HOW eLTER COLLABORATES WITH RELATED RIS AND OTHER PEERS IN EUROPE

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Since 2003, the European LTER has been developing a dynamic, multidisciplinary network of partnerships and collaborations, pursuing a policy of openness and transparency, and continuously exploring opportunities for cooperation in the European RI landscape of networks and projects. This pro-active role has been specifically practiced practiced in the H2020 cluster projects of European environmental RIs (ENVRI, ENVRIplus, ENVRI-FAIR).

The eLTER RI is fully embedded in the Biosphere and Ecosystems domain as described e.g. in ENVRIplus landscape analysis. Contributing to an integrated cluster of European ecosystem research infrastructures belongs to the core of eLTER´s ambitions. LTER-Europe and the eLTER projects have been cooperating specifically with the relevant in situ networks and supporting infrastructures, leading to various collaboration agreements. Figure 1 clearly shows, that the user needs and the services provided to society by the environmental RIs are very much interlinked and no single RI is able to solve societal Grand Challenges alone. In situ RIs within a domain complement each other in their observation, systems research, and experimentation, and jointly with related e-infrastructures provide tools and services for evidence-based decision making. It is conceivable that the cooperating environmental RIs constitute a federated landscape, acting together as a very large-scale pan-European facility.

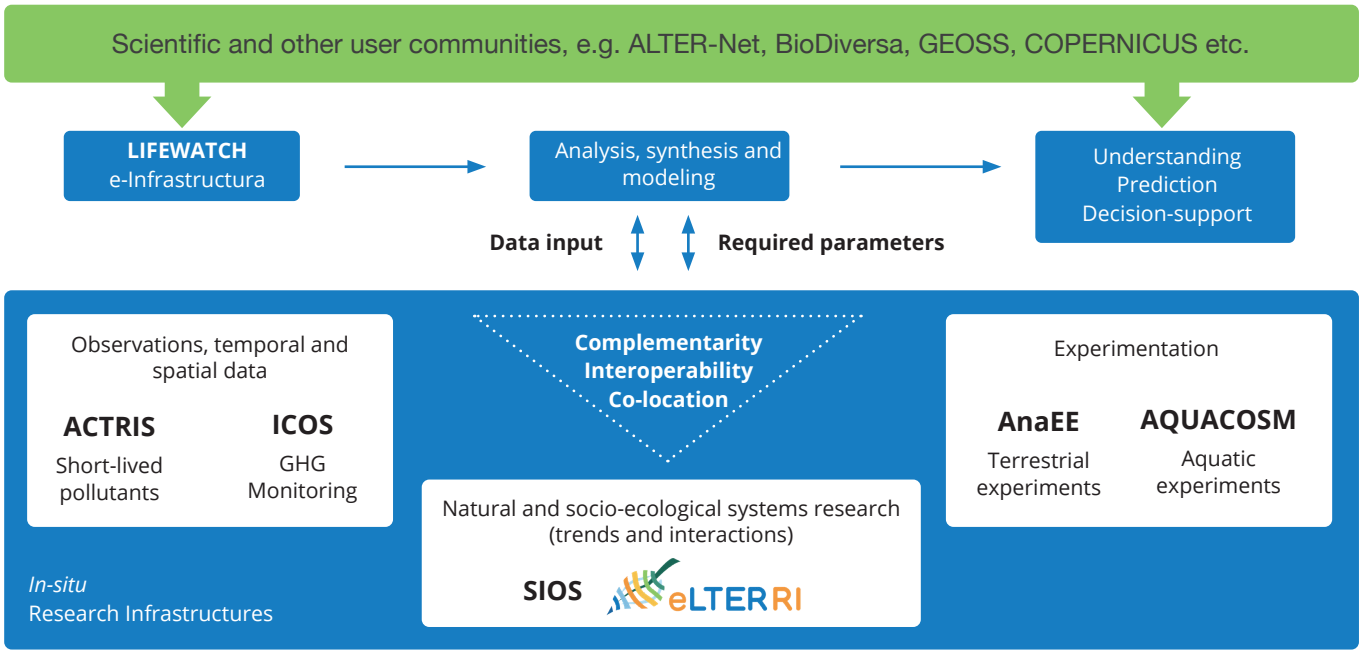
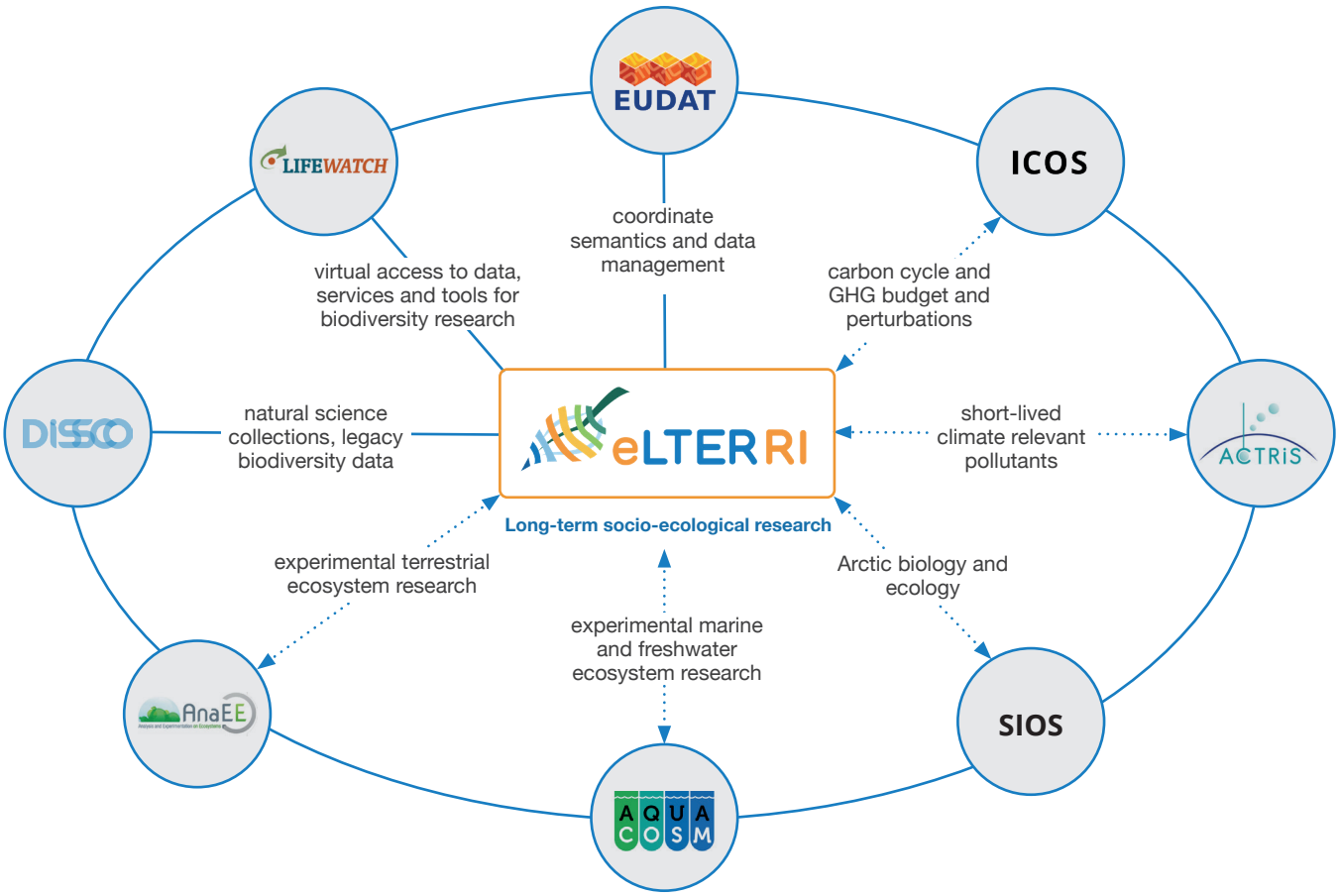


Figure 1: *Multiple, interlinked RIs are required to adequately meet user needs*

Based on such RI landscape views, we can identify the most relevant bilateral interactions of for eLTER RI:



eLTER RI will complement the in situ networks for standardised large scale observations (ICOS, ACTRIS, DANUBIUS) and experimentation (AnaEE, AQUACOSM) in their capacities to provide data, modelling, data analysis and workflow automation. The eLTER RI will be compatible with as many standards as possible (set by existing initiatives for environmental long-term monitoring research like ICOS, CLRTAP/UNECE-WGE). This is central to the intended co-location strategy of eLTER RI. A Memorandum of Cooperation already specifies the synergies between in situ biodiversity observations as organized by eLTER and data workflows and analytical tools provided by LifeWatch. Furthermore, eLTER RI will make use of generic supporting e-infrastructures and reference infrastructures such as EUDAT, EOSC and DiSSCo.

Each environmental RI has its particular identity. The unique characteristics of eLTER are: (1) the consistent Whole System Approach covering abiotic and biotic system components, (2) the nested design at multiple scales and (3) the LTSER component, i.e. the direct societal relevance and the embedded tools for analysing features linked to societally-relevant properties (e.g. competing land uses, protection of recreational values, preservation of drinking water etc.).

eLTER encompasses LTER-Europe, a community of national long-term ecosystem research site networks, as well as major projects to develop eLTER RI, a whole ecosystem European Research Infrastructure under the ESFRI framework

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Integrated European Long-Term Ecosystem, critical zone and socio-economical systems Research

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