



NEWSLETTER N°3, March 2021

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Foreword by Michel Boër, AnaEE DG



Dear readers,

This is the first AnaEE Newsletter of 2021. I hope it will find you well, and that we will progressively resume a life with less constraints, while taking care of each other.

The beginning of this year has been active for AnaEE, as the final ERIC application (step 2), now under review by the European Commission services, has been sent. By mid or fall 2021, AnaEE-ERIC will become a reality. We are striving now to get ready and start effectively as soon as the official decision is published.

2021 is also the year of the launch of the Horizon Europe program. We held already two workshops, well attended by the AnaEE community, to discuss the opportunities for AnaEE, and the scientific community around, both in Pillar I (infrastructures) and in Pillar II (global challenges). For the infrastructure part, we started already to discuss with sister infrastructures to write a sound and exciting proposal for new services to a large community.

Despite the current travel limitations, we feel the need to reinforce the links within our community. We started the 2021 AnaEE Virtual Tour (AVT 2021), a program of webinars with the platforms in every node, which we expect to complete by June. During these meetings, a presentation of AnaEE and the progress is made, explaining how the Transnational Access will work and the services expected from AnaEE to the platforms and from the platforms to AnaEE. This is followed by short presentations of each platform in the node, and a rich discussion.

As usual in this issue you will find a focus on one of the platforms: this time we go far North, at Oulanka in Finland. This illustrates the wide range of climates and ecosystem types that AnaEE encompasses, from tropical and Mediterranean, to subarctic.

Finally, let me emphasize the initiative of our Danish colleagues, who organize this summer a PhD course that is open to the whole AnaEE community. Please, pass the word to prospective students.

AnaEE on the path to become an ERIC and a European Landmark



- The ministry of higher education, research and innovation of the host country (France) officially submitted the ERIC application (Step 2) to the European Commission. AnaEE is expected to become an ERIC by mid-year 2021.
- AnaEE is currently preparing for the ESFRI hearings held at the end of April 2021. This process aims at evaluating the progress and maturity of the AnaEE-RI. The landmark label will be granted if AnaEE proves its maturity, its strengths, and its added-value to the European Research Area.

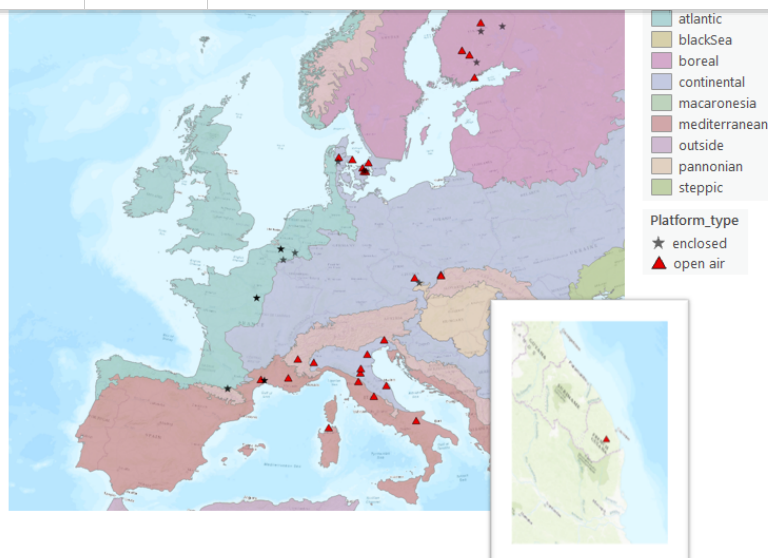
AnaEE: a large coverage of European ecosystems

*Figure: The geographical distribution of AnaEE's platform across the ecosystem type in Europe.
Source of the base layer: European Environment Agency, Biogeographical regions*



alpine

AnaEE ecosystems include all major types of European terrestrial ecosystems, unmanaged or managed, i.e. agro-



- **Agricultural land**, which covers 47% of the EU territory. Arable land accounts for the largest share, followed by livestock grazing, mixed crops and various permanent crops.
- **Forests and Forestry**: about 35% of the EU territory, totaling 215 million hectares (ha) is categorized as forest, representing 25% of the world forest resources. The percentage of unmanaged forests in Europe has overall remained stable at around 3% of the land area.
- **Grasslands and shrublands**: one of the most versatile ecosystem types in Europe, ranging from monoculture production grassland under frequent management to diverse, extensively managed natural or semi-natural grassland.
- **Wetlands, rivers and lakes**: There are several million kms of streams and rivers, 73,000 km² of wetlands and more than a million lakes across the European territory (Eurostat). 'Freshwater', including wetlands at the boundary of fresh and salt water, provides for a multitude of ecosystems and ecosystem services, which play a crucial role in European economy and culture.

This allows AnaEE to provide comprehensive assessments and solutions in terms of land-use change, climate change, mitigation, and adaptation. AnaEE will be the only experimental research infrastructure in continental ecology, distributed throughout Europe, and across all types of ecosystems, including agro-ecosystems.

Focus on platform: the Oulanka research station



Oulanka Research Station is based in the Oulanka National Park, a Finnish biodiversity hotspot, with its calcium-rich bedrock, a diverse topography, and large environmental gradients within a small area. The Oulanka Research Station, part of the Thule Institute, is situated in the Oulanka river valley where there are many alluvial meadows, stream mouths and crags supporting luxurious plant communities. In the middle of the boreal coniferous forest-zone called Taiga, Norway spruce and Scots pine abound.

Oulanka is a multi-disciplinary research station but focused historically on animal, plant ecology and geography. Recently sociological aspects have been included as well. The broad range of long-term data series available for researchers include both, biological and physical/ chemical datasets, and many of them have been collected since 1966. The datasets cover timeseries on meteorology, water chemistry, phenology, ice cover, snow cover, active layer depth, air pollution as well as different plant and animal species, and a set of high-resolution aerial photographs.

EcoClimate is a long-term manipulative natural experimental platform studying combined and separate effects of climate change and reindeer grazing. This is a joint project between the University of Oulu and the University of Alaska Anchorage (UAA).

The AnaEE Virtual Tour 2021



AnaEE Virtual Tour 2021 Stage #1: Denmark

Networking within AnaEE during the pandemics



Taking into account the current situation of the pandemics that prevents physical visits, AnaEE organizes the AnaEE Virtual Tour 2021 (AVT 2021) in order to develop and strengthen the network of the Research Infrastructure.

The objective of AVT 2021 is to stand a 2 – 3h webinar with each national node in order to discuss and share news with the platform's owners and managers. This gives the opportunities to discuss issues related to AnaEE services, and the functioning of the RI as well as the Horizon Europe program, the trans-national access (TNA) to the platforms.

It is also the occasion for the AnaEE management board to develop stronger ties with the platforms, better understand what are the work performed on the field, their capacity to host new experiments, their development plans as well as their expectations from the future AnaEE-ERIC.

The first AVT meeting with Denmark was the occasion to meet with the different Danish platforms: PLEN Ecotron & PLEN Agro Ecosystems, Risø Environmental Risk Assessment Facility (RERAF) & Experimental fields, Silkeborg Lake experimental facility, Brandbjerg (Climaite), Foulum, Vestsø. These platforms are gathered within AnaEE Denmark, both the national Danish research infrastructure and the Danish contribution to AnaEE-RI. AnaEE Denmark officially started in January 2018 and the partners are the University of Copenhagen (UCPH), the Aarhus University (AU), the Technical University of Denmark (DTU) and the Roskilde University (RUC).

The diversity of Danish platforms (from open-air to ecotron and aquatic mesocosm) allows various studies to be conducted such as determining the C-footprint of lakes, increasing the biomass production and soil organic carbon stocks, optimizing climate and production services of cover crops in organic arable rotations, study of carbon and nitrogen fluxes, greenhouse gases dynamics in shallow lakes, fertilization and nutrient management etc...

AVT 2021 goes on in March with a meeting with Belgium.

Publication of three white papers on international cooperation between research infrastructures by RI-VIS

The RI-VIS project has just published three white papers that provide recommendations on how to increase collaboration between European research infrastructures and counterparts from Africa, Latin America and Australia. The papers are targeted at funders, policy makers and research infrastructure managers and collate the insights of 21 experts from research infrastructures and policymakers from the respective regions.

International cooperation on the level of research infrastructures is key to addressing major global challenges including climate change, infectious disease, food security and natural disasters. The EU-funded RI-VIS project, a consortium of 13 partners from European research infrastructures, aims to increase the visibility of European research infrastructures and raise awareness in new communities beyond Europe.

Even though many of the recommendations given are specific to the respective regions, some prominent themes emerge in all three white papers. These include issues such as funding, the importance of aligning scientific priorities and mutual benefits. Other key recommendations cover collaboration frameworks, global challenges, access, personal relationships, staff recognition and communication platforms.

More information [here](#).

About ENVRI Community

• “Solving shared problems in environmental research” by the European Commission

European Commission, in collaboration with the former ENVRIplus Coordination team, has recently published a long-awaited article “Solving shared problems in environmental research” summarizing the results of the highly successful project. For years, environmental scientists across different disciplines have struggled with the same technical challenges. In response, EU-funded researchers have created a community where scientists can pool their resources to find joint solutions to common problems. Full article available [here](#).

• A successful 1st virtual ENVRI week

Every year, the ENVRI community gathers in so-called ENVRI week, a week dedicated to Environmental Research Infrastructures. It hosts ENVRI-FAIR project related sessions as well as several other sessions targeting different groups of stakeholders. This year, the event virtually gathered over 150 participants. Find out the main results of the ENVRI week 2021 [here](#).

NEWS FROM NATIONAL NODES

@AnaEE Belgium

- AnaEE-Flanders has received funding from FWO (the Flemish science fund) for an additional two years, covering a period up until the beginning of 2023. This mostly encompasses support for both technical and academic personnel in managing and running the different AnaEE-Flanders platforms. During this next period, further efforts will be made to strengthen the links with societal and economic actors. External consultancy will assess the socio-economic potential of the infrastructure for different sectors.

@AnaEE Denmark

- The University of Copenhagen offers an AnaEE-relevant PhD course in late summer called "Advanced measurements and analyses of greenhouse gas fluxes from soils and ecosystems (AMAGS)". The course takes place in Copenhagen with visits to AnaEE Denmark platforms and other sites on 23-28 August 2021 (4 ECTS). Lecturers include people from the Danish AnaEE platforms. Participation is free and open to European students (maximum 30 participants). Direct link to the course description and enrollment: <https://phdcourses.ku.dk/DetailKursus.aspx?id=108250&sitepath=NAT>.

@AnaEE France

- AnaEE France applied for the new French roadmap of research infrastructures in February 2021. The application by AnaEE France national node included a new governance structure taking into account the official fusion between Ecotrons and other AnaEE France platforms, a work-plan of investment and networking activities, training and research activities with other French RIs dedicated to environmental research and a FAIR data management plan. Contact: Jean-François Le Galliard, France
- The collective of technical managers of CNRS French AnaEE platforms has obtained the CNRS "Cristal Collectif" for their work in the development of the AnaEE France research infrastructure. Each year, this prize rewards collectives that have carried out projects whose technical mastery, collective dimension, applications, innovation and outreach are particularly remarkable. Contact: <https://www.cnrs.fr/fr/personne/cristal-collectif-2020> [in french]
- In a recent study involving one AnaEE France forest site, authors performed a model-data intercomparison project, where they tested the ability of terrestrial biosphere models to reproduce the observed sensitivity of ecosystem productivity to rainfall changes in several manipulated sites over the world. They found that most models had a low capacity in reproducing the observed magnitude of productivity changes but they reproduced well some qualitative features of ecosystem dynamics. This suggests that major improvements of these terrestrial biosphere models are still needed. Paschalis, A, Fatichi, S, Zscheischler, J, et al. Rainfall manipulation experiments as simulated by terrestrial biosphere models: Where do we stand? *Glob Change Biol.* 2020; 26: 3336– 3355. <https://doi.org/10.1111/gcb.15024>

OPEN CALLS

ERA-net Joint Call 2021 on "Circularity in mixed crop and livestock farming systems, with emphasis on greenhouse gas mitigation". More information [here](#)

France: National Fund for Open Science call for projects 2 (FNSO 2 AAP) "Generalising open access to publications". More information [here](#)

If you are interested in joining AnaEE for the coming Horizon Europe call: "*HORIZON-INFRA-SERV-2021-01-03: Research Infrastructures services for a sustainable and resilient agriculture and agro-ecological transitions*", please get in touch!

Please, if you are aware of any announcement of opportunity, share with us. If you plan to participate to one of these calls and use the AnaEE RI, please, tell us in advance, and follow the AnaEE access rules.

EVENTS CALENDAR

EGU 2021: April 19, 2021 - April 30, 2021. More information to submit your abstract [here](#).

International Conference on Research Infrastructures (ICRI) 2021: June 2-4, 2021, Ottawa, Canada. More information [here](#).

AnaEE PhD course (AMAGS): 23-28 August 2021. More information [here](#).

ERC has published its Horizon Europe 2021 calendar, with calls opening from February to May 2021. More information [here](#).

European Research and Innovations Days: June 23 & 24, 2021. [Click here](#) to stay updated.

International Geoscience and Remote Sensing Symposium 2021: July 11 - July 16, 2021. More information [here](#).



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