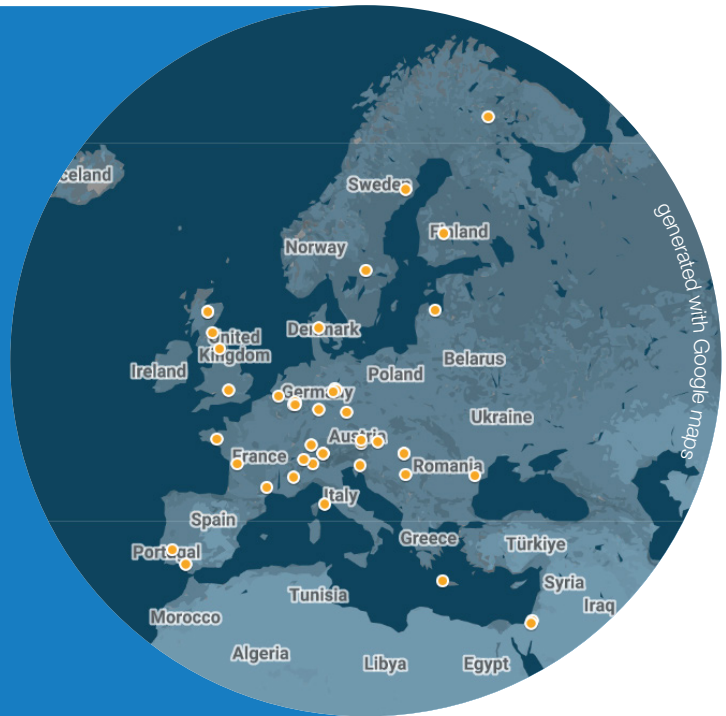


# eLTER'S ACCESS SCHEME

Through its dedicated access scheme, the eLTER PLUS project opens up the eLTER Research Infrastructure (RI) and aims to attract a wide range of users from various disciplines. The scheme addresses both physical access to long-term research sites (Transnational Access) and an access mode in which local research site staff perform measurements according to user defined protocols (Remote Access), or a combination of both. Additionally, the Virtual Access scheme provides access to the data from selected research sites. All access within the scheme is free of charge for users and is decided based on predefined criteria. TA and RA typically aid small to medium scale ecological and socio-ecological projects.



## What is the Access Scheme?

The eLTER PLUS project offers free-of-charge opportunities for multinational teams of researchers or for individual researchers to perform research at selected sites for the purpose of small to medium scale ecological and socio-ecological projects. Supported projects may focus on a single site although multisite research projects are preferred. Through its access scheme, eLTER PLUS opens up the eLTER Research Infrastructure (eLTER RI) and aims to attract a wide range of users from various disciplines.

## Who are the users?

The Access Scheme is open to any user. Experience has shown that most of the users are scientific researchers and are very often at an early stage in their careers. The Access Scheme is, however, also open to users from other groups, including business and industry, civil society and the wider public.

## What types of access are offered?

The eLTER PLUS project provides three modes of access: Transnational Access (TA), Remote Access (RA) and Virtual Access (VA). The roles of the user and site staff differ between each access type, as shown in the table.

## How can users apply to each of the access types?

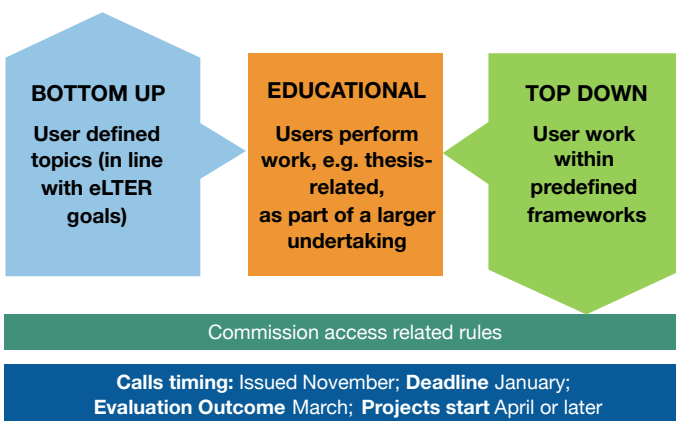
TA and RA are addressed in dedicated calls, which are launched on an annual basis in November. Users can apply by completing an application form, describing the scientific idea and indicating the site or sites they are interested in. After the call's closure, a thorough review process starts, including a three-stage process comprising an **eligibility check**, a **plausibility check**, and a **scientific evaluation**. Applicants are informed in March of the following year about the results of the evaluation process. The scheme's framework is published on the [elther-ri.eu](http://elther-ri.eu) website and it is transparent to the users from the start, including requirements before (detailed

	Transnational Access (TA)	Remote Access (RA)	Virtual Access (VA)
<b>Access characteristic</b>	Physical access to one or more sites by users	Site staff performs site-based measurements on behalf of user	User accesses site data only
<b>Role of users</b>	Users perform their own on-site measurements or experiments	Users define protocols for observations and experiments to be performed at the site(s) by local staff	Users download data from sites, in the future using the eLTER Service Portal
<b>Role of site staff</b>	Explains the facilities and supervises and supports users' activities	Performs work on users' behalf and sends results and/or specimens to the users	Currently, data and metadata are held locally. In the future, Standard Observations are uploaded to eLTER's IT infrastructure along with a metadata file
<b>Funded</b>	Travel costs and accommodation of users, running costs for the site to support the visitors	Running costs and working time of site staff	Working time of site staff

communication between project PIs and site and platform coordinators), during (metadata), and after the TA-RA projects (reporting, data management, dissemination of results).

## What are potential research topics?

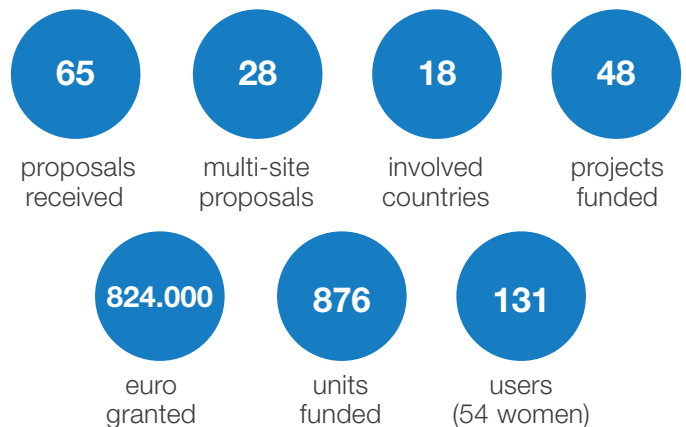
The calls for proposals encompass both a top-down and a bottom-up component. Both components are considered equally important and either address **pre-defined research questions in given categories** (Drivers, trends and states of biodiversity; Carbon and nitrogen cycling in ecosystems; Water stress in ecosystems; Socio-ecology) or **define their own research questions** and thereby demonstrate further options to utilise the eLTER RI. In either case, education will be fostered to strengthen the next generation of eLTER researchers.



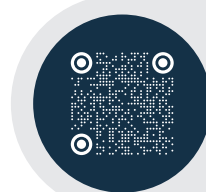
## What Sites and Data are included?

Currently, the Access Scheme offers access (TA and RA) to 39 sites across Europe representing different socio-economic and biogeographical settings and environmental conditions. All sites included in the Access Scheme are well-equipped to enable comprehensive ecological measurement and experimental campaigns. Likewise, state-of-the-art socio-economic research is conducted at several of them. The long-term data from these sites is available, providing useful contextual information. IT facilities are provided for data upload, storage and processing. The dedicated Access Scheme website provides the locations of the sites and links to DEIMS-SDR, the site registry, where further and more detailed information is available.

### Main figures of the first three calls



General eLTER TA-RA key facts



For more information, please scan the code or visit <https://elter-ri.eu/transnational-remote-access-ta-ra>