

## **Submission of a proposal for a session to be held at the 12<sup>th</sup> EEf Congress (Avila, 25-29 September)**

### **TITLE**

*Sharing and harmonizing long-term ecosystem research and monitoring across Europe: contributions and experiences from the EnvEurope Life + project and the LTER-Europe network in 21 countries.*

### **SUMMARY**

The harmonization of methods and concepts as well as data storage and sharing are among the major challenges to be met to enable effective use of long-term ecological data. Long-term time series are indispensable for recognition and analyses of trends in ecosystems, which have become crucial in times of slow, but steady Global Change

The long-term ecosystem research Europe network (LTER, [www.lter-europe.net](http://www.lter-europe.net)) comprises over 400 LTER sites across Europe and 23 LTSEr platforms (Long-Term Socio-Ecological Research). Within the network data are collected across eco-domains of terrestrial, freshwater and marine environments and, hence, a wide range of different habitats. The LTER network was set up with a prominent bottom-up approach, within a quite heterogeneous scheme of data types and storage, measurements and targets as well as used methods. Starting from national peculiarities, the achievement of comparable and shared data still represents a major task of LTER-Europe.

The Life+ project EnvEurope (2010-2013) supports the efforts of 11 LTER countries and aims basically at the integration and coordination of long-term ecosystem research and monitoring initiatives across Europe, aiming at understanding trends and changes of environmental quality and identification of cause-effect relationships.

Among the project objectives is the justification and selection of a core list of ecological indicators to analyse and compare environmental quality internationally, properly link drivers and pressures with ecosystem states as well as the definition of standards about data storage and delivery .

The main aim of this session is to discuss the importance and role of long-term ecosystem research and monitoring data with a broader scientific community with respect to the following two questions:

- Biological and ecological diversity under the influence of both natural and human drivers and pressures
- Methods and tools for analysing driver, pressure, state, impact and response interrelations and adaptive management

We propose to have invited presentations from the EnvEurope and LTER community as well as from external experts. “Free” communication and open discussions of scientists working with LTER data and topics shall be given enough space to convey the main ideas and concepts that the project is dealing with and get qualified feedback.

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**Speakers:** (optional) to be defined