



Environmental quality and pressures assessment across Europe



ENVEUROPE

Coordination Plenary Meeting

Kaunas

May 21<sup>st</sup>-24<sup>th</sup> 2012



# 4<sup>th</sup> ENVEUROPE PLENARY MEETING



- Bologna (March 2010) - KOM
- Budapest (March 2011)
- Bucharest (November 2011)
- **Kaunas (May 2012)**



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# International Conference

## "Biological Reactions of Forests to Climate Change and Air Pollution"



### Session 7 "Environmental Quality and Pressures Assessment under Global Changes"

### ICP & ENVEUROPE Session

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# TUESDAY 22<sup>nd</sup>

Morning (8:00-12:00)

- Communication from the Coordination: general outline of the main technical and financial issues.
- Activity report and next steps from each Action (6-8-1-2-3-4-5)
- Discussion (after each presentation)
- Invited presence of the members of the AC



# TUESDAY 22<sup>nd</sup>

## Whole day 10:30-18:00

One-to-one **FINANCIAL CONSULTATION** between the Aster Team (Cristina Boccafogli and Laura Mengozzi) and each Beneficiary.

CONTINUING ALSO ON **WEDNESDAY 23<sup>rd</sup> (8:00-17:00) & ON THURSDAY 24<sup>th</sup> (8:00-10:00)**

# TUESDAY 22<sup>nd</sup>

15:15-17:00

## Session 7 "Environmental Quality and Pressures Assessment under Global Changes"

Chair persons: Lars Lundin and Alessandra Pugnetti

Organized by ICP IM and ENVeurope.

International Conference

"Biological Reactions of Forests to Climate Change and Air Pollution"



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# WEDNESDAY 23<sup>rd</sup>



**8:00-11:00**

## ACTION 3

Presentation and discussion of project proposals

**11:00-16:00**

## ACTION 5

- presentations and update of field activities, current and future planning
- metadata and data reporting issues (connection to A1)
- update, planning and fine-tuning of the exemplary week (connection with A6)

One-to-one **FINANCIAL CONSULTATION: 8:00-17:00.**

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# THURSDAY 24<sup>th</sup>

**8:00-10:00**

One-to-one **FINANCIAL CONSULTATION**

**10:00-12:00**

QA/QCC meeting and discussion  
(only for QA/QCC members, A7 and A8)

International Conference  
"Biological Reactions of Forests to  
Climate Change and Air Pollution"



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# TUESDAY 22<sup>nd</sup>

Morning (8:00-12:00)

## 1. Communication from the Coordination: general outline of the main technical and financial issues.

- Activity report and next steps from each Action (6-8-1-2-3-4-5)
- Discussion (after each presentation)
- Invited presence of the members of the AC

## A7.2. SCIENTIFIC AND TECHNICAL COORDINATION



Presentation and discussion of:

- 1) Activities & results achieved (Progress Report Sep 2010- Nov 2011)
  - 2) Problems encountered and viability of the project
- 1) Next activities (2012)



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# DECEMBER 12<sup>th</sup> 2011

MEETING between EnvEurope Coordination Team and Mr. Ghezzi (Astrale Monitoring Team)



- No relevant concerns about technical issues  
Constant attention to be paid on possible delays
- Suggestions and concerns about financial issues  
They will be dealt by Cristina (next presentation)





January 2012  
Delivery of the Progress Report to EC



LIFE Project Number  
LIFE08 ENV/IT/000399

Progress Report  
Covering the project activities from 01/09/2010 to 30/11/2011<sup>1</sup>

Reporting Date  
30/11/2011

LIFE+ PROJECT NAME or Acronym  
ENVEUROPE

Data Project

Project location	Italy, Finland, Germany, Romania, Hungary, Poland, Lithuania, Austria, Spain, Sweden, Bulgaria
Project start date	01/01/2010
Project end date	31/12/2013
Total budget	€6,067,876
EC contribution	€3,033,938
(%) of eligible costs	50%

Data Beneficiary

Name Beneficiary	CNR
Contact person	Dr. Alessandra Pagnetti
Postal address	Casella 136/A
Telephone	+39 061 2404711
Fax	+39 061 5204126
E-mail	alessandra.pagnetti@ismar.cnr.it
Project Website	www.enveurope.eu

<sup>1</sup>The financial part refers to period 01/01/2010 to 30/09/2011

- The PR was delivered instead of the mid-term one

-Period: September 2010-November 2011

-Deliverables:

- A1 - Report on data stored into the new data-base
- A1 - Metadata base
- A2 - Manual with new harmonized methods &

Revised manual of pre-existing manuals

- A4 - Report on Restructuring of network
- A5 - Reports on field activity, data harmonization and sampling coordination

- A6 – Leaflet, Poster, Pictures

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March 2012

## Response to the Progress Report from EC

(Ms Anne Louise Friedrichsen

LIFE Environment and Eco-Innovation Deputy Head of Unit)

- There are no serious technical issues to be raised.
- The actions are proceeding more or less as planned and that you are well aware of the delays as well as of the counter measures you need to carry out in order to avoid extending these delays further.
- There is still time to recover them without compromising the quality of the data that you are collecting and of the overall network that you are building up.
- Activities are progressing smoothly and research results and databases created so far are sufficient and detailed.
- The outputs produced so far are of a very good quality, ensuring the sustainability and usability of project results also after its end-date.

# March 2012

## Response to the Progress Report from EC

### Technical and financial issues raised (Annex)

#### ANNEX

##### Technical issues

1. I would like to remind you that the upgrading of the website should be carried out as soon as possible and in any case no later than at the mid-term stage.
2. Please urge your Associated Beneficiaries to intensify their efforts in the organisation of the foreseen workshops and dissemination events.
3. Action 8 - I understand that the summary reports on action monitoring are not included among the project's deliverables, but I invite you to at least upload them on the project's website.

##### Financial and administrative issues

1. I acknowledge your request to involve an external auditor at mid-term stage. However, please note that this is not required by the project and cannot be included in the project costs. If you wish to carry out an external audit, then the cost should be entirely borne by the beneficiary and partners.
2. Your request to include ASTER in the project partnership starting from the day following our communication on 21/11/2011 and to regard the work done up to that point under external assistance as eligible is acceptable in principle, but this request will be thoroughly evaluated once it is received.
3. Please provide with the mid-term report a detailed feedback, item by item, on the financial and administrative points raised in our letter of 31/03/2011, providing assurance that all the points raised therein have been addressed. Please also provide a copy of at least one timesheet for each Associated Beneficiary.
4. Please be reminded to provide with the mid-term report appropriate documents for non-recoverable VAT for all project beneficiaries that need to claim VAT as a cost.

3

1. Upgrading of the website (A7 and A6)
2. Intensification of Abs' efforts in the organisation of the foreseen dissemination events (All ABs!)
3. Upload on the website the summary reports on action monitoring (A7 & A8)

1. Involvement of an external auditor at mid-term stage

2. Inclusion of ASTER in the project partnership

3. Provide with the mid-term report a detailed feedback, item by item, on the financial and administrative points raised in our letter of 31/03/2011

4. VAT





What have we produced until now?



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We all know that...

1. EnvEurope was motivated and conceived in response to challenges of research within the site network of LTER-Europe and it is synergistically dealing with several key aims of LTER-Europe.

Basically we are “learning to be a network”

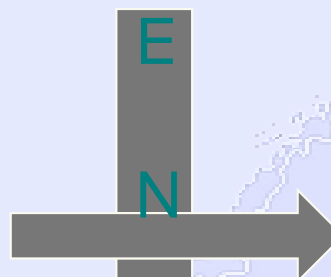
2. The project is providing substantial and proof-tested proposals for the network structure, standard procedures and cross-site workflows of the LTER-Europe network.

3. The expected ultimate impact is to streamline standard procedures require to support scientific research and increase the visibility of LTER-Europe as a reference network for policy makers and environmental managers at the European level.

4. Contribution to the GMES initiative: official validation network and in-situ data provider for the GMES ecologically meaningful product, by addressing upscaling issues and providing independent validation of GMES products with in-situ collected data.

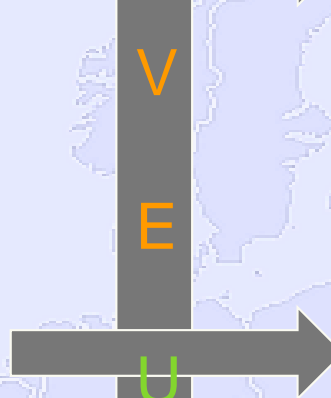


Missing knowledge  
about quality  
and extension  
of data



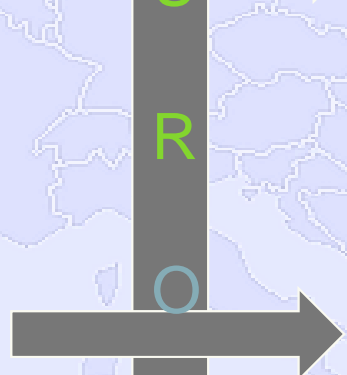
Available and distributed  
Knowledge about quality  
and extension of data

Missing visibility  
of nodes and network



Large visibility  
of nodes and network

Poor information  
about data and network



Many information  
about data and  
their sharing

## NEW OPPORTUNITIES FOR THE LTER NETWORK

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# GATHERING INFORMATION ABOUT THE SITES

1. Updating of the list of the LTER-Europe sites and contact

2. Information on:

sites infrastructure, operation and data availability, status of the network and heterogeneity among sites (bio-geographical characteristics, instrumentation, linkage to national and international initiatives, applied methodologies, extension of data series, data format and quality)

3. Identification of the main research topics addressed at the site and their potential to provide reference data from areas of nature conservation.

4. First results and elaboration (Avila, Bucharest)

5. Joint activity of EnvEurope and LTER-Europe: Expert Panel on Network Design aimed at developing a formal link between EnvEurope and the LTER-Europe Network

ACTION 4 & ACTION 1



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# DEVELOPING A PILOT FOR INTEGRATED AND SHARED ENVIRONMENTAL INFORMATION MANAGEMENT



1. Definition of the metadatabase architecture, for discovery of sites (site metadata) and datasets (metadata on data), identifying a feasible level of interoperability with other components of LTER networks and providing metadata from the LTER-Europe domain to the European Spatial Data Infrastructure, defined by INSPIRE directive framework on the data themes
1. Development of a controlled vocabulary (EnvThes), through the evaluation of the existing terms in the identified standard controlled vocabularies and the definition of missing terms
1. Starting up of the gathering of the datasets (A1, A2, A3 and A5)

All this has been done enlarging the expert base (LTER-Europe, LTER-International, national networks, FP7 Expeer): results beyond EnvEurope

## ACTION 1

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# ELABORATION AND HARMONIZATION OF ASSESSMENT METHODOLOGIES FOR THE SELECTED ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY PARAMETERS

Comparability of data gained at hundreds of long-term ecosystem research and monitoring sites across Europe

1. a comprehensive proposal for standard indicators, targeting at focal qualities of ecosystems related to structures and processes based on the conceptual framework of “Ecological Integrity” (ability to sustainable self-organisation of ecosystems as a base for indicator selection)

2. a user-friendly manual containing a review and selection of abiotic and biotic indicators and of methods internationally established and applied for new parameters and parameters already measured at LTER sites

All this has been done enlarging the expert base (LTER-Europe, national networks, FP7Expeer): results beyond EnvEurope

## ACTION 2





# DEFINITION OF MAIN RESEARCH TOPICS AND RELATED DATA TYPOLOGIES FOR THE ELABORATION OF LONG-TERM ECOLOGICAL DATA SETS

1. Sharing of scientific data in a common database, which will then allow further evaluation and development of the concept of environmental quality and its trends across Europe, by means of scientific analysis.
2. Project proposals (bottom-up) aimed at long-term metadata and data analysis, involving as many as possible sites. Opportunity to investigate hypothesis using available and widely diverse data.

## ACTION 3 & ACTION 1



# TESTING IN THE FIELD PHASE

Testing the LTER network as a harmonized set of sites

1. Measurement of a broad spectrum of parameters & methods recommended by Action 2 and proposed by A3
2. A preliminary test has been implemented in 2011 on a sub-set of EnvEurope sites. The central year for the campaign is 2012, when all the sites will be participating.
3. According to the variability of the European ecosystems and LTER sites, a set of the recommended parameters are crosscutting among the sites (e.g. meteorology, substrate chemistry, primary productivity, biodiversity), while another part of them is habitat specific.
4. Contribute to the developing a database of commonly established parameters

ACTION 5 & ACTION 2  
ACTION 3 & ACTION 1



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## NEXT STEPS - 2012

Delivery to EC of the MID-TERM REPORT with the request of the second EC cofinancing

- To be delivered: end of September 2012  
N.B. One-year delay due to the low ABs expenditure
- Contribution from ARs: end of August 2012
- Technical Content: synthesis of the activities starting from the beginning of the project (see IR & PR + updating from 1/12/2011)
- Financial content: Very detailed, up to the end of June 2012;  
Recommendations from Cristina Boccafogli & Aster group



## NEXT STEPS - 2012

### 4 DELIVERABLES

**1.A3 (30/06) "REPORT ON CAUSE-EFFECT ANALYSIS AND DATA EVALUATION"**

2.A2 (31/12) "REVISED MANUAL WITH NEW HARMONIZED METHODS"

3.A2 (31/12) "RECOMMENDATION ON DESIGN OF SAMPLING STATIONS/SITES"

4.A6 (31/12) "BULLETTIN"

### 3 MILESTONES

**1.A5 (30/04) "SUBMISSION OF COLLECTED DATA IN THE FIELD"**

**2.A1 (30/09) "OPERATIONAL VALIDATED DATABASE OF ALL DATA"**

3. A3 (31/12) "RESULTS ON CAUSE-EFFECTS ANALYSIS"

# NEXT STEPS - 2013

## 15 DELIVERABLES

1.A1 (30/06) "MANUAL FOR DATA MANAGEMENT STANDARDS TO BE USED IN LT SITES"

2.A1 (30/06) "GUIDELINES ON METHODS CONSISTENCIES"

3.A1 (30/06) "MANUAL ON QUALITY CHECKED DATASETS SY SELECTED LT SITES"

4.A1 (30/06) "DATABASE"

5. A1 (30/06) "RECOMMENDATIONS ON SEIS RELEVANCE"

6.A3 (31/12) "REPORT ON ECOSYSTEM STATUS"

7.A3 (31/12) "RECOMMENDATIONS ON INDICATORS OF ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY AND BIODIVERSITY STATUS AND TRENDS"

8.A3 (31/12) "RECOMMENDATIONS ON SCALING UP LTER NETWORK"

## NEXT STEPS - 2013

### 15 DELIVERABLES

9. A4 (31/12) "GUIDELINES ON EU NETWORK FOR MONITORING OF ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY"
10. A4 (31/12) "VIDEO"
11. A5 (31/12) "REPORT ON FIELD ACTIVITY, DATA HARMONISATION AND SAMPLING COORDINATION"
12. A6 (31/01) LEAFLET
13. A6 (31/12) LAYMAN'S REPORT
14. A6 (31/12) "BULLETIN"
15. A6 (31/12) MEETINGS



# NEXT STEPS

2013

## 2. MILESTONES

1.A5 (30/04) "SUBMISSION OF COLLECTED DATA IN THE FIELD"

2.A4 (31/12) "FINAL PROPOSAL OF METHODS, MONITORING DESIGN AND EUROPEAN NETWORK FOR MONITORING OF ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY"

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# NEXT STEPS

## MEETINGS

2012

- TECHNICAL MEETINGS OF A1, A3, A4 AND A5
- PLENARY MEETING: NOV/DEC - BULGARIA



2013

- TECHNICAL MEETINGS: TO BE DECIDED
- 2 PLENARY MEETING: MARCH - FINLAND, SEPTEMBER - SPAIN
- FINAL MEETING: DECEMBERE - ITALY



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## NEXT STEPS

### CONTRIBUTION FROM ABS

VERY CAREFUL AND PROMPT RESPONSIVENESS TO ARS AND COORDINATION REQUESTS

PAY ATTENTION TO THE THREE-MONTH PLANNING

- DELIVERY OF THE DATASETS (A1 & A3)
- CONTRIBUTION TO THE PROJECTS (A3)
- FILLING OF THE METADATA EDITOR (A1)
- TESTING IN THE FIELD PHASE & DATA DELIVERY (A5 & A1)
- UPDATING OF PARAMETERS, INDICATORS INFOS & MANUALS (A2)
- NATIONAL ACTIVATION OF CONTACTS FOR GMES (A4)
- ORGANIZATION OF DISSEMINATION EVENTS (A6)
- PARTICIPATION TO EXEMPLARY WEEK (A5 & A6)
- FINANCIAL REPORTING (A7)



# VERY IMPORTANT!



- THE RATE OF EXPENDITURE FOR MANY (TOO MANY!) ABS HAS BEEN VERY LOW
- MUCH LESS THAN 50% OF THE BUDGET SPENT IN THE FIRST 30 MONTHS
- THE PRESENT EXPENDITURE RATE AND ITS PERSPECTIVE WILL BE CHECKED DURING THIS MEETING AND UPDATED UNTIL JUNE-SEPTEMBER 2012
- ACCORDINGLY THE COORDINATOR WILL REALLOCATE BUDGET IN 2013



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# FINANCIAL MANAGEMENT



Cristina Boccafogli  
(Aster)

Kaunas, 21 °-24 ° May 2012

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March 2012  
Response to the Progress Report from EC  
**Technical and financial issues raised (Annex)**



## 2. Inclusion of ASTER in the project partnership

- CNR involved since the beginning as an in house organization, ASTER, as an external assistant for the activities in Action 6 and 7.
- Aster is a consortium among the regional government, universities and regional research centres, created to provide also these kinds of services to the shareholders.
- In order to assure the fulfilment of the article nr. 8.4 of the Common Provision, CNR asked for a formal legal advice to its attorney with a special expertise in public tendering
- On 12/04/2011: new note, issued by head of Units E3 and E4, concerning the participation of private-law companies owned by public authorities to LIFE/LIFE+ projects.
- As a consequence, we asked our attorney for an additional legal opinion, that confirmed that, being ASTER an in-house organization, the procedures followed for this subcontract are compliant with the National and the EU directives.
- We then asked EC offices to reassure us on the correctness of the procedures followed so far or to give us advice on the necessary steps to take in order to guarantee the eligibility of this cost.







March 2012  
Response to the Progress Report from EC  
**Technical and financial issues raised (Annex)**



## 2. Inclusion of ASTER in the project partnership

- The EC Unit reference did not accept our request
- Only solution proposed: include Aster as a EnvEurope AB through a formal request of amendment in order to consider Asters' personnel costs as eligible
- Aster AB starting from Dec 1<sup>st</sup> 2011
- Implications: changes in the total budget for project EA (reduced). This change will produce a shift among three different category costs of the activity (from external assistance to personnel and travel)
- Preparation of a project amendment that, beside, include also the communication of changes in legal status of two ABs (with all the related documents changes and signature) and changes in the co-financing

