

Multi-Site Research: Call 4, 2022-23 (MSR-4)

Since 2006, the [Alternet MSR initiative](#) has supported research projects on fundamental ecological questions and socio-ecological issues. Potential subjects range from ecosystem functioning to eco-political issues, and research techniques (from field surveys and lab analysis to interviews and citizen science initiatives). Reports of these previous activities are available [here](#).

What are MSR projects?

Alternet Multi-Site Research (MSR) projects are research initiatives with a shared methodological approach to study issues whose results are potentially affected by geographical differences across Europe. The aim is to demonstrate that simple but diverse research can be simultaneously conducted to encompass ecological, socio-economical and political differences (among others) across the European continent. In this way, MSR projects strongly contribute to the [network's objectives](#).

Alternet MSR initiatives are currently designed to enable not only experimental ecological research in the field but also other types of research relevant to the Alternet goals. The programme is open for field-ecological, socio-ecological, and eco-political research on topics such as citizen science, ecosystem services and nature-based solutions. MSR projects open possibilities for question-focused research including fundamental research issues, as well as solution-oriented projects. Its aim is to support innovative projects that address emerging pan-European topics that promote network activity and cooperation.

Contributions of MSR activities to the Alternet goals

Alternet's main objective is to develop lasting integration amongst its partner institutes and those European researchers involved in biodiversity and ecosystem research, monitoring and/or communication. Alternet is building upon a number of activities developed during the first (EU-funded phase), including:

- Identification of common research priorities and development of a common research program
- The Alternet Summer School, which has been providing training for young researchers in interdisciplinary approaches to biodiversity and ecosystems research since 2006
- Establishment of a vibrant inter-disciplinary research community, which Alternet has championed and nurtured by providing funding opportunities (MSR & AHIA calls), and actively supports through topical workshops and conferences

- Communication and knowledge transfer at interfaces (scientist-to-scientist, scientist-to-policymaker and with the general public)
- Supporting the [EKLIPSE](#) science-policy interface (created in 2016), the Management Body (EMB) of which is hosted by Alternet

Budget and budgeting guidelines

AHIA project financing from Alternet can last for two years at the most. The financial reward is €15,000 maximum per MSR project. Within the awarded budget, Alternet will exclusively finance operational and/or travel costs, potentially including both costs of Alternet and non-Alternet member institutes and their employees. Hence, project input of personnel costs is considered as an in-kind contribution for both Alternet and non-Alternet members.

Prioritisation

Priority criteria for selection of a proposal are:

1. relevance, novelty and formulation of the research questions,
2. feasibility of the research setup based on the proposed budget,
3. anticipated quality of scientific outcomes,
4. level of added value to the Alternet goals,
5. number of participating Alternet partners.

Key dates

- Deadline for submitting proposals: 15 April 2022
- Short list by Alternet Management Board: 15 May 2022
- Decision by Alternet Council: 31 May 2022
- Earliest start of the project: 01 July 2022
- Period for project: 1 to max. 3 years depending on the type of research

Guidelines for proposals

- Please send your proposal to [Tyler Kulfan, secretariat@alterneteurope.eu](mailto:Tyler.Kulfan.secretariat@alterneteurope.eu) ([Alternet secretariat](#))
- Please follow the template when writing your proposal. The proposal should be no longer than six pages, excluding references.
- The call is open for Alternet consortium partners but non-Alternet partners can join a MSR project.
- Any proposal has to be coordinated by an Alternet partner.
- Participation of relevant Alternet partners is an evaluation criterion.

- Alternet highly recommends the use of research sites at or near [LT\(S\)ER sites or platforms](#), but other research sites, platforms or locations are allowed. For details of LTER sites and LTSER platforms, please consult the [DEIMS](#) database.

Links

- [Proposal template](#)
- [Selection procedure](#)

Contact

- [Tyler Kulfan, secretariat@alterneteurope.eu](mailto:secretariat@alterneteurope.eu) ([Alternet Secretariat](#))