3rd ExpeER Training week
"SAmpling Protocols for Ecosystem Research"
SAPER, northern European region
August 26-30, 2013
VU University Amsterdam, The Netherlands

This training course is intended to develop and disseminate protocols for ecosystem measurements in the field, to help develop improved integration in data collection and use. This course is aimed at people working with ecosystem observatories, LTER sites and experimental facilities. It is being organized and funded through the ExpeER project, an FP7 project aimed at integrating ecosystem research infrastructure around Europe Participants will learn about how to undertake a range of field-scale ecological measurements in both lab and in forests, and how to ensure that the data will be of value to the wider ecological community. The costs of attendance, local transport and food will be met by ExpeER; however, participants will have to fund their own accommodation and travel to and from the training course. Registration will close when the maximum number of 20 participants has been reached.

TO BOOK A PLACE OR REQUEST
MORE DETAILS, PLEASE CONTACT:

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or apply directly through the online application form: http://expeer.digitalezaken.nl/

Parameters to be trained

These topics will be covered in classroom and/or practical (hands-on) sessions

- Land Use Type (landscape analysis)
- Leaf Area Index (grassland/forest)
- Plant biomass (grassland/forest)
- Soil macrofauna (QBS technique, bait lamina, litterbags)
- Soil respiration (different techniques)
- Soil organic matter (sampling and analysis)
- Plant phenology
- Metadata for sampling, experiments and data management

Trainers:
Leslie Firbank, Leeds University, UK
Giorgio Matteucci, CNR, Italy
Miklós Kertész, MTA Centre for Ecological Research, Hungary
David Blankman, ILTER Information Management Committee, BGU, Israel
Cristina Menta, University of Parma, Italy
Stefania Pinto, University of Parma, Italy
Simone Pellissetti, University of Turin, Italy
Eva Krab, VU University Amsterdam, The Netherlands
Bert Buizer, VU University Amsterdam, The Netherlands
Jelte Rozema, VU University Amsterdam, The Netherlands

Program *(Subject to revision)*

(coffee breaks included)

Monday August 26

Arrival in Amsterdam Airport in the morning, train to VU University/Hotel

15:00	Start of training course
	Welcome; course objectives and logistics (E. Krab)
15:15 – 15.45	Introduction to ExpeER (L. Firbank/E. Krab)
15.45 – 16.30	Land use types (L. Firbank)
16:30 – 17.30	Introduction to Plant Biomass and Leaf area index (forests) (Giorgio Matteucci)
17.30 – 19.00	Visit to nearby city forest: Practical session Plant Biomass/Leaf area index
20:00	Dinner

Tuesday August 27 *(Excursion to dune area)*

9:00 – 11.30	The key to immortality of experiment and data: the importance of metadating (D. Blankman, ILTER)
11.30 – 12.30	Introduction to Plant biomass and Leaf Area Index (grasslands) (Miklós Kertész/ Giorgio Matteucci)
12.30 – 13.30	Lunch break
13.45	*Departure to dune area*
14:00 – 16:00	Practical session Plant Biomass (field)
16.15	*Departure to VU*
17:00 – 19:00	Practical session plant biomass / Leaf Area Index (lab)
20:00	Dinner

Wednesday August 28 *(Excursion to wet peat-grasslands)*

9:00 – 11:00	Soil macrofauna: the QBS technique (C. Menta, Univ. of Parma)
	Soil Processes (bait lamina and litterbags) (S. Pinto, Univ. of Parma)
11:15	*Departure to wet peat-grassland area*
12:00 – 13:00	Practical session Soil macrofauna/ Bait lamina/ Litterbags (field)
13:00 – 14:00	Lunch break in the field
14:15	*Departure to VU*
15:00 – 16.00	Introduction to soil invertebrate taxa (microarthropods) (C. Menta)
16:00 – 19:00	Practical session Soil macrofauna/ Soil processes (lab) (C. Menta, S. Pinto, E. Krab)

20:00   Dinner (*BBQ at campus*)

Thursday August 29

9:00 – 11:00   Introduction to soil gaseous emission (S. Pellissetti, Univ. of Turin)
11:15 – 13:00 Practical session Soil gas emissions (field, *Hortus botanicus*)
13:00 – 14.00 Lunch break
14.00 – 15:00 Introduction to handling flux data (S. Pellissetti)
15:00 – 19:00 Practical session soil gas emissions (lab)
20:00   Dinner

Friday August 30 *(Excursion OTC experiment Bergen aan Zee)*

9:00   *Departure to OTC experiment*

10:00 – 12:00 Open top chamber experiment Bergen aan Zee (B. Buizer, J. Rozema)

12:15   *Departure to VU*

13:00 – 14:00 Lunch and closure of training course

14:00   End of training course

Organizing committee:

Eva Krab, VU University Amsterdam, The Netherlands
Rien Aerts, VU University Amsterdam, The Netherlands
Giorgio Matteucci, CNR, Italy
Elli Groner, BGU, Israel
Leslie Firbank, Leeds University, UK
Bill Kunin, Leeds University, UK

Address of VU University (W&N building)

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Mobile (Eva Krab): +31648972055
Room: A-121

Logistic information

To the VU University   From Amsterdam (*Schiphol*) airport, take a train to 'Amsterdam Zuid' (beware, this is NOT the train to Amsterdam Central). Trains in the direction of Hilversum, Zwolle or Utrecht that leave every couple of minutes generally stop here, but please check the signs at the platform to be sure. This train will take you in only 8 minutes to Amsterdam Zuid. A 5-minute walk will then take you to the university.
When departing the train, take the most western exit (direction of airport), walk down some stairs and cross the street, turn left and walk straight until you see the main building of the university.
The course will not be held in this building but in the W&N building a bit further on the campus (check the campus map at http://www.vu.nl/en/about-vu-amsterdam/contact-info-and-route-description/map-vu-campus/ for directions).

To Hotel Park Plaza   From Amsterdam (*Schiphol*) airport take a train to the Amsterdam Central station. From here take tram number 2 with direction 'Nieuw Sloten' and exit the tram at the stop Emmastraat/Koninginneweg. From here the hotel is a 2-minute walk.

Daily transport to the university   We will provide each participant upon arrival (or before by mail at request) at the VU with a 5-day public transport card. This card will take you anywhere in Amsterdam with the city public transport (GVB). You check in with the card when you enter the tram or bus, and you check out when you leave it. You can use the public transport card to travel from the university to the hotel (for Park Plaza: tram 16, stop Emmastraat/Lairessestraat), but we will also use it for travel from the university to the dinners, which will be on different locations in Amsterdam. For a public transport map check http://www.gvb.nl

Accommodation

You are free to stay wherever you would like in Amsterdam. However, we have made a reservation in the Park Plaza hotel Vondelpark in Amsterdam for this course. This nice hotel is located not far from the VU University and charges €89.00 per night for a single room, and €99.00 per night for a room with double occupancy (separate beds) (including breakfast buffet & VAT, excluding 5,5% city tax.)
If you would like to share a room, but have no one to share it with, please email Eva Krab or indicate this on the online application form and we will try to get you in contact with someone who also would like to share a room. However, it is your own responsibility to arrange the booking and the payment of the room.
For more information about the Park Plaza hotel and to book a room go to: https://www.businesshotelreservations.nl/booking/ and fill in 'eco'.
 A cheaper nearby alternative could be the Stayokay Vondelpark hostel: (http://www.stayokay.com/nl/hostel/amsterdam-vondelpark?context=26215540), that offers dorm beds for 33 Euro per night (including breakfast). This hostel (or any other hotel) could also be booked through the online booking form.

If you would like to stay in the Park Plaza hotel please make your reservation trough the online form before the 26th of July.