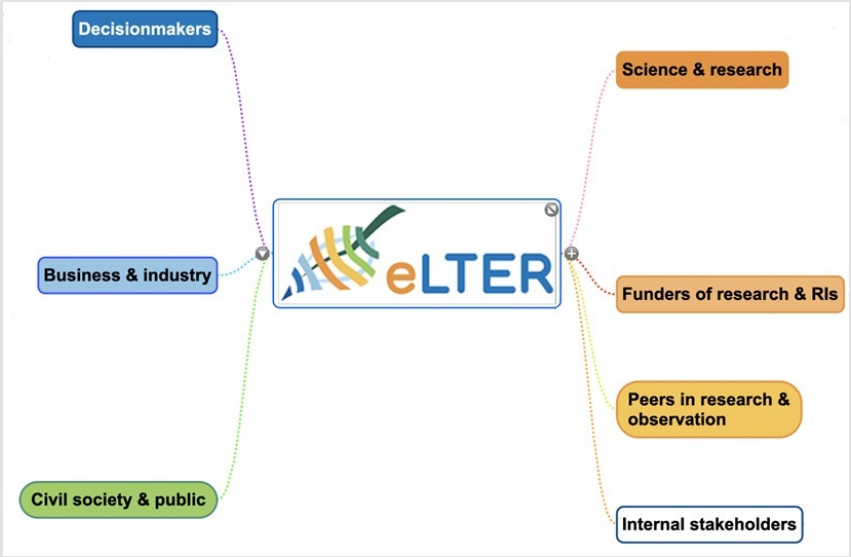
Issue: June 2021

Strategic Section



Who's who: Mapping the eLTER stakeholders

Following a comprehensive working process eLTER completed a stakeholder assessment identifying six external and one internal stakeholder categories

with over 30 groups. The starting point for this mapping exercise was the preliminary stakeholder analysis for the ESFRI application.

The initial picture was further developed by several workshops and reflections with internal and external participants. A focus was put on the future eLTER RI coordination and their links to European and national level organisations, representing the key stakeholder communities of researchers, research infrastructure funders and decision makers. Finally, a detailed questionnaire was completed by 40 diverse representatives of eLTER.

The relevant stakeholder groups for the future RI are as follows:

- Funders of research and RIs: national, European and international funding organisations critical to the financing and sustainability of the research infrastructures;
- Science and researchers: individual scientists, research performing organisations, research networks, pertinent science initiatives at international levels that show interest in the services provided by the RI;

- Decision-makers: European policy makers, European agencies (e.g. EEA, JRC and organisations contributing to monitoring of the EU Nature Directives), national and regional authorities and policy makers, global agencies and intergovernmental organisations;

- Business and industry: companies that use the services of the eLTER RI, enable innovation and cooperation in terms of observation or information management, as well as environmental impact assessment consultants and spatial planners and architects;

- Civil society and public: Citizen Science organisations, environmental NGOs, land and forest owners' organisations, the wider public;

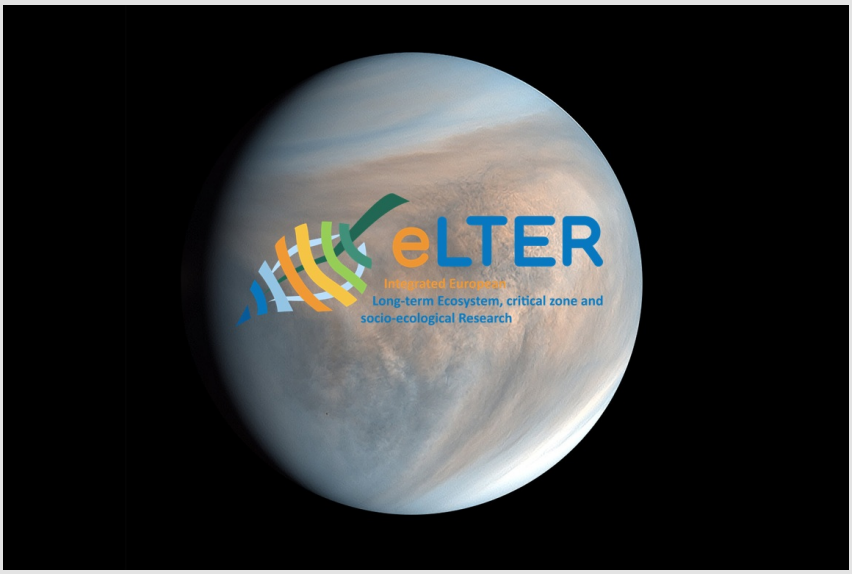
- Peers in research and observation: monitoring and observation networks and organizations in-situ and remote (e.g. UNECE-Working Group on Effects, WMO, JRC, ESA/Copernicus, EIONET), research infrastructures in the environmental domain, European scale e-infrastructures (e.g. LifeWatch) and other pertinent projects and initiatives contributing to EOSC;

- Internal stakeholders: Site and platform coordinators (SPC), Site and platform operating institutions or National LTER networks coordination teams (NC).

Boris Barov (Pensoft)

Read the full story

Highlights



eLTER Venus meeting: 8 days, 25 sessions and +150 participants

In the period from 7 to 16 April, the consortia of the eLTER projects, eLTER PPP and eLTER PLUS, had another joint working meeting. This time, due to the pandemic situation, in a purely virtual form.

As at the last joint eLTER consortium meeting, due to the lack of a real meeting location, the name of a planet in our solar system, this time Venus, was used as the meeting name.

The event programme was structured with the aim of reducing daily screen time and "zoom fatigue", which resulted in the overall duration of the meeting being longer but each day being less intensive and less time consuming.The meeting started and ended with a plenary day, and in the period in between, self-organised sessions were held by the projects' Work package,Theme and Task leads.

Over 150 people from both consortia of the eLTER projects took part in 25 sessions with the audience for each of them varying between +30 to >150. Naturally, due to the high number of participants and sessions, this presented a significant organizational and logistical challenge which was successfully overcome with the joint efforts of both organisers and participants.

The meeting started with high-profile guest speakers valorizing the framework where an international research infrastructure operates. A great honor for eLTER was the two presentations on expected scientific impacts and overview of the **European Strategy Forum on Research Infrastructures** (ESFRI) given by

its chair **Jan Hrusak** and **Gelsomina Pappalardo**, member of the ESFRI executive board.

Another highlight was the talk by **Florian Haslinger (EPOS Seismological cores service coordinator, ETH Zürich)** who brought first-hand experiences on working in the European Research Infrastructure Consortium (ERIC), coupled with important advice and insights. In addition, an important and informative presentation was given by TERN's coordinator, Beryl Morris, from the perspective of a continental RI in operation in Australia, highlighting the benefits and services of the RI for its various users.

The topics of the sessions varied from "Service Portfolios for stakeholder groups" and “Achievements and highlights from PLUS and PPP”, through “Socio-economic impact” and “Strategic plan”, to “Information Clusters”, “Standard observations”, “Ethics and Equity”, “Whole system research” and others.

Read the full story

LTsER Montado platform (Portugal) joins Lifeplan project

The monitoring station of **Companhia das Lezírias** (CL) joined the LIFEPLAN project, as a representative of the montado landscape. Every week and until 2026, the cE3c team will collect the images and sounds recorded automatically by cameras and audiomoths installed on trees, and samples of spores and flying insects collected with a cyclone sampler and a malaise trap. Soil samples will also be collected 8 times a year. This sampling effort will be alternating every

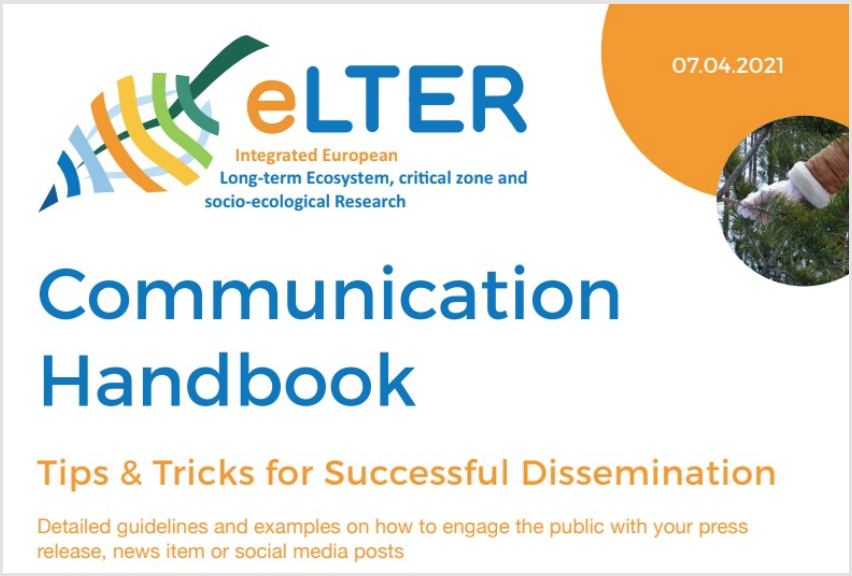
year with an urban site in Lisbon. All data collected will be integrating a global dataset to better understand the state of biodiversity on our planet.

CL is one of the sites included in the **LTsER Montado platform**, representing the cork oak forest and a less arid climate compared to the other sites of this platform, which represent the gradient of climate and land uses within the montado landscape. This savannah-like landscape (dehesa in spanish), dominated usually by cork oak (Quercus suber) or holm oak (Quercus ilex, sensu lato) trees, has been shaped by people over millennia and has resulted in a complex productive system with a high conservation value. In one space it combines forest production, pastoralism, the cultivation of cereals and other traditional land use practices.

Currently, the montado faces several threats and drivers of change, such as climate change, that compromise the maintenance of its economic and environmental value.

Inês Rosário (University of Lisbon)

Read the full story



eLTER Communication Handbook

Recently we completed our Communication Handbook aimed at providing tips and tricks for effective communication and furthering its efforts of creating a coherent outreach.

The purpose of the document is to provide the various eLTER teams, National Coordinators and the Site and Platform Coordinators with up-to-date information on how to handle their communication on local, national and international level in the best possible way.

Furthermore, the included information could be of general usefulness for the

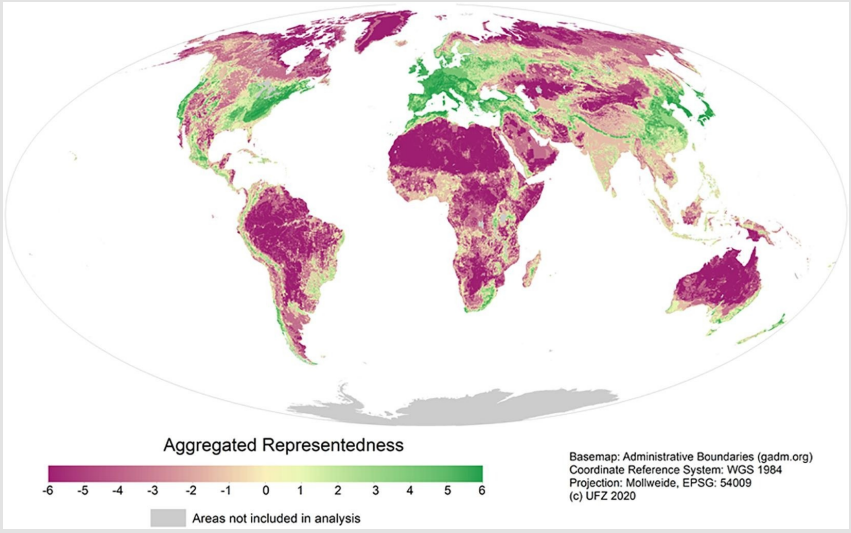
eLTER community even outside of the project. Among the contents of the Handbook are:

- How to write for social media: Twitter / Facebook / LinedIn;
- How to write news items: What kind of information to submit for news items and event announcements;
- How to submit information for a press release;
- How to create engaging video;
- How to write a policy brief: Contents of a brief / Further guidelines
- Acknowledgement of EU funding.

eLTER members who would like to receive a copy of the Communication Handbook can contact Pensoft, who are responsible for all project communication and dissemination activities, using this e-mail: k.konstantinov@pensoft.net

Kaloyan Konstantinov (Pensoft)

Latest Research



Study on the biogeographical and socio-ecological representativeness of the ILTER site network

In a collaborative effort of multiple LTER member networks, as well as external input from the University of Maryland and the University of Salzburg, **ILTER** has funded and recently published an open-access study dedicated to assessing the biogeographical and socio-ecological representativeness of the ILTER site network.

The findings of this study and derived recommendations will foster and support the future development of ILTER. The developed methodology also bears relevance for eLTER and has already been applied to the eLTER sites. The

findings were presented at this year's virtual **European Geosciences Union (EGU)** meeting.

Further information:

Ohnemus, T., Mollenhauer, H., Mirtl, M., and Zacharias, S.: Designing the eLTER Research Infrastructure: representativity, priority regions and recommendations for development, EGU General Assembly 2021, online, 19–30 Apr 2021, EGU21-5273, https://doi.org/10.5194/egusphere-egu21-5273, 2021.

Wohner, C., Ohnemus, T., Zacharias, S., Mollenhauer, H., Ellis, E. C., Klug, H., Shibata, H., & Mirtl, M. (2021). Assessing the biogeographical and socio-ecological representativeness of the ILTER site network. Ecological Indicators, 127, 107785. https://doi.org/10.1016/j.ecolind.2021.107785"

Christoph Wohner (Environment Agency Austria)

Reporting Back

eLTER in EGU: GERI session

The Global Ecosystem Research Infrastructure (GERI) arranged a session in the vEGU2021. The session consisted of 10 presentations covering topics like water resources and oceans, **SDG's addressed by RIs**, climate models informing policy decisions and the fundamental concept of the emerging GERI, which was presented by the eLTER PLUS coordinator, Professor Jaana Bäck.

GERI is a consortium of six distributed RIs (eLTER and **ICOS** in Europe, **TERN** in Australia, **NEON** in US, **CERN** in China and **SAEON/EFTEON** in South Africa), initiated in 2016. The motivation for global collaboration comes from the recognized scientific and societal priorities, which are outlined in the vision statement of GERI: we need site-based research infrastructures dedicated to better understand the function and change of indicator/benchmark ecosystems across global biomes (terrestrial, freshwater, coastal), to support excellent science, and to inform political and managerial decision-making addressing grand societal challenges.

The GERI partners have signed a Memorandum of Understanding and collaborate to implement the integration of in situ observations to support the ecosystem research at global scale.

Jaana Back (University of Helsinki)

Presenting the eLTER Whole system Approach for In-situ & Long-term environmental System research on life (WAILS) at EGU

Triggered by the challenge to streamline the ecosystem, critical zone and socio-ecological research infrastructure at the Pan-European level in close collaboration with other ongoing European environmental RIs like ICOS and LifeWatch, the eLTER Research Infrastructure (RI) strives for a Whole system Approach for In-situ & Long-term environmental System research on Life supporting Systems (WAILS), combining human-environment interactions at a given scale, cross-scale interactions and feed-back loops across scales.

Fostering ideas and research on WAILS, eLTER offered a session during the vEGU2021 with the title **"Whole system approaches in addressing processes and long-term changes in terrestrial and aquatic ecosystems"**. The aim was to bring together scientists from different fields that performed research at sites and platforms implementing a whole system approach, with emphasis on long-term changes and responses of ecosystem and socio-ecological processes to environmental drivers, as well as ecosystem-scale experiments (mesocosms) and observations scaling up from sites to larger regions up to the continental level.

Twelve studies presented their research whose backgrounds covered i) Synergies between Research Infrastructures and their representativeness, ii) the structuring, integration and visualisation of Research Infrastructures and also iii) specific field studies from Research Infrastructures. The first round of pitch presentations was followed by a vivid discussion round with the authors and the conveners. The interaction of researchers available throughout EGU will allow for an improved implementation of the eLTER Research Infrastructure and their tailored services to the scientific community.

Ulf Mallast (Helmholtz Centre for Environmental Research-UFZ)

Feature

ENVRI community: We are part of it but what is that?

Understanding the Earth is not possible without interdisciplinary science. We need a holistic approach where environmental data, research products and services produced by the different Research Infrastructures (RIs) are harmonized and easy to access and use for scientists from any field of environmental research. Such integration efforts are organized within the **European environmental Research Infrastructures (ENVRI) community**.

ENVRI is a cluster of terrestrial, solid earth, marine and atmospheric domains consisting of over 20 RIs working together to observe the Earth as one system. It collaborates to provide environmental data, tools, and other services that are Open and Fair, and can be used by anyone for free. eLTER is part of the ENVRI community.

The senior representatives of the RIs in the ENVRI community are part of the **Board of European environmental research infrastructures** (BEERi). BEERi meets twice a year to discuss joint strategies and communication efforts of the environmental RIs. Particularly the integration of the European environmental RI landscape, joint communication efforts in, for example, EGU meetings, and sharing of information has been valuable for the RIs of the ENVRI community.

The evolution of ENVRI community cooperation started from the publication of the ESFRI roadmap in 2008. It was obvious that environmental RIs would face similar challenges in their implementation, and that led to the onset of the cluster projects ENVRI (2011-2014), ENVRIplus (2015-2019) and the current ENVRI-FAIR (2019-2022).

Marjut Kaukolehto (Helmholtz Centre for Environmental Research - UFZ)

Read the full story

Upcoming and ongoing events

eLTER Interim Council

Date: 29-30 June 2021 | **Place:** Online

The second meeting of the eLTER Interim Council, IC_02, will take place on 29th and 30th of June. The meeting will be entirely virtual.

Only nominated Member Delegates, advisors and eLTER PPP Steering Committee members will be able to participate.

Learn more

10th International Symposium on Ecosystem Behavior, BIOGEOMON

Date: Postponed for 26-30 June 2022
Place: Tartu, Estonia

Due to the escalating Covid-19 pandemic, the organizing committee and the international scientific committee have decided to postpone the conference until Summer 2022.

The tentative new time is 26-30 June 2022. The planned venue is still Tartu, Estonia.

Those who still plan to participate and have already paid the participation fee, can use it next year. This is the second time the event's been postponed, the first was in 2020.

Learn more

The 3rd World Conference of the Society for Urban Ecology 2021

Date: 7-9 July 2021
Place: Poznań, Poland

The 3rd World Conference of the Society for Urban Ecology will take place in Poznan, green city, with one of the highest quality of life indexes in Poland..

Scientists, practitioners, and policy-makers interested in relations between socioeconomic and ecological components of urban systems are invited to attend the event.

The conference programme covers a wide range of topics related to urban ecological aspects and social components interdependencies in cities.

Learn more

WRW2020 – 5th International Conference Water resources and Wetlands

Date: 8-12 September 2021 | **Place:** Tulcea, Romania

The 5th ICWR is organized by the Romanian Limnogeographical Association (RLA) in collaboration with the German Limnological Society (GLS), Polish Limnological Society (PLS), Danube Delta National Institute Tulcea (DDNI) and the Danube Delta Biosphere Reserve Authority (DDBRA).

A field trip to the Danube Delta is available to interested participants who should register for it online and pay the fee which includes transport and lunch.

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Learn more

3rd International Workshop on Semantics for Biodiversity

Date: 15-18 September 2021 | **Place:** Bozen, Italy

This workshop aims to bring together computer scientists and biologists, working on Semantic Web approaches for biodiversity, ecology and related areas such as plant sciences, agronomy, agroecology or citizen science related to biodiversity.

Important Dates/Deadlines (all midnight Hawaii time):

Abstracts due: July 2nd, 2021 | Workshop papers due: July 9th, 2021
Notification of acceptance: July 30th, 2021 | Camera ready version: August 13th, 2021
Workshops held: September 16th, 2021

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Learn more

Euro-Global Climate Change Conference

Date: 20-21 September 2021 | **Place:** Paris, France (and online)

The EGCCC will address a variety of critically important areas in relation to climate change such as greenhouse gases in the atmosphere, including carbon dioxide, nitrogen gases, and water vapor and create a global discussion to find solutions to the social and biological impact of climate change.This event is planned as a hybrid format with both on-site and virtual versions.

The deadline for abstract submission was 25 February but the page still allows for it; the deadline for group registration is 20 September but a reduction of the price will be applied before 30 June.

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Learn more

eLTER Site and Platforms Forum (SPF)

Date: 28-29 September 2021 | **Place:** Online

The eLTER Site and Platforms Forum, SPF, is a novel platform dedicated to Site and Platform coordinators for communication and exchange, and for establishing joint activities (e.g. training).

Four newly formed working groups [Governance, Information clusters, Data management, Training] are now meeting for the first time to get organized and prioritize actions.

The next SPF will include: In-depth presentation and FAQs on eLTER Standard Observations planning / Introduction to communications material / Training session on metadata / Updates from the eLTER projects (e.g., training events, impact assessment).

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Learn more

First OZCAR TERENO International Conference

Date: 5-7 October 2021 | **Place:** Strasbourg, France (and online)

The first OZCAR TERENO International Conference - Advancing Critical Zone science will take place in Strasbourg (and online) from 5 to 7 October 2021.

The event will offer keynote lectures, oral presentations and poster sessions on scientific research on the Critical Zone, which is the most superficial layer of the planet where all human activities concentrate.

The meeting will cover the cutting edge scientific progress in a variety of disciplines: hydrology, geophysics, soil sciences, geochemistry, ecology, socio-ecology and you are cordially invited to contribute to the conference and take the chance to present your research.

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Learn more

This project has received funding from the European Union's Horizon 2020 research and innovation programme under grant agreement No 871126 (eLTER PPP) and No 871128 (eLTER PLUS)

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