Dr. Michael Mirtl (male, Austrian) is an ecologist and environmental engineer, did his PhD thesis on the influence of floodplain forests water regimes on tree photosynthesis and completed training in plant physiology, biometrics, micro-meteorology and soil science at the University of Vienna, University of Agricultural Sciences (BOKU) and Technical University of Vienna.

Dr. Mirtl is leading the implementation of the "Integrated European Long-Term Ecosystem, critical zone & socio-ecological Research Infrastructure" (eLTER RI) on behalf of the Helmholtz Centre for Environmental Research – UFZ in Germany and in the context of the European Strategy Forum on Research Infrastructures (ESFRI). He is coordinator of the eLTER Preparatory Phase Project, chairman of LTER-Europe, and Chair of the ILTER ICC (International Long-Term Ecological Research International Collaborations Committee). Until 2017, Dr. Mirtl was head of the Department for Ecosystem Research & Environmental Information Management of Environment Agency Austria and coordinated the Austrian contribution to the UNECE ICP on Integrated Monitoring of Air Pollution Effects on Ecosystems, which includes assessment of critical loads and dynamic modelling at long-term observation sites. He has strong experience in developing concepts and management of research projects and coordinated about 50 projects in the field of deposition chemistry, karst hydrology, soil chemistry, remote sensing, bio-indicators and biodiversity monitoring. Dr. Mirtl did the design, logistics and QA/QC of Long-term Ecosystem Research & Monitoring Platforms, was leading expert in the development of MORIS (object-relational IS for ecosystem research data) and was co-founder of the Austrian LTER-Network (Chair of LTER-Austria since 2008) and the LTSER Platform "Eisenwurzen". He is specialized in analysis of ecosystem research data, development of ontologies and semantic mediation and does conceptual work on the integration of ecological and socio-economic research in LTSER since 2003, including scaling issues and ecosystem services. Since 2019 he formally represents eLTER as partner in the Global Ecosystem Research Infrastructure (GERI).