

Integrated European Long-Term Ecosystem, critical zone and socio-ecological Research eLTER

Scientific area:	Life Sciences (Socio-ecology)
Host country:	Germany
Infrastructure type:	Distributed
Legal entity:	ERIC (to be established),
Dutch node or similar:	eLTER-NL, Prospective member (NIOO)
Established:	2018, ESFRI project
The Netherlands member since:	2018
Phase:	Preparatory

Duration of agreement

n/a

Terms of withdrawal

n/a

Access to facilities

n/a

Access to data

n/a

User definition

Scientists from natural science fields, including soil sciences, ecosystem sciences, biodiversity, social ecology, hydrology, environmental data science and applied biosphere-atmosphere interactions research; this includes also researchers working in related environmental networks and RIs (ICP forests, ICOS, LifeWatch etc.). Most sites also offer higher education for natural science students at universities and applied universities. Third important user group is local and regional agencies involved with environmental monitoring. A link to industry exists via technology and innovation activities.

Description

eLTER (Integrated European Long-Term Ecosystem, critical zone and socio-ecological Research) is the European regional group of ILTER (International Long Term Ecological Research Network). eLTER responds to the challenge of understanding the complex interactions between people and nature over the long term. eLTER aims to facilitate research on the impacts of climate change, biodiversity loss, soil degradation, pollution and unsustainable resource use on a range of European ecosystems and socio-ecological systems. eLTER provides central facilities, distributed eLTER sites and socio-ecological eLTER Platforms/eLTER facilities. eLTER is currently in the preparatory phase; operations are expected to begin in 2025. Currently, eLTER consists of 25 member states.

Financial details

Mean Dutch membership over 5 year period (k€)

n/a

Mean Dutch share of contribution over 5 year period (%)

n/a, as no financial contributions are made to eLTER yet, as the preparatory phase is funded by the European Commission.

Financial details

Financial details between 2016-2020

n/a

Dutch membership fee as a percentage of total membership fees

n/a

Employee statistics

n/a

Comments by the RI

eLTER RI started its preparatory phase project in February 2020 and is not yet an organisation/legal entity. We do however have information about the project gender balance.

Use of the infrastructure**User information**

n/a

Comments by the RI

eLTER RI has started its preparatory phase project in Feb. 2020 and eLTER RIs service portfolio is currently specified and RI services not yet in place. Therefore we cannot calculate numbers of users. The preparatory work has started when the eLTER RI was accepted on the ESFRI Roadmap in 2018. Since then we have started developing services, tools and user engagement for different user groups. eLTER ERIC will start its operations in 2025 according to the current plan. eLTER RI is not yet counting numbers of users of the RI, however we have information from the sites that are planning to become part of the RI.

Application information**Number of applications/requests to use the RI**

n/a

Comments by the RI

eLTER RI has started its preparatory phase project in Feb. 2020 and is not yet counting numbers of applications/requests to use the RI. However, the Transnational access calls in the ongoing eLTER PLUS project have yielded altogether 26 proposals requesting >500 user day access to sites and platforms. This was in years 2020-2021, so covid pandemics obviously had a major impact on the applications and their implementation. We are running a Transnational access program but at the moment the Dutch sites are not participating.

Sample request information**Number of sample requests to the RI**

n/a

Comments by the RI

eLTER RI has started its preparatory phase project in Feb. 2020 and is not yet counting numbers of sample requests to the RI. The ongoing project eLTER PLUS received 6 Remote access calls in 2020-2021.

Data request information**Number of requests for data to the RI**

n/a

Comments by the RI

eLTER RI has started its preparatory phase project in Feb. 2020 and is not yet counting numbers of requests for data sets to the RI. The eLTER PLUS project has organized several data requests in 2020-21, and received 235 datasets on biodiversity, performed 24 years' simulations and model runs on continental scale water use efficiency, and collected a series of datasets for site specific integrated data clusters.

Contributions provided by organisations or companies in the participating countries

n/a

Comments by the RI

eLTER RI has started its preparatory phase project in Feb. 2020 and is not yet receiving contributions by organisations or companies. However, eLTER roadmap proposal listed altogether 142 M€ contributions from 21 countries (78 RPOs) between 2017-2021 to the already existing sites and platforms. NL did not provide any Financial commitment letters to the Roadmap proposal. eLTER RI has started its preparatory phase project in Feb 2020 and is not yet receiving contributions by organisations or companies.

Total sum spent on other deliveries such as equipment, services and consumables

n/a

Dutch percentage out of total sum spent on other deliveries such as equipment, services and consumables:

n/a

Comments by the RI

eLTER RI has started its preparatory phase project in Feb. 2020 and is not yet receiving contributions such as equipment services and consumables. The cost estimates are part of the preparatory phase project and will be available before the implementation starts.

Income from user fees

n/a

Comments by the RI

eLTER RI has started its preparatory phase project in Feb. 2020 and is not yet receiving income from user fees. Basic assumption is that the data and access will be free for scientific users.

Additional questions to the RI

What is the Dutch contribution to the RI?

The eLTER ESFRI process is ongoing and the participation of countries to the Interim Council is open to all LTER Europe countries. The national coordinators of the Dutch LTER network (Bruno Ens and Marcel E. Visser,) are involved in the preparatory phase project and supporting/consulting the specifications of the eLTER RI in meetings and workshops. They coordinate the national RI component in the Netherlands, and in preparation for nominating the NL delegation to Interim Council, also delivering the needed background material to the ministries and RPO leadership when requested.

Currently, are there any RI's that provide similar kinds of research infrastructure and services as yours in the world?

eLTER RI is closely collaborating with the Global Ecosystem Research Infrastructure (GERI) participants: NEON, TERN, SAEON, CERN and ICOS.

What are the overlaps and what are the main differences? To which extent do you cooperate or compete?

The focus in ICOS is on greenhouse gases and their fluxes, whereas eLTER is integrating these measurements to e.g. land use, biodiversity and socio-ecology. SAEON is a regional integrated RI in South Africa, and the other GERI partners are continental scale RIs (NEON=US, CERN=China, TERN=Australia). eLTER is covering the European continent from Mediterranean basin to Arctic and from Atlantic coastline to Black Sea.

What are the RI's major educational and outreach activities?

eLTER is organising regularly meetings for the Site and Platform coordinators' Forum for sharing expertise, joint activity planning and training to the staff at local sites. Further, as most eLTER sites are owned by universities, there are numerous training activities at BSc, MSc and PhD levels, including workshops, data seminars, and training for operating the measurements. The eLTER Newsletter is published on a bimonthly basis and the website (eLTER-ri.eu) has updated information of events and activities.