ALTER-Net is a partnership of 24 research organisations in Europe, developed in the EC’s Sixth Framework Programme. ALTER-Net’s mission is to improve the sustainable use, management and conservation of biodiversity and ecosystems through the integration of European interdisciplinary research capacity and knowledge. It will do this by working in partnership with its main European stakeholders in scientific, policy and public sectors, and by a training programme featuring an annual Summer School.

The Summer School Objectives

The ALTER-Net Summer School shall contribute to durable integration and spread of excellence within and beyond the network, with a view to promote interdisciplinary approaches. The 2009 Summer School will focus on:

- Biodiversity and ecosystems in Europe;
- Ecosystem processes, function, services and benefits;
- Resilience of social and natural systems;
- Valuation of biodiversity and ecosystem services;
- Linking biodiversity research with policy and the public.

Experts will give lectures on the themes mentioned above. Guided by tutors in the afternoons, working groups will discuss implications of findings for actual European ecosystems and their services and compile these in a written report. An excursion will illustrate land-use change in the Provence.
Participants

The ALTER-Net 2009 summer school is open to young graduate and post-graduate scientists mostly from the network partners and 2 participants from developing countries. Adequate English skills are required. All participants are asked to present a poster on their own research. The summer school is limited to 32 participants, who will be selected with the goal of achieving an optimal mix among regions, disciplines and gender.

Lecturers of last year:

Michael Bredemeier, U Göttingen, Germany
Tim Carter, SYKE, Helsinki, Finland
Wolfgang Cramer, PIK, Potsdam, Germany
Anke Fischer, Macaulay, Aberdeen, UK
Marina Fischer-Kowalski, MIFF, Vienna, Austria
Georg Grabherr, U Vienna, Austria
Christian Körner, U Basel, Switzerland
Rik Leemans, U Wageningen, Netherlands
Hermann Lotze-Campen, PIK, Potsdam, Germany
Wolfgang Lucht, PIK, Potsdam, Germany
Hal Mooney, U Stanford, California, USA
Mark Rounsevell, U Edinburgh, UK
Dagmar Schröter, UBA, Vienna, Austria
Martin Sharman, EC, Brussels, Belgium
Simron Jit Singh, MIFF, Vienna, Austria
Will Steffen, Fenner School, ANU, Canberra, Australia
Mark Sutton, CEH, Edinburgh, UK
Hanne Svarstad, NINA, Oslo, Norway
Sybille van den Hove, Terra, Barcelona, Spain
Sander van der Leeuw, Arizona State U, USA
Katrin Vohland, PIK, Potsdam, Germany
Jarda Vrba, U South Bohemia and Academy of Sciences, Ceske Budejovice, Czech Republic
Allan Watt, CEH, Edinburgh, UK

Overall, approx. 23 lecturers are expected to join the school again in 2009.

Application

There is a registration fee of 850,-€ which includes the lectures and excursion as well as accommodation (double rooms with shared bathrooms) and all meals. Travel costs must be covered by the participants as well.

Deadline for applications: 31 May 2009
Successful applicants will be notified by 15 July 2009

Online information, the preliminary programme and application forms are available at:
http://www.pik-potsdam.de/alter-net/

For more information on ALTER-Net see:
http://www.alter-net.info/

ALTER-Net Summer School Secretariat:
Sabine Lütkemeier
Potsdam Institute for Climate Impact Research (PIK)
Telegrafenberg A51
14473 Potsdam, Germany
Tel.: +49 – 331 – 288 2538
Fax: +49 – 331 – 288 2428
E-mail: Sabine.Luetkemeier@pik-potsdam.de