

### PREAMBLE

**eLTER RI (the integrated European Long-Term Ecosystem, critical zone and socio-ecological Research Infrastructure)** is currently in Preparatory Phase (PP). Once in operational stage, eLTER RI will provide high quality services to many different stakeholder groups, including researchers, private sector, public authorities and governments, and civil society. The eLTER service portfolio is developed in two EU H2020 funded projects, [eLTER PLUS](#) and [eLTER PPP](#), running between 2020 and 2025. Services will be provided through one access point, Service Portal, by the Topic Centres (currently being planned) and by the distributed eLTER in-situ facilities (the eLTER Sites and eLTSER Platforms).

The eLTER PPP project aims at defining the most appropriate and cost-efficient long-term operations for eLTER RI. The analyses of the financial (cost-benefit) and socio-economic impacts attributed to eLTER will provide crucial insights regarding the social return of the investment required for the development, implementation and maintenance of this research infrastructure, the formulation of the appropriate operational scheme, and the systematic monitoring of the RI operations for improving its performance and meeting its strategic objectives.

**The purpose of this survey is to identify and quantify the benefits generated by the operations of the Sites or Platforms, and the socio-economic impacts on the broader stakeholder community.** In addition to contributing to the self-assessment of the research infrastructure, participating in this survey will help to better understand the benefits generated to organizations and institutions that participate in the development, implementation, and maintenance of large distributed research infrastructures like eLTER in the future. Furthermore, it will provide useful insights for evaluating the social return of the investment required for developing and maintaining eLTER RI. We are asking you to fill in data from the past 6 years (2015–2020) and the expected/forecasted data from 5 years to come (2021–2025).

**The questionnaire is sent to the Site and Platform Coordinators (SPCs) (and the National Coordinators (NCs) for information) in each country participating in eLTER RI. We ask all the Sites answer the questionnaire individually. For Platforms, if there are several Sites operating in your area, fill-up the questionnaire only with the data that has not been provided by your sub-Sites.** We will sum up the data from the sub-Sites and thereby, we will avoid double-counting.

**The deadline for answering the questionnaire is 15 August, 2021. Your participation in the survey is voluntary, but the PPP project highly appreciates all input and will present the results in the decision-making body (eLTER Interim Council), to gain their support for the implementation of the eLTER RI.** Results from the questionnaire will also allow us to highlight your achievements and identify crucial areas where we can improve our performance. Some of the questions (in Section 5) are similar to the 'Cost Estimate Questionnaire' (compiled by 87 Sites and Platforms in autumn 2020), so you may consider using the already collected numbers also here.

Your participation in this study will consist of a completion of this questionnaire. You will be asked a series of questions about the participation of your Site and Platform in eLTER and the potential financial (cost-benefit) and socio-economic impacts generated. Please feel free to consult with

colleagues when answering the questionnaire, if you think it is necessary for providing more accurate information. **Since your participation in the survey is voluntary, you may skip any question if you desire to do so.** Insights provided by you and other participants will be used in writing the Deliverables for the cost-benefit analysis (and possibly for the socio-economic impact analysis) of eLTER PPP. The information gathered is for internal purposes; it will only be published as aggregate data across Sites and Platforms; and that information will be kept confidential and seen/analysed only by the eLTER central administration and PPP WP team.

You are encouraged to ask questions or raise concerns at any time about the nature of the study or the methods used. If you have any questions, please contact Syed Ashraf Alam ([ashrafal.alam@helsinki.fi](mailto:ashrafal.alam@helsinki.fi)).

**FOR THE QUESTIONS INCLUDED IN SECTIONS 2–5:**

- Try to provide numeric estimates for the indicators included in the corresponding tables.
- Data should be provided for the periods, **2015–2020 (Design Phase of eLTER)** and **2021–2025 (Implementation Phase of eLTER, the duration of eLTER PPP)**.
- All the Sites (independently if they belong to a Platform or not) should provide their own answers individually.
- Platforms should provide ONLY additional data that is not reported by the individual sub-Sites belonging to it.

**1. INTRODUCTORY DATA**

Name of Site/Platform	
Country	
Primary Responsible Institution	
Site Category (Regular/Master/Platform/Not known)	
DEIMS.ID <sup>[1]</sup>	
Does your Site belong to a Platform? (Yes/No)	
If YES, name of the Platform	
If YES, DEIMS ID of the Platform	
Other RIs at the Site/Platform (If applicable; for co-located Sites)	
Respondent Name	

Respondent Email	
Submission Date	

[<sup>1</sup>] [DEIMS-SDR](#)

## 2. EDUCATIONAL AND PROFESSIONAL ACTIVITIES

PLEASE PROVIDE ESTIMATES ON HOW eLTER CONTRIBUTES TO THE EDUCATIONAL AND PROFESSIONAL ACTIVITIES OF YOUR SITE/PLATFORM.

INDICATORS	2015–2020	2021–2025
<b>STUDENTS ACTIVITIES AT YOUR SITE/PLATFORM</b>		
2.1 No. of MSc students carrying out research (field work or use of data)		
2.2 No. of PhD students carrying out research (field work or use of data)		
2.3 No. of students that have used the data for their MSc theses		
2.4 No. of students that have used the data for their PhD theses		
2.5 No. of students [ <sup>1</sup> ] attending training activities		
2.6 Percentage of foreign [ <sup>2</sup> ] students of all students trained		
<b>RESEARCH AND TECHNICAL STAFF EMPLOYED AT YOUR SITE/PLATFORM</b>		
2.7 No. of permanent staff employed for eLTER related activities		
2.8 No. of contractual staff employed for eLTER related activities		
2.9 Percentage of foreign [ <sup>2</sup> ] research and technical staff of all staff working at the Site/Platform		
<b>COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT PROJECTS/EVENTS ORGANIZED AT YOUR SITE/PLATFORM</b>		
2.10 No. of citizen science projects		
2.11 No. of participants in citizen science projects (total)		
2.12 No. of student groups events, K through 12 <sup>th</sup> Grade [ <sup>3</sup> ]		
2.13 No. of participants in student groups events, K through 12 <sup>th</sup> Grade [ <sup>3</sup> ] (total)		
2.14 No. of community events (e.g. open houses, public lectures)		
2.15 No. of participants in community events (total)		

[<sup>1</sup>] Do not include students that use the RI directly for their MSc and PhD theses work.

[<sup>2</sup>] Including those from outside the EU or within the EU but outside the country of Site/Platform.

[<sup>3</sup>] From Kindergarten to 12<sup>th</sup> Grade (include both primary and secondary education).

**Additional Notes for Section 2 (max. 1000 characters):**

### 3. SCIENTIFIC ACTIVITIES

PLEASE PROVIDE INFORMATION ON eLTER-SPECIFIC SCIENTIFIC ACTIVITIES PERFORMED AT YOUR SITE/PLATFORM.

INDICATORS	2015–2020	2021–2025
<b>PUBLICATIONS RELATED TO YOUR SITE/PLATFORM</b>		
3.1 No. of peer-reviewed articles published in scientific journals <sup>[1]</sup>		
3.2 No. of peer-reviewed articles published solely by scientists from within the country		
3.3 No. of peer-reviewed articles published in collaboration with international scientists		
3.4 No. of peer-reviewed articles published in collaboration with other RIs		
3.5 No. of articles published in proceedings of international conferences <sup>[1]</sup>		
3.6 No. of articles published in proceedings in collaboration with other RIs		
3.7 No. of books (chapters or extended sections) published <sup>[1]</sup>		
3.8 No. of books (chapters or extended sections) published in collaboration with other RIs		
3.9 No. of PhD theses completed <sup>[2]</sup>		
3.10 No. of PhD theses completed in collaboration with other RIs		
3.11 No. of new methodologies, prototypes or designs developed <sup>[3]</sup>		
<b>SCIENTIFIC EVENTS ORGANIZED AT YOUR SITE/PLATFORM</b>		
3.12 No. of workshops		
3.13 No. of conferences		
3.14 No. of working groups		
3.15 No. of others (specify in Additional Notes field below)		
<b>RESEARCH AND ACCESS GRANTS <sup>[4]</sup> AWARDED FOR RI ACTIVITIES <sup>[5]</sup> AT YOUR SITE/PLATFORM</b>		
3.16 No. of competitive research grants <sup>[6]</sup>		
3.17 Total volume of competitive research grants (in million €)		
3.18 No. of individual Transnational Access <sup>[7]</sup> visitors		
3.19 No. of Transnational Access visitor days		
3.20 Total volume of Transnational Access grants (in thousand €)		
3.21 Total volume of Remote Access <sup>[7]</sup> grants (in thousand €)		
3.22 Total volume of Virtual Access <sup>[7]</sup> grants (in thousand €)		
<b>COLLABORATION, VISITS AND PRIZES RELATED TO YOUR SITE/PLATFORM</b>		
3.23 No. of collaborative projects with other RIs (across countries)		

3.24 No. of exchanges between site managers (across countries) 3.25 No. of visits by research staff 3.26 Duration of visits by research staff (total no. of days) 3.27 No. of visits by PhD/MSc students 3.28 Duration of visits by PhD/MSc students (total no. of days) 3.29 No. of international researchers <sup>[8]</sup> hosted at the Site/Platform 3.30 No. of prizes won for eLTER research <sup>[9]</sup>		
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<sup>[1]</sup> Please provide a list of these articles/books (using the file attachment option at the end of the questionnaire) to develop a coordinated list for all the consortium to avoid double-counting, especially in case of co-located Sites.

<sup>[2]</sup> Refers specifically to PhD theses that have been predominantly- or partly based on the use of your Site/Platform. Please provide a list of these PhD theses (using the file attachment option at the end of the questionnaire) to develop a coordinated list for all the consortium to avoid double-counting, especially in case of co-located Sites.

<sup>[3]</sup> [Method](#) is a particular way of doing something. [A prototype](#) is an original model constructed to include all the technical characteristics and performances of the new product. [Design](#) is a drawing or set of drawings showing how a building or product is to be made and how it will work and look. Please provide some additional information (using the file attachment option at the end of the questionnaire) on the new methodologies, prototypes or designs developed.

<sup>[4]</sup> Actual costs or unit costs (either from bookkeeping or estimates) that are awarded to the Site/Platform based on the access projects.

<sup>[5]</sup> e.g. RI construction/upgrading, research work, workshops, and training.

<sup>[6]</sup> Please provide a list of these grants (title, funding agency, funding period, total award value) using the file attachment option at the end of the questionnaire.

<sup>[7]</sup> [eLTER PLUS: TA-RA Scheme](#).

<sup>[8]</sup> International researchers are those from outside the country of the Site/Platform; not including students, TA grant recipients or workshop participants. Hosting means acting as a host for research visit; does not mean having accommodation etc.

<sup>[9]</sup> Please provide a list of these prizes (title, year, awarding organization) using the file attachment option at the end of the questionnaire.

**Additional Notes for Section 3 (max. 1000 characters):**

**4. INNOVATION AND BUSINESS ACTIVITIES**

PLEASE PROVIDE DATA ON HOW eLTER INFLUENCES INNOVATION AND BUSINESS OPPORTUNITIES AT YOUR SITE/PLATFORM OR AREA.

INDICATORS	2015–2020	2021–2025
<b>INDUSTRY AND BUSINESS COLLABORATION (IBC) PROJECTS AT YOUR SITE/PLATFORM</b>		
4.1 No. of IBC projects funded by EC or other international funding agencies to the research in eLTER <sup>[1]</sup>		

4.2 Total volume of EC-funded (in million €) IBC projects		
4.3 No. of IBC projects funded by national agencies to the research in eLTER <sup>[1]</sup>		
4.4 Total volume of national agencies-funded (in million €) IBC projects		
4.5 No. of IBC projects funded by private sector entities to the research in eLTER <sup>[1]</sup>		
4.6 Total volume of private sector-funded (in million €) IBC projects		
<b>START-UPS, CONTRACTS AND PATENTS RELATED TO YOUR SITE/PLATFORM</b>		
4.7 No. of start-ups and/or spin-offs created, utilizing products or expertise from eLTER-related research		
4.8 Total turnover <sup>[2]</sup> (in million €) related to start-ups and/or spin-offs		
4.9 Total earnings <sup>[2]</sup> (in million €) related to start-ups and/or spin-offs		
4.10 No. of procurement contracts signed for development and upgrade of research equipment		
4.11 No. of companies involved in procurement contracts		
4.12 No. of patent applications <sup>[3]</sup>		
4.13 No. of patents granted <sup>[3]</sup>		

<sup>[1]</sup> Identify research projects of your institution that predominantly or partially utilize the RI in question.

<sup>[2]</sup> Turnover is the amount of money that is earned by a company after selling its products/services. The earnings (profit) of the company after all the costs have been deducted. Provide aggregated figures for all companies and for the corresponding period.

<sup>[3]</sup> Please provide some additional information, using the file attachment option at the end of the questionnaire, on the patents granted or applied (name, patent No., ...).

**Additional Notes for Section 4 (max. 1000 characters):**

## 5. ECONOMIC IMPACTS

PLEASE ESTIMATE THE ECONOMIC IMPACTS ATTRIBUTED TO DEVELOPMENT AND IMPLEMENTATION OF eLTER AT YOUR SITE/PLATFORM.

INDICATORS	2015–2020	2021–2025
<b>INVESTMENTS AT YOUR SITE/PLATFORM</b>		
5.1 Total investment undertaken for developing eLTER Site/Platform (in million €) <sup>[1]</sup>		
5.2 Total budget of procurement contracts signed for development of RI and equipment (in million €) <sup>[2]</sup>		

JOBS CREATED AT YOUR SITE/PLATFORM		
5.3 No. of jobs <sup>[3]</sup> directly generated for setting up the physical infrastructure <sup>[4]</sup> (in person-years of FTE jobs) <sup>[5]</sup>		
5.4 No. of jobs generated to suppliers for setting up the physical infrastructure <sup>[4]</sup> (in person-years of FTE jobs) <sup>[5]</sup>		
5.5 No. of jobs directly generated to your institution or to start-ups/spin-offs associated with research in eLTER (in person-years of FTE jobs) <sup>[5]</sup> <sup>[6]</sup>		
5.6 No. of jobs indirectly (e.g., external contractors) generated to your institution or to start-ups/spin-offs associated with research in eLTER (in person-years of FTE jobs) <sup>[5]</sup>		

<sup>[1]</sup> Please include salaries, development and implementation costs, purchase of equipment and services, etc., for the whole period identified in the corresponding columns.

<sup>[2]</sup> This should be a sub-total of the budget identified in Section 5.1.

<sup>[3]</sup> Do not include employees of suppliers.

<sup>[4]</sup> Including building, data/metadata systems and work related to management etc.

<sup>[5]</sup> Examples: For a person who worked 6 months in 2020, 3 months in 2021 and 3 months in 2022 in developing eLTER, you should write 1 person-year in the column 2020–2024. For a person who works full-time in implementing eLTER during the period 2020–2024, you should write 5 person-years. For a person who works half-time during the same period you should write 2.5 person-years.

<sup>[6]</sup> This sub-section should be filled-up in case if you identified in Section 4 that there is funding from research projects, and/or turnover from start-ups and/or spin-offs utilizing eLTER.

**Additional Notes for Section 5 (max. 1000 characters):**

**6. ADDITIONAL INFORMATION & FILE ATTACHMENT**

**Additional Information (max. 1000 characters):**

**Attach a file for all publications/grants/methodologies/prototypes/designs/prizes/patents (docx/xlsx format):**