

Member Node Description: LTER_EUROPE (European Long-Term Ecosystem Research Network)

Version 1.0 1/29/14 David Blankman

General

Name of resource: European Long-Term Ecosystem Research Network
URL(s): <http://www.lter-europe.net/>
Institutional affiliation(s): Various European entities
Primary geographic location: Lancaster, United Kingdom
Project Director & contact info: David Blankman
Chair, ILTER Information Management Committee
972-77-442-1951; 972-54-685-9345 (mobile)
1-505-349-5680 (Skype), dblankman (Skype),
dblankman1@gmail.com
Technical Contact & contact info: Mike Wilson
Center for Ecology & Hydrology
Lancaster Environment Centre
Library Avenue, Bailrigg
Lancaster LA1 4AP, United Kingdom
Tel: +44 (0)1524 595800
mw@ceh.ac.uk
Age of resource: Since 2012
Funding support: Various
Proposed Unique Identifier: urn:node:LTER_EUROPE

Content

Content description/collection policy:

LTER-Europe is a network of national LTER networks. Over 450 sites are part of this network. The data from these sites is extremely varied in type and format. There is no common statement that applies to each of the sites. Some sites have more than 100 years of data. The data from the LTER-Europe sites varies from vegetation monitoring to agricultural research experimental data. The techniques range from human surveys to sensor networks. The DEIMS provides consistent metadata across this variety of content.

Types of data:

EML/xml, csv

Data and metadata availability:

Data policies vary with data providers. Metadata is universally available.

Option for embargo:

Not at this time, but may become important

Size of holdings:

170 EML documents

Please describe recent usage statistics, if known, including information on annual data product downloads, annual number of users, annual number of data products used in publications:
Not available at this time

User interactions

How does a user contribute data?

Primary method of contribution is through a web portal using DEIMS at: <http://data.lter-europe.net/deims/>. DEIMS produces a harvest list which is harvested monthly by the LTER-Europe metacat < <https://data.lter-europe.net/knb> >. Some users may use Morpho pointed to the LTER-Europe metacat.

Currently, only metadata is provided. The ability to include data is under development. Access to data is specified in the EML document.

How does a user acquire / access data?

Data access varies by data provider. The method is described in the EML document. Some providers have web services, some are file-based.

What user support services are available (both for depositing and accessing/using data)?

Data files can be uploaded to the DEIMS system. Currently data uploads are voluntary.

How does the resource curate data at the time of deposit?

Currently data is maintained by individual data providers. These providers may be individual sites or national networks. Once data is contributed to the DataONE node, then the data will be backed up by the Center for Ecology and Hydrology, Lancaster, UK.

Technical characteristics and policies

Software platform description, incl. data search and access API(s):

Metacat client is used. Searching is also available on the DEIMS system <http://data.lter-europe.net/deims>

Service reliability (including recent uptime statistics, frequency of hardware refresh, if known):

The server is subject to our providers regular 'at risk' periods, which occur every Tuesday morning between 7am and 9am UK Time. Other than that, outages are kept to a minimum and at least 24hrs notice is given of any scheduled downtime.

Preservation reliability (including replication/backup, integrity checks, format migration, disaster planning):

Regular nightly backups are taken of the server and data, these are duplicated off-site for disaster recovery purposes, a plan for which is maintained by our local IT staff.

User authentication technology (incl. level of create/modify/delete access by users):

It is assumed that modification of metadata will be done within the DEIMS system. Authentication is done using Drupal access control system. One user per national network has been created (for example: Italy, France, Austria). Upon request, individual researchers using Morpho are given a LDAP uid to be able to insert into Metacat directly.

Data identifier system and data citation policy, if available:

None at present

Metadata standards (including provenance):

EML, if possible we would also use INSPIRE, although I am not sure this is possible with a Metacat client.

Capacity/services to DataONE

At what functional tier will you initially be operating? (see <http://bit.ly/MNFactSheet> for definitions)

- Tier 1: Read only, public content
- Tier 2: Read only with access control
- Tier 3: Read/write using client tools
- Tier 4: Able to operate as a replication target

If you can host data from other member nodes, what storage capacity is available?

Not accepting data from other nodes at present

Can you provide computing capacity to the broader network? If so, please describe.

Not at present

Other Services

What other services or resources (such as expertise, software development capacity, educational/training resources, or software tools) can be provided of benefit to the broader network?

LTER-Europe has an information management expert panel. Members of this panel have a wide range of expertise including ontology development, database modeling, web services. The European version of the DEIMS system developed by the US-LTER can be made available to other users. EnvTHES, a multi-lingual environmental thesaurus, with definitions < <http://vocabs.lter-europe.net/EnvThes3> > is available to all users. Tools are being developed to scan text (abstract, title, etc) and create a guided selection process of terms from EnvThes to be used for keywords.