

A DISTRIBUTED RESEARCH INFRASTRUCTURE WITH CENTRAL SERVICES

eLTER RI will comprise National Research Infrastructures (NRIs) and European level Central Services.

National Research Infrastructures (NRI)

Partner countries provide the national in-situ building blocks (eLTER Sites and eLTSER Platforms). Distributed site-operations will be concerted (instrumentation, observation variables) and follow standards (protocols, data flows). Sites and platforms will be open for research and education via a common access scheme.

Central Services

A range of services will make eLTER RI much more than the sum of its national networks. Service providers will comprise the Head Office (coordination, outreach, strategic development & collaborations, operation of central Service Portal) and Topic Centres. Collectively, the Topic Centres will cover Thematic Service Areas like data management, interoperability, data analysis & modelling, technological innovation, and synthesis of actionable knowledge.

SUPPORTING PROJECTS

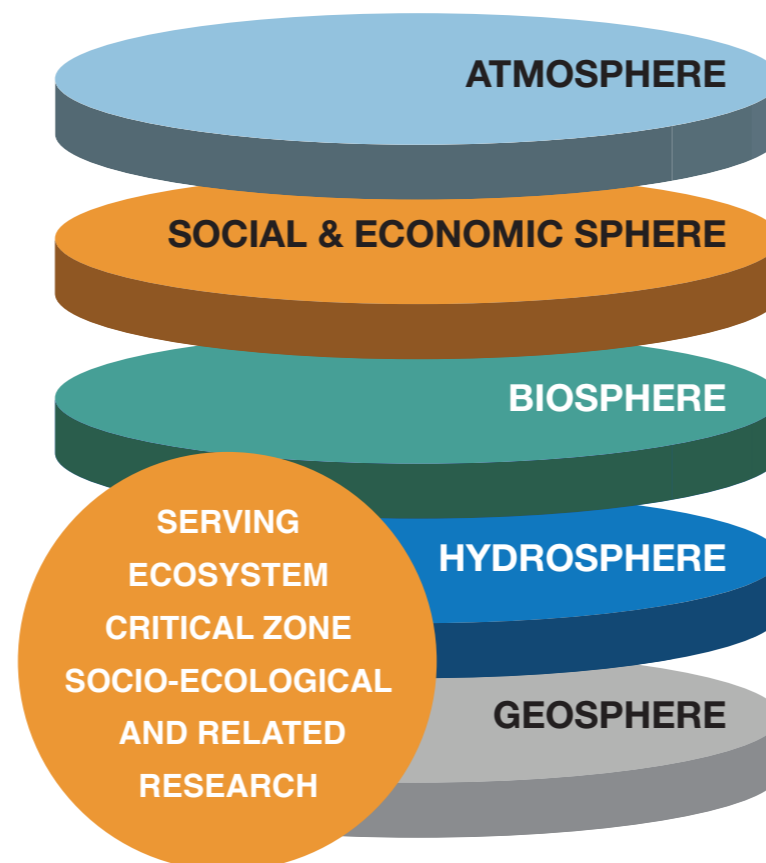
Since 2020, the provision, testing and development of the eLTER RI has been supported by two EU-funded 5-year projects involving 27 countries: **eLTER PLUS** is testing the performance of existing components through scientific case studies and is identifying the needs of a wide range of scientific and other user groups (Coordinator: Jaana Bäck, UHEL/Finland). **eLTER PPP**, the eLTER RI Preparatory Phase Project is facilitating the formalisation of eLTER RI as an ERIC (Coordinator: Michael Mirtl, UFZ/Germany).



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Images courtesy of LTER-Europe members

The information in this brochure is valid for 2022



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INTEGRATED EUROPEAN
LONG-TERM ECOSYSTEM,
CRITICAL ZONE AND SOCIO-ECOLOGICAL
RESEARCH INFRASTRUCTURE



BROCHURE
FOR
SCIENTIFIC USERS &
eLTER
COMMUNITY



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THE CHALLENGE

An innovative research environment for the next generation of scientists

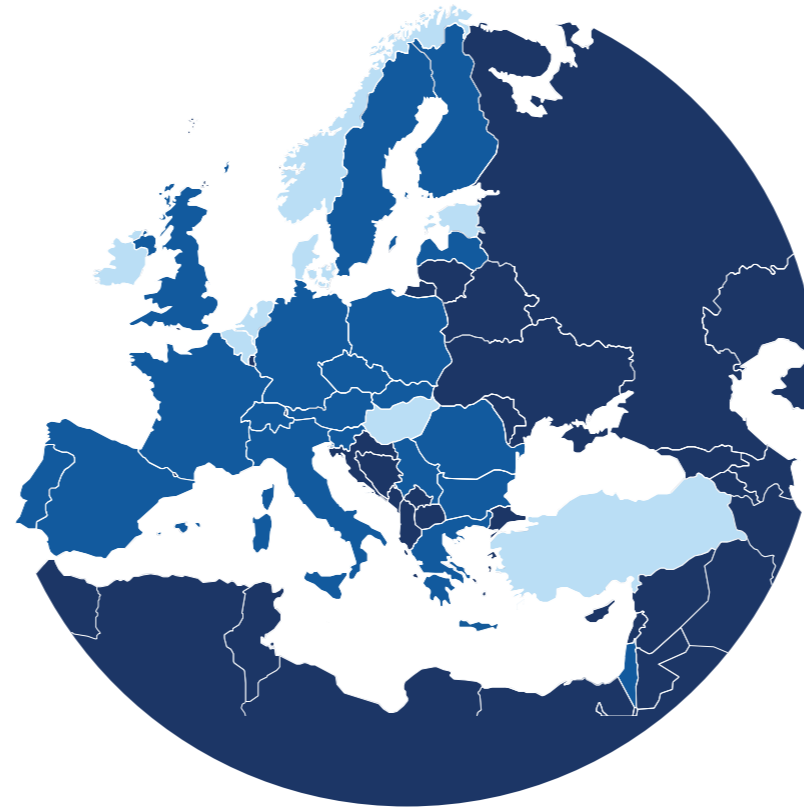
We live in a world of rapid social, economic and ecosystem change, facing major challenges such as global warming, biodiversity loss and pressures on natural resources. Addressing these topics requires world-class ecosystem, critical zone and socio-ecological research by communities of experts well-connected across various disciplines.

eLTER RI will catalyse scientific discovery through its state-of-the-art in-situ facilities and tools, open and accessible data, collaborative working culture, transdisciplinary expertise and its demand-driven service portfolio, comprising analytical tools and capacity building activities.

HOLISTIC SCIENCE

eLTER RI will adopt a fundamentally systemic approach to observe and analyse the human-environmental system, encompassing biological, geological, hydrological and socio-ecological perspectives. eLTER RI will be the first research infrastructure capturing and analysing holistically the integrated impacts of climate change alongside other pressures on a wide variety of European ecosystems.

It comprises in-situ Standard Observations range from biophysico-chemical to biodiversity and socio-ecological variables. Ecosystem change caused by long-term pressures and short-term pulses are investigated in a nested design from the local to the continental scale.



Support for eLTER RI

- Politically supported by 20 countries
- ~165 supporting institutions from 28 countries

KEY FEATURES OF eLTER RI

- Wide scale and systematic coverage of major European terrestrial, freshwater and transitional water ecosystems – ca. 250 research sites, selected from a wider pool of ~600 LTER-Europe sites
- Investigation of interactions between abiotic and biotic ecosystem components at multiple scales, including human-environment interactions
- Research into ecosystem processes influenced by multiple drivers, as well as socio-ecological research relating to ecosystem services
- Integrated, long-term and high quality observations across the critical zone, supporting whole ecosystem science
- Central Services provided by: Head Office, Service Portal and thematic Topic Centres
- Strong links with other European environmental RIs (e.g., ICOS, AnaEE, LifeWatch) and international collaboration, e.g., global LTER (ILTER), Global Ecosystem Research Infrastructure (GERI).

eLTER RI'S UPCOMING RESPONSE TO THE NEEDS OF THE SCIENTIFIC USERS AND THE eLTER COMMUNITY

Research on global environmental challenges requires efficient collaboration between disciplines and countries

- eLTER addresses the research needs for an improved understanding of the long-term impacts of multiple pressures on ecosystems at local, regional and continental scale;
- eLTER improves the capacity to predict long-term trends and system trajectories and enables upscaling and forecasting of the ecosystem responses to climate change, biodiversity loss, soil degradation, pollution, and over-exploitation on major European ecosystems;
- eLTER catalyses scientific collaboration and connects the research on the geosphere, hydrosphere, biosphere and atmosphere to human and societal systems in a holistic, transdisciplinary manner.

The constant development of unique and accessible eLTER Services brings added value to research

- eLTER integrates the *in-situ* data from ~250 sites and platforms and other data sources into 'Information Clusters'. Researchers can seamlessly access resources across domains, enabling large-scale analyses and interpretation through its one-stop-shop Service Portal;
- eLTER facilitates access to its sites and platforms and opens their data for new users, ensuring the sustainability of site and platform operations;
- Through data management standards eLTER increases interoperability and enhances data integration among its peers, stakeholders and user communities.

Innovating novel, up-to-date research tools and training of researchers in the Whole system research

- eLTER promotes excellence in scientific research by developing and implementing modern tools, standardised observations and innovative, novel methods for ecosystem, critical zone and socio-ecological research;
- eLTER invests in the current and next generation of European ecosystem scientists to strengthen their expertise, skills and capacities.