

# **ExpeER**

## **Distributed Infrastructure for EXPERimentation in Ecosystem Research**

Grant Agreement Number: 262060

### **SEVENTH FRAMEWORK PROGRAMME**

#### **Capacities**

**Integrating activities: Networks of Research Infrastructures (RIs)**

**Theme: Environment and Earth Sciences**

**MS10: Second (external) training programme conducted**

Due date of deliverable: Month35, Oct-2013

Actual submission date: 2<sup>nd</sup> of December 2013

Start date of the project: December 1<sup>st</sup>, 2010

Duration: 48 months

Organisation name of lead contractor: VUA

Contributors: Eva Krab, Giorgio Matteucci, Leslie Firbank

Revision N°: final

**3<sup>rd</sup> ExpeER Training week**  
**“Sampling Protocols for Ecosystem Research”**  
**SAPER, northern European region**  
**August 26-30, 2013, VU University Amsterdam, The Netherlands**

**The event, main achievements and next steps**

## **The event**

### *Background*

The Amsterdam SAPER training course was intended to develop and disseminate protocols for ecosystem measurements in the field, to help develop improved integration in data collection and use. The course was aimed at people working with ecosystem observatories, LTER sites and experimental facilities, was organised and funded through the ExpeER project, and aimed at non-ExpeER participants. The course was the third one of a series of three. The first one, aimed at ExpeER partners, was held in August 2012 and the second in May 2013, both in Italy. During the training week the participants learned about how to undertake a range of field-scale ecological measurements on site as well as in the lab, and how to ensure that the obtained data will be of value to the wider ecological community. The training week in Amsterdam focused mainly on grasslands.

As the course was aimed at participants that are familiar with ecosystem measurements, one of the additional objectives was to improve the quality and the clarity of the protocols after each of the training weeks with input of the participants. Also, the organisation of this training week helped to improve to spread the ExpeER name and the knowledge of its possibilities for participants to use its infrastructure.

### *Summary of the training week*

The Amsterdam SAPER training week was organised at the VU University from the 26<sup>th</sup> of August until the 30<sup>st</sup> of August, and was the second SAPER training week aimed at non-ExpeER participants. During this course 10 of the protocols selected by WP2 (MS 6 and 7) were trained by means of lectures, lab-practicals and field excursions. During the training week, a park with trees near VU, a dune area near Zandvoort, a wet peat-grassland near Zaandam and a dune area near Bergen aan Zee were visited and the protocols were trained during these visits.

### *Trained protocols*

<b>Parameter</b>	<b>Responsibility for protocol</b>	<b>Trainers</b>
Land use types	Leslie Firbank	Leslie Firbank
Leaf area index (forest)	Giorgio Matteucci	Giorgio Matteucci
Leaf area index (grasslands)	Miklós Kertész	Miklós Kertész
Plant biomass (forests)	Giorgio Matteucci	Giorgio Matteucci
Plant biomass (grasslands)	Miklós Kertész	Miklós Kertész
Soil macrofauna QBSar	Elli Groner, Cristina Menta, Amelié Joseph	Stefania Pinto Fabio Gatti

Soil macrofauna bait lamina	Jutta Stadler, Mark Frenzel	Stefania Pinto, Fabio Gatti
Soil macrofauna litterbags	Jutta Stadler, Mark Frenzel	Stefania Pinto, Fabio Gatti
Soil macrofauna extraction	No protocol	Eva Krab
Gas fluxes soil CO <sub>2</sub> respiration	Gemini delle Vedove, Laura Zavattaro	Simone Pelissetti
Metadata	David Blankman	David Blankman
Open top chambers	No protocol	Bert Buizer

### *Impression*



## **Main achievements**

The evaluation forms indicated that the participants judged the training week as successful and useful. Participants in the courses were mainly PhD students, but also included a number of post-docs, technicians and field-assistants working at European Universities and diverse research institutes such as the Romanian FRMI (Forest Research and Management Institute) and NIOO (Netherlands Institute of Ecology). In this training course, 14 participants of 10 different nationalities, working in 8 different institutions in 5 European countries were trained. Ten protocols were trained during the course. Evaluation of the protocols by the participants will be used to improve them and formulate a list of recommendations for a potential next training course (more details in deliverable 2.2).

## **Next steps**

After the training week the protocols will be updated according to the experience of the trainers and the protocol feedback forms of the participants. An extra enquiry will be sent around by e-mail to the participants of all the training weeks about the applicability of the protocols. Based on these evaluations, the protocols will be finalized and published on the ExpeER website and spread among the site managers of ExpeER sites.

Also, during the annual meeting in November 2013 the idea has risen to make videos of the protocols to improve their dissemination. These videos will be published on the ExpeER website and spread through other websites such as Youtube.

In addition, ideas for follow-up trainings have been drafted. Instead of a one-week training week where all trainers are present (since that can be logistically challenging), short 2-3 day training courses (that can be trained by a single trainer) on specific topics may be organised at ExpeER TransNational Access (TNA) sites. These days will then be followed by a sampling campaign of the participants in their own (or other TNA) sites with the purpose of writing a joint publication. Possibilities are explored to organise a gas fluxes training session on the Romanian TNA site (Braila Islands), and a decomposition/litterbag training session on the French Lusignan site.