

**Including 3<sup>rd</sup> Scientific Site Co-ordinator conference (SSCC) with Scientific Open Space, meeting of National Networks (NNRC), LTER-Europe Expert Panels (EP) and project specific working groups and follow-up meetings**

**Agenda and background information**

version: I3066v01\_FinalAgenda\_6th\_LTER\_Europe\_Conf\_Majorca08.doc

M. Mirtl, Vienna, 27<sup>th</sup> November 2008

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## **1 Overview (details and background information below)**

*See also first and second circular of the conference and background documents on the WEB site <http://www.lter-europe.net/events/lter-events/6th-lter-europe-meeting-majorca>*

### **Monday, 1st Dec.:**

- Scientific Open Space
- Science Strategy Expert Panel & LTER-Europe Best Examples Book

### **Tuesday, 2<sup>nd</sup> Dec.:**

- Scientific Site Co-ordinators Conference (SSCC): LTSER focus
- LTSER Expert Panel
- Technology Expert Panel

### **Wed, 3<sup>rd</sup> Dec.:**

- Standardisation Expert Panel
- Communication Expert Panel
- Information Management Expert Panel
- Excursion

### **Thursday, 4<sup>th</sup> Dec.:**

- National Networks Representatives Conference (NNRC)
- In parallel: ALTER-Net Work package I6 meeting
- In parallel: ad hoc working groups (development of projects initiated in the Open Space etc.)

### **Friday, 5<sup>th</sup> Dec.:**

- ALTER-Net Work Package I3 meeting and LTER-Europe core group meeting (Executive Committee)
- ALTER-Net "Goal LTER" meeting
- ALTER-Net Work Package I6 meeting
- ALTER-Net Work Package R4 meeting (fuzzy cognitive mapping)
- Work of LTER-Europe expert panels (if required)
- In parallel: ad hoc working groups (development of projects initiated in the Open Space etc.)

### **Saturday, 6<sup>th</sup> Dec.:**

- Ad hoc working groups (development of projects initiated in the Open Space, LTER-Europe Best Examples Book joint wordsmithing, Science Strategy etc.)
- Ecosystem Service Initiative: Work of individual sites or platforms; ev. first synthesis meeting (reconfirmation of project co-ordinator pending)

## 2 Time plan: Overview

An overview of the conference is given in the background document

I3066v02\_Final\_TimePlan\_Majorca08.xls

## 3 Rooms

The meeting will be held in **two main rooms** in the hotel. Location of the rooms is indicated in the floors, elevators etc.)

Room **Zarabanda** (big room with daylight on the level of the terrasse and pool)

- **All parts of the meeting without other indication will be held here. Other rooms are indicated in the agenda in square brackets [xxxxx]**
- All plenary meetings
- The bigger one of the parallel expert panels

Room **Creta** (also some daylight)

- The smaller one of the parallel expert panels
- Bigger ad hoc meetings and working groups

In addition we have room **Madison** (cafeteria just outside the main room)

- Smaller groups (projects)
- ... the place for visions and networking!

Details and changes during the week will be indicated on the conference black board, which will have a section for each part or sub-event of the conference.

## **4 Agenda (for details see section "Background information")**

### **4.1 Monday, 1st Dec.: Science day: Open Space**

9.00 – 9.30 Welcome and introduction

- M. Mirtl & K. Krauze for LTER-Europe
- T. Parr for ILTER

9.30 **Open Space: Presentation and discussion of project outlines, Part A** (Chair: E. Groner)

9.30 Introduction: E. Groner & M. Kertesz

9.40 Biodiversity and Bioenergy (Taru Peltola)

9.55 ISSE: experience of contribution (Miki Kertesz)

10.10 LIFE+ project EnvEurope (Alessandra Pugnetti)

10.25 Aquatic alien species along the main European invasive corridors (Vitaliy Semenchenko)

10.40 EDIT and the ATBI+M concept (Juan Carlos Monje)

**11.00-11.30 Break**

11.30 **Open Space – Part B** (Chair: E. Groner)

11.30 Input change and Community Re-Organization (ICRO) Hypothesis using incidence-abundance methodology (Cornelia Baessler)

11.45 Final discussion

**13.00 – 14.00 Lunch**

**14.00 – 19.00 Plenary**

14.00 Introduction of delegates (Chair: M. Mirtl)

15.00 – 15.30 **Science strategy** for LTER-Europe (Chair: K. Krauze)

Introductory lecture by L. Braat

Current status – K. Krauze

**15.30 – 16.00 Break**

16.00 – 17.10 Group work on elements of science strategy (details ad hoc)

17.10 – 17.30 Reports back to the plenary (K. Krauze)

17.30 – 18.00 **ILTER-Europe Best Examples Book** - current status and decisions on main sections and required work on these sections and preparation of general book sections (K. Krauze)

**18:00 – 18:15 Short break (no coffee & tea)**

18.15 – 19.00 **Catching up with the LTER-Europe process** - status, current challenges etc.: Optional information event, especially for newcomers and those not deeply involved recently, including space for questions and discussion (M. Mirtl)

**19.15 – 20.30 Dinner in the Hotel (buffet open until 20:30)**

#### **4.2 Tuesday, 2<sup>nd</sup> Dec.: SSCC with LTSER focus (Chair: E. Furman)**

9.00 – 9.30 Welcome and introduction  
- E. Furman & M. Mirtl

9.30 – 11.00 **Key notes: Conceptual background of LTSER**

- Sociological anthropological and other hypotheses underlying the concept of LTSER (S. Singh)
- Linking research and management in LTSER platforms – a comparative methodological study (Kirsten Isak)
- Quantitative social science – attitudes study as an example (E. Furman)
- The Danube River Basin as Socio-Natural Site. Directions and Considerations of putting LTSER into practice." (V. Gaube & V. Winiwarter)

**11.00-11.30 Break**

11.30 – 12.15 **Experiences in the implementation of LTSER**

- Forming interdisciplinary research agenda in LTSER platforms – Three cases from Europe (T. Peltola)
- Concept, experiences and approaches from Finland and beyond Europe (E. Furman)
- Moving from LTER to LTSER in Austria and Israel – the interaction of "proper LTER" and the socio-ecological context (M. Mirtl, A. Neuner, E. Groner)

12.15 – 13.00 **Structured discussion and brainstorming in break out groups**

- LTSER platforms: conceptual, strategic, and practical issues– what works, what kind of problems exist, what kind of approaches should be taken, what are the training needs . see below "background information"

**13.00 – 14.00 Lunch**

14:00 – 14:30 Break out groups continued

14.30 – 15.30 Groups reports to plenary, discussion & conclusions

**15.30 – 16.00 Break**

**16.00 - 17.00** *Parallel sessions of Expert Panels: each participant chooses the one he/she is more interested in*

16.00 – 17.00 Founding session of the LTSER Expert Panel, see background information (E. Furman)

16.00 – 17.00 Founding session of the Technology Expert Panel, see background information (S. Zacharias) [Room Creta]

17.00 – 18.00 **Plenary:** Expert Panel reports, discussion, preparation of following Expert Panels (participation, technicalities)

**18.00 - 19.00** *Parallel sessions of Expert Panels*

18.00 – 19.00 Founding session of the Information Management Expert Panel & preparation of next day's plenary presentations (J. Peterseil)

18.00 – 19.00 Continuation of the Technology Expert Panel, if required (S. Zacharias) [Room Creta]

**19.15 – 20.30** *Dinner in the Hotel (buffet open until 20:30)*

**4.3** Wednesday, 3<sup>st</sup> Dec.

**8.30 - 9.30** *Parallel sessions of Expert Panels*

8.30 - 9.30 Founding session of the Standardisation Expert Panel (B. Petriccione) [Room Creta]

8.30 - 9.30 Founding session of the Communication Expert Panel (M Frenzel & A. Sier)

**9.35 – 10.30** *Plenary (Chair: M. Mirtl)*

9.35 – 10.05 Expert Panel reports, discussion

10.05 – 10.30 EuroMAB Network : which science for understanding socio-ecological systems: chances for integrating biosphere reserves and LTER–Europe (F. Jiguet)

**10.30-11.00** *Break*

**11.00 - 13.00** *Information management and representativity of LTER (Plenary)*

11.00 – 11.25 LTER InfoBase - Meta information on the European LTER network (Peterseil / van der Werf)

11.25 – 11.50 SERONTO – Ontology for integration of long term data (Magagna)

11.50 – 12.15 Concept for data integration framework – the ALTER-Net Experience (Schentz / Bertrand)

12.15 – 12.40 Representativity Analysis of LTER-Europe based on metadata of the LTER Infobase  
(M. Metzger)

12.40 – 13.00 Discussion and Information Management Group and representativity analysis

**13.00 – 13.15 *Getting to the bus in front of the hotel (grab lunch bag!)***

**13.15 – 22.30 *EXCURSION TO SOLLER (programme still flexible)***

- Guided excursion by bus to the North Coast of the Island (Soller)
- Home made dinner in a rustic olive press house
- Drop off at a bar in the centre of Palma de Majorca (for those interested...)

#### **4.4 Thursday, 4<sup>th</sup> Dec. (Chair: M. Mirtl)**

**4.4.1 National Networks Representatives Conference** (in parallel: WP I6, s. below)

*Remark: Especially the afternoon session might be due to changes and adaptations according to requirements and issues arising from the first 3 days of the conference.*

**9.00 – 9.30 Welcome, introduction and summary country report**

Formal opening of the 6<sup>th</sup> NNRC and adoption of the agenda

Adoption of the minutes of the last LTER-Europe conference in Stara Lesna

Four years of LTER network building and challenges ahead (M. Mirtl)

**9.30 – 11.00 Key notes on expectations of key stakeholders and related networks**

Lifewatch: Integrating LTER-Europe into THE European research infrastructure for Life Sciences (L. Boumans)

EEA: LTER-Europe as a link between European environmental research requirements and environmental monitoring (D. Richard)

EuroMAB Network : which science for understanding socio-ecological systems : chances for cooperation between biosphere reserves and LTER-Europe (F. Jiguet)

Expectations of the European Commission - services and roles of LTER-Europe as part of a multiply used, distributed research infrastructure for ecological sciences (A. Teller, t.b.c.)

ANAEE and LTER-Europe: Synergies in developing in natura, in vitro and in silico experimental infrastructures for ecosystem research (J. Roy)

**11.00-11.30 *Break***

***Success stories of national networks implementation and LTER-projects***

Setting up a national LTER-network as part of the national and international research infrastructure process (M. Forsius; SYKE/FI)

LIFE+ project EnvEurope successfully submitted: problems met and lessons learned from the coordination efforts (A. Pugnetti)

LTER-related COST proposals (K. Krauze, B. Petriccione)

***ILTER-Europe Expert Panels (EPs)***

- Brief reports from the Expert Panel leads (5-10 min each, focussing on proposed main activities 2009)
- Constitution of the LTER-Europe Executive Committee (proposition to include leads of LTER-Europe Expert Panels)
- Adaptation of By-laws

***13.00 – 14.00 Lunch***

***ILTER-Europe WEB presentation (A. Sier)***

- Presentation of LTER-Europe WEB site
- Discussion, focussing on required additional features and services

***ILTER-Europe report & management plan (M. Mirtl)***

- Discussion of second draft: structure, contents, required national contributions
- Key messages of self presentation (what makes LTER-Europe special)
- Establishment of strategic co-operations (e.g. EuroMAB): discussion of key accounts or small key accounts groups (= who shall have the mandate and responsibility for which interface)
- Presentation & discussion of proposed of activities

***15:30 – 16:00 Break***

***ILTER-Europe report & management plan c´td***

- Adoption of key actions for 2009, focussing on national networks activities and contributions

***ILTER-Europe best examples book (K. Krauze)***

- Focus on National Networks contributions to close identified gaps (based on the Monday session)
- Planning for editorial and ad hoc working groups on Friday and Saturday

***Other business***

- Next LTER-Europe conference in 2009 (format, date, funding)

***approx. 18:30 Closing of the NNRC***

***19.15 – 20.30 Dinner in the Hotel (buffet open until 20:30)***

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**4.4.2 ALTER-Net Work package I6 plenary (in parallel with NNRC) [Room Creta]**

Will be separately announced (Lead of WP I6, J. Peterseil)

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**4.4.3 ALTER-Net Work package R4 fuzzy cognitive mapping (in parallel with others) [Room s. blackboard]**

Unclear until final editing of agenda: will be separately announced on the blackboard. Contact person: Kirstin Isak

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## **4.5 Friday, 5<sup>th</sup> Dec.:**

***All groups, please consider: Breaks: 11.00 – 11.30 and 15.30 – 16.00***

### **4.5.1 ALTER-Net Work Package I3 (morning & afternoon)**

**Required:** participants from ALTER-Net institutions (others welcome)

- Wrapping up
- Time & action plan;
- Division of tasks especially until March/April 2009
- Budget
- Details of the LTER-Europe report and management plan

9.00 - 13.00 Plenary session of WP I3 (M. Mirtl)

14.00 - 15.00 ALTER-Net Goal "LTER" core group, ev. already identical with the LTER-Europe Executive Committee (M. Mirtl) [Room: most probably cafeteria, but check blackboard]

### **4.5.2 Open Space follow up: Development of LTER/LTSER projects** [Check blackboard for announcements/room]

14:00 – 16:00 Project groups meeting. Each project group will continue their meeting from Monday.

### **4.5.3 LTER Best Examples Book (afternoon)** [most probably: Room Creta, but check blackboard]

*Required time and concrete contents to be decided according to results of the conference days before*

- Identification of contributors that could fill identified gaps (s. earlier sessions)
- Division of tasks for common sections of the book (e.g. introduction to book sections)
- Editorial work
- ...

### **4.5.4 Science Strategy Expert Panel (afternoon)** [most probably: Room Creta, but check blackboard]

*Required time and concrete contents to be decided according to results of the conference days before*

- Wrapping up the outcomes of Open space and LTSER days
- Work on amendments to Science Strategy (focussing on critical points which need group agreement)
- Action plan for next 2 years
- ...

### **4.5.5 Editorial board of minute takers** [most probably: Cafeteria, but check blackboard]

To be organized by Angelika Neuner to finish the draft minutes of the conference.

***19.15 – 20.30 Dinner in the Hotel (buffet open until 20:30)***

## **4.6 Saturday, 6<sup>th</sup> Dec. (optional)**

- Work in focal groups on sections of the Science Strategy
- Work on Best Examples book and Best Practice guidelines
- Space for ad hoc LTER/LTSER project team meetings (follow-ups from Open Space, c'td from Friday)

## 5 Background information

### 5.1 Overall aim of the conference

### 5.2 Open Space

The first day of this conference will be an **Open space “Science meets research sites & platforms”**, where research concepts can be presented to a community representing a unique infrastructure spread all over Europe and innumerable data collections that might be used in research projects.

We are looking for people to contribute to the development of potential projects that will use potential of the network of LTER sites. The open space in the next LTER meeting will allow such initiative to begin. Any idea can be brought to the meeting as a short introduction followed by a discussion and plan for elaboration of an European project.

⇒ **IF** you/your team/your institution have ideas or concepts for research **projects requiring research sites, field work or experiments over a wider spatial gradient** (sub-/continental) **or long-term research and monitoring data**

⇒ **IF** you want to answer burning questions that require **research infrastructure, which an individual research project can hardly provide** or at least not set up AND run in due time to produce appropriate data...

⇒ **YOU have now the opportunity to capitalize on** the results of 4 years efforts to set up a European network of long-term research sites and regions.

Some examples:

1. **Synthesis and Comparability of Vegetation Data from LTER-Europe Sites using Incidence Abundance Methodology (ongoing):** *Network-wide ‘proof of concept’ focusing on a 2008 campaign to measure vegetation composition (using site specific methods to detect trends etc) and climate (T, rainfall) and a simple assessment of key pressures by use of a new analysis called incidence-abundance.*
2. **EBONE:** (FP7 projects launched 2008 & in the phase of planning the design for field work): *Testing of a combined terrestrial and remote sensing biodiversity monitoring scheme across scales and European environmental gradients.*
3. **Multi Site Trampling Experiment:** (phase of assessment; discussion of experiences to improve) *Impact of trampling in grassland and forests on biodiversity.*
4. **Interaction of socio-ecological systems and the substance and matter flows in the macro-basin of the Danube:** *Exemplary study of the interactions of SES and substance and matter flows. This will allow us to arrive at intertwined histories of humans and the river in several cases representing the major trajectories of development and environmental impact along the river and its watershed.*
5. **Alien species and invasive corridors in aquatic systems -** *Long-term research and monitoring data concerning building monitoring network for aquatic alien species along the main European invasive corridors. This network may be constructed on the hotspots (for example on riverports and canal). Monitoring works for alien species characterizes some specific features and needs special monitoring protocols.*

We offer interested scientists the opportunity to

- give an oral presentation
- discuss your project with ecologists and socio-ecologists in the plenary
- build a team (representing a first selection of LTER sites and/or research platforms) for your projects
- discuss and further develop your project throughout the meeting

- have an additional time slot on 6<sup>th</sup> December only dedicated to your project
- create the basis for research proposals on the European and/or national level, based on infrastructure, which will be further developed in the frame of ESFRI/LifeWatch.

CONTACT/applications: Elli Groner: [egroner@bgu.ac.il](mailto:egroner@bgu.ac.il)

## **5.3 LTSER-focus**

### **5.3.1 General**

For rationale: see also background information on LTSER Expert Panel (above)

Aspects to be tackled (ongoing brainstorming)

- Developing LTSER platforms from LTER sites (master sites)
- Project driven vs. top down or concept driven implementations
- How to cope with the competition between the scientific sectors LTSER, LTER (natural sciences), biodiversity- and conservation research..
- ...

### **5.3.2 Discussion and brainstorming in break out groups**

The aim is to get experiences, views and opinions of as many individuals, sites and platforms as possible on the following questions (considering the information of the key note presentations):

1. What conceptual work is still lacking to support the development of LTSER platforms?
2. What strategy on the a) European level and b) on the national level is needed to strengthen and further implement LTSER platforms and the LTSER component of LTER-Europe?
3. Which practical issues are of importance for LTSER platforms and what could be done to improve (especially from the side of LTER-Europe and the network)?
4. What should be tackled by the forthcoming LTSER platform managers training workshop (planned for February 2009)?

Each break out group shall determine a chair who then reports the results to the plenary.

## **5.4 Expert panels**

### **5.4.1 General idea, background, contents and structure**

At the 5<sup>th</sup> LTER-Europe conference it was decided to establish Expert panels within LTER-Europe, which take ownership of topics of key importance for the implementation and operation of the network:

- Scientific strategy
- Standardisation and Harmonisation (standard parameters and methods)
- Communication and Public Relations (WEB-site etc.)
- LTSER (concepts, implementation)
- Technology (sensors, field equipment etc.)
- Management of sites and platforms
- Information management (information systems, data architecture...)

The function of the LTER-Europe Expert panels are:

- Identification of necessary activities in their field of responsibility
- Overview of information, tools, expertise accessible within LTER-Europe
- Launching and facilitation of required conceptual, technological and strategic developments
- Communication

- Lobbying, networking and fund raising in the respective area

#### Structure

- Ideally each national network (and/or involved institution) should have one delegate in each expert panel. Some countries like Romania have already taken formal decisions, which experts to involve in which Expert panel. The national members of the Expert Panels will have a key role in spreading expertise and continuously harmonising and integrating the elements of LTER-Europe
- Each Expert panel should have a head and deputy head
- All members shall try to achieve a basic commitment of their respective institutions to dedicate some working days per year to the Expert Panel and participate in the annual LTER-Europe conference
- It is proposed that the heads of the LTER-Europe Expert panels form part of the LTER-Europe Executive Committee (t.b. discussed at the NNRC)

### **5.4.2 REASONS TO PARTICIPATE and involve actively**

The LTER-Europe Expert Panels will be peer groups in their respective field. There are a range of incentives to actively involve in Expert Panels, co-lead or even lead them.

#### LTER-Europe will

- Network the members into related international activities, processes and networks (access to other peer groups)
- Support mobility and training of the members
- Invite members for international expert meetings (e.g. expert workshop EEA-LTER on invitation of EEA next year)
- Communicate the importance of involvement to the institutes of members

The Expert panels and their members will be key elements for the planning of further LTER-Europe project proposals, supporting LTER-Europe as a network (potential work packages of a funded LTER-Europe project).

### **5.4.3 LTSER Expert Panel**

LTSER has become a key component of LTER-Europe. However, the implementation of LTSER platforms remains an extremely complex challenge requiring a dedicated and skilled management, taking the specific setting of individual countries and regions into account. Knowledge generation through socio-ecological and interdisciplinary science is still an object of research itself. Consequently, both aspects of LTSER – implementation and theory building – need to be supported.

The first LTSER Expert Panel meeting aims at the formal establishment of a LTSER core group within LTER-Europe. This group shall be in charge especially of the following:

- lobbying and project development in the field of conceptual developments
- strategic and infrastructural lobbying for LTSER (EC, ESFRI, EEA...)
- strategic approach to conservation management in LTSERs
- contents and organisation of LTSER-parts of the LTER-Europe conferences
- information of the LTSER community on recent scientific developments, success stories etc.
- support of LTSER work in individual countries
- contents of the LTSER section in the members area of the LTER-Europe WEB site

The ALTER-Net goal leader of IDR (Interdisciplinary Research), Eeva Furman (eeva.furman@ymparisto.fi), has taken the responsibility for the LTSER focus of the 6<sup>th</sup> LTER-Europe conference. She will also lead the first session of the LTSER Expert Panel.

Breakout groups in Majorca will work especially on two aspects:

- What contents shall the LTSER platform managers training workshop (planned for February 2009) have?
- Strategic and practical requirements to further develop the LTSER-component of LTER-Europe

#### **5.4.4 Information management Expert Panel**

Information management in a diverse long term ecological and socio-economic research and monitoring network is one of the key aspects for a successful operation. Data as well as meta data are managed by the different sites and platforms and often the use of research and monitoring data is hampered by technical difficulties, legal difficulties and difficulties in the harmonisation and semantic translation of the contents. Although the aspect of data sharing is widespread in the field of science a lot efforts are taken to get the data and transform them to fit your own needs. Often this process can not be repeated. Starting with the ALTER-Net Workpackage on data management a basic concept was developed to allow the seamless integration of data in a network. Basic features, like the semantic data integration, were tested in the runtime of the project. In a network like LTER Europe a concerted process on data sharing and data transformation is needed.

The first Information management expert panel meeting aims at formally setting up the expert panel within LTER Europe and discuss the outline and tasks. This group should be in charge especially of the following:

- Technical aspects of data sharing and integration
- Legal aspects of data sharing and integration
- Content aspects of data sharing and integration, e.g. like the harmonisation of data models used in the network

The lead of work package I6 on data management in ALTER-Net, Johannes Peterseil, has taken the responsibility for the information focus of the 6<sup>th</sup> LTER Europe conference. He will lead the first session of the Information Management Expert Panel.

#### **5.4.5 Communication Expert Panel**

The current proposal of responsibilities of this Expert Panel covers:

- WEB site
- LTER contacts database
- Public relations
- LTER-Europe secretariat
- ev. Fund raising

The lead of work package I4 on communication in ALTER-Net, Andy Sier, and our multi-tasking genius in any field, Mark Frenzel, have taken the responsibility for the start-up of this expert panel. Two discussion papers of Andy Sier can be found in the background documents: I3066v03\*.doc and I3066v04\*.doc

#### **5.4.6 Harmonisation and Standardisation Expert Panel**

Building on the achievements of the 4<sup>th</sup> LTER-Europe conference in Sevilla/Donana (LTER standard parameters) and the COST proposal INFORDIV (earlier circulated to the LTER community), this expert panel will continue work on recommendations for minimum measurements and observations that should be carried out at each LTER site to achieve basic comparability across and usability of the network. The major background document I3036v04\_Standard\_observations.doc is available on the WEB site of the conference.

A major task in Majorca will be to expand the original focus on biodiversity, resulting from the mandate of the working group within ALTER-Net, on the other groups of observations and measurements (abiotic).

As decided at the LTER-Europe conference in Sevilla, the long-term monitoring component of LTER-Europe will need to capitalize on existing monitoring schemes. The harmonisation and standardisation Expert Panel will start to collate and propose the most appropriate ones. To best tie in with the discussions and results from Sevilla have a look into the background document I3041v18\_Mirtl\_LTER\_SiteCoord\_RESULTS\_3\_handout.ppt.

In the future this expert panel will need to closely interact with the Expert Panel on Technology, which will develop recommendations on concrete methodologies and techniques for the measurement of individual parameters.

To be further specified by B. Petriccione, who is leading the start-up process.

The following start-up input came from Mark Frenzel (UFZ):

**State of the art**

*At the Sevilla / Donana meeting of LTER-Europe 2008 we had an extended discussion about parameters and standardisation. We ended up with a long list of parameters considered according to their estimated importance as basic or desirable. This list was condensed to the following list of quite general parameters:*

MINIMUM RECOMMENDED PARAMETERS TO BE COLLECTED AT LTER-EUROPE SITES			
TO BE DISCUSSED AT NATIONAL LEVEL			
	Terrestrial	Freshwater	Marine
<b>ABIOTIC</b>	Meteorological data (WMO)		
	Soil (European Soil Classification, JRC)		
	Land use (CORINE Land Use Types)		
	Land/water use intensity (e.g. FAO criteria)		
	Habitat types (EUNIS system)		
	Deposition, contamination, eutrophication		
	Hydrological data		
<b>BIOTIC</b>	<i>Vascular plants</i>	<i>Selected macrophytes</i>	
	<i>Mosses and lichens (+ fungi)</i>	<i>Phytoplankton pattern</i>	
		<i>Microbial compartment</i>	
	<i>Invertebrates functional groups (selected on the basis of ecosystem type)</i>		
	<i>Amphibians occurrence/abundance</i>		
		<i>Selected fish species</i>	
	<i>Common Birds (PECBM scheme; selected on the basis of ecosystem type)</i>		
	<i>Invasive alien species in Europe since 1900 (EU check list)</i>		

**Next steps (tasks for Majorca)**

*As we cannot demand the measurement of selected or even all parameters from our members, I propose a pragmatic way. We offer in more detail what the recommended parameters are and how they should be measured. That means, we shall provide detailed protocols which may be extracted of the huge body of (evaluated) monitoring schemes already available. The crucial criteria for the selection and – if necessary - adjustment of protocols will be: (1) well tested, (2) efficient (easy to be applied, excellent relation of effort - result), (3) economic*

*We ask all people willing to contribute to this expert panel to take a closer look at the parameter list, to make a brainstorming about it and collect already available protocols which might be candidates to be established in the set for LTER-Europe.*

### **Expected impact**

*If we have this set of standard protocols and if it is well documented in the data base of LTER-Europe which protocols are applied at which site for which time this will serve as a kind of decision support system who might be a potential partner for forthcoming projects.*

### **5.4.7 Technology Expert Panel**

The Technology Expert Panel will be in charge of the following topics:

- Sensors & Samplers
- Logging devices
- Data transmission
- Elaboration of recommendations for minimum standard equipment
- 

This Expert Panel will need to closely interact with the Standardisation Expert Panel. Steffen Zacharias (UFZ/Tereno) has taken the lead on the start-up process and sent the following initiating message to the entire LTER community to collect immediate comments in preparation of Majorca:

*".....My background is that I am coordinating the establishment of a long-term operated terrestrial environmental observatory in Germany (TERENO – Terrestrial Environmental Observatories, [www.tereno.net](http://www.tereno.net)) at the Helmholtz Centre for Environmental Research (UFZ). The TERENO sites will monitor, analyze and predict changing state variables and fluxes within different environmental compartments*

- *Water, matter and energy fluxes*
- *Hydrometeorological and biogeochemical state variables*
- *Ecological and microbiological parameters and proxies*
- *Demographic and socio-economic dynamics*

*Starting this year three TERENO observatories will be established in Germany. One focal point of the monitoring infrastructure lies on abiotic monitoring. Against the backdrop of our experiences in joining six large Helmholtz Centres in one initiative and the design of a site spanning monitoring concept and data management Michael Mirtl asked me to provide input .*

*The already existing Expert Panel "Harmonization" worked out recommendations for observations and parameters for LTER sites. Here it seems necessary to underpin these results on a more technological level. The developed criteria raise a lot of questions in respect of the maintenance of a comparable data quality. Assurance and optimization of data comparability across the LTER-sites is a crucial task. For this reason the setup of the LTER Expert Panel "Technology" was proposed at the last LTER-Europe conference in Sevilla/Donana earlier this year.*

*In preparation of the next LTER-Europe meeting in Majorca (Dec 1-5 2008) and to kick off a discussion about the necessity and the self-conception of an Expert Panel "Technology" in the following some ideas are summarized which may be regarded as a start basis for discussion:*

- *Expert panel "Technology" = Forum of European LTER experts in monitoring supporting cutting edge ecological research*
- *The intention is not to develop binding technological standards, but the provision of recommendations for LTER sites on technologies needed for abiotic monitoring*
- *Identifying of appropriate technologies, technological and methodological approaches, mainly for the abiotic monitoring*
- *Advice of LTER SSCCs on technology requirements*
- *Promotion of current and emerging technologies*

- *Development of a framework for testing/implementation of new technologies*
- *Establishment of a communication platform on technology on the LTER-Europe WEB site*
- *Establishment of peer groups interested in specific technological fields (e.g. TDR, lysimetry, meteorology...)*

*I'm glad to take the initiative for the LTER-Europe EP Technology, collecting your comments and chairing the start-up session in Majorca. In this session we should also decide on a core team, which can dedicate a small amount of its time to filling the EP with life as LTER-Europe develops further.*

*Looking forward to seeing many of you.... "*

#### **5.4.8 Science Strategy Expert Panel**

To be specified by K. Krauze

### **5.5 National Networks Representatives Conference (NNRC)**

Background documents such as LTER-Europe criteria, update drafts of the by-laws etc. will be available partly as printouts and on the WEB site of the conference.

National Networks Representatives: please consider ToDo-list adopted in August in Stara Lesna!

### **5.6 Space for ad hoc meetings**

Organizers of working groups and ad hoc meetings (=ALL PARTICIPANTS) invited to provide background information to the conference team to be put on the WEB site and/or the black board of the conference.