



Supporting long-term research infrastructure

ALTER-Net actively promotes interdisciplinary ecosystem research. Such research requires an effective supporting infrastructure. Recognizing this, ALTER-Net helped to establish the multifunctional, interdisciplinary, European Long-Term Ecosystem Research network, **LTER-Europe** (www.lter-europe.net).

LTER-Europe...

- comprises 24 national networks (more in development)
- is a network of instrumented research sites and other facilities enabling studies at a range of spatial and temporal scales
- is a community of highly knowledgeable scientists, technicians and data managers
- facilitates the investigation of biodiversity-related questions.

Many of ALTER-Net's partner institutes operate LTER site networks. Close collaboration between the two networks links the planning of biodiversity, ecosystem and socio-ecological research with actual monitoring and field-based experimentation.

Under the auspices of ALTER-Net, LTER-Europe has built research collaborations, promoted joint use of facilities by other networks, created a site metadata management system, encouraged the establishment of research platforms incorporating socio-ecological research and promoted easier access to data.

Find out more: www.alter-net.info > About us > What we do > Infrastructure



Further developing Europe's infrastructure for ecosystem research

LTER-Europe and the Critical Zone Observatories (CZO) are collaborating on an EU-funded project, *eLTER*, to further develop European long-term ecosystem research infrastructure (RI). Half of the eLTER consortium are ALTER-Net partners.

The aim is to expand network level services, usability, accessibility and interoperability of the "LTER Infrastructure" (long-term ecosystem research sites and socio-ecological research platforms) to support research targeted at producing management and policy relevant decision support.

Efforts are also underway to establish this joint LTER-Europe/CZO RI as a formal component of a European Research Infrastructure, through a proposal to the European Strategy Forum on Research Infrastructures, ESFRI). ALTER-Net is one of 16 European and global user networks supporting this proposal.

ALTER-Net: Europe's ecosystem research network
www.alter-net.info

