



eLTER Preparatory Phase Project

Scientific Advisory Board Charter

Deliverable D1.2

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Preface

This charter (the "**Charter**") sets forth the purpose, composition, responsibilities, duties, powers and authority of the **Scientific Advisory Board (SAB)** of the eLTER Preparatory Phase Project (**eLTER-PPP**) project (<https://cordis.europa.eu/project/id/871126>).

Summary

The Scientific Advisory Board (SAB) is an independent panel of leading experts (international scientific community, environmental observation networks, environmental research infrastructures, end-users, companies, etc.). Its objective is to give advice and assess the progress, performance, and achievements of eLTER PPP and to bring experience, ideas and links related to the project's activities from outside the consortium. Thus, it supports the eLTER PPP project and its bodies (Steering Committee SC, the coordination and General Assembly GA) and the eLTER Interim Council in their implementation work to successfully achieve the objectives of eLTER PPP.

According to the agreed harmonization and high-level coordination efforts between eLTER PPP and the parallel H2020 Advanced Communities project eLTER PLUS, the coordination of eLTER PPP will make all efforts for clear communication and highly synergistic activities of the SABs of eLTER PPP and eLTER PLUS to best possibly support achieving the joint objective of specifying and implementing eLTER RI.

eLTER-PPP Scientific Advisory Board (SAB) Charter

This charter (the "**Charter**") sets forth the purpose, composition, responsibilities, duties, powers and authority of the **Scientific Advisory Board (SAB)** of the eLTER Preparatory Phase Project (**eLTER-PPP**) project (<https://cordis.europa.eu/project/id/871126>).

The eLTER PPP represents a decisive phase in the process towards developing the integrated European Long-Term Ecosystem, critical zone and socio-ecological systems Research Infrastructure (**eLTER RI**). The eLTER RI is a new distributed Research Infrastructure which aims at integrating disciplinary natural sciences and holistic socio-ecological research approaches, to better understand ecosystem functioning across Europe's environmental and socio-economic gradients.

The **main objective** of eLTER PPP is to prepare for the implementation and operation of the eLTER RI considering the following strategic goals.

- Creating scientifically sound information required in response to grand societal challenges,
- Long-term cost-efficient operations of the eLTER RI,
- Develop and continuously enhance use of RI services and data,
- Constant servicing of stakeholders in response to emerging research challenges,
- Bringing Europe to a leading role in ecosystem sciences global collaboration.

1.1 Purpose

The Scientific Advisory Board (SAB) is an independent panel of leading international experts (international scientific community, environmental observation networks, environmental research infrastructures, end-users, companies, etc.). Its objective is to give advice and assess the progress, performance, and achievements of eLTER PPP and to bring experience, ideas and links related to the project's activities from outside the consortium. Thus, it supports the eLTER PPP project and its bodies (Steering Committee SC, the coordination and General Assembly GA) and the eLTER Interim Council in their implementation work to successfully achieve the objectives of eLTER PPP. The scope of the SAB is:

- Give feedback and advice on how to best achieve the overall science objectives of eLTER RI by commenting on the overall science plans and directions,
- Monitor the progress in achieving these goals, and help develop strategies that will advance the development of eLTER RI,
- Promote innovative activities of eLTER. This may include e.g. scientific approaches, methodology partnerships, use of project results and in solving societal challenges.

According to the agreed harmonization and high-level coordination efforts between eLTER PPP and the parallel H2020 Advanced Communities project eLTER PLUS, the coordination of eLTER PPP will make all efforts for clear communication and highly synergistic activities of the SABs of eLTER PPP and eLTER PLUS to best possibly support achieving the joint objective of specifying and implementing eLTER RI.

1.2 SAB Composition

The SAB membership shall cover the fields relevant to eLTER PPP. Overall, the SAB membership should have:

1. Demonstrated leadership and experience in the following fields:

- a. research and education in ecosystems, biodiversity, environmental sciences, environmental modelling and forecasting or similar,
 - b. relevant societal and policy fields, and
 - c. management of large research infrastructures, e-infrastructures and data sciences.
 2. Aim to balance between European and outside European representation
 3. Aim to gender balance
 4. Demonstrated connections to other user communities of the upstream and downstream users/services, to international organizations, and to private sectors.
- Optimally, a few members should form part of both the eLTER PPP and eLTER PLUS project SAB in order to ensure good linkages and synergies between the two projects.

1.3 Meetings and Resources

The SAB shall meet roughly once a year, either physically or remotely according to the possibilities and format of major eLTER PPP meetings. Additional remote meetings of the entire SAB or smaller groups shall take place if needed. The SAB can be invited to attend the meetings of the GA and SC. The SAB defines its own procedures. The direct travel costs (transport fares, accommodation and other proven necessary expenses) and per diems related to eLTER meetings will be reimbursed for the SAB by the eLTER PPP.

1.4 Duties and Responsibilities

The term of the SAB will end when the eLTER PPP project ends. The eLTER GAI validates the members of the SAB and can change the term of participation.

1.5 Reporting

SAB gives its recommendations by reporting annually to the eLTER GA. The eLTER PPP coordinator has the right to respond to the reports. The reports are presented to the SC. The eLTER PPP coordinator may invite the SAB to other specific meetings if seen necessary.

1.6 Access to Information

The eLTER PPP Coordinator will provide the SAB the material for its work according to the agreed work plan and requests from the SC/GA.

1.7 Review of Charter

The eLTER GA finally approves the Charter. The SAB will review annually this Charter and assess its adequacy. Recommendations of any proposed changes will be made to the coordinator of the eLTER PPP project.

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