



### ICOS ECOSYSTEM THEMATIC CENTRE IN BRIEF

The Ecosystem Thematic Centre (ETC) is the ICOS central facility that coordinates the ecosystem station network. The ETC is a collaboration among research institutes located in three different countries: in Italy where the Euro-Mediterranean Center on Climate Change (CMCC) coordinates the Italian contribution that involves also the University of Tuscia and the ICOS-Italy Joint Research Unit, in France where the Institut National de la recherche agronomique (INRA) contributes with three different laboratories in Bordeaux, Arras and Orléans and in Belgium where an ETC office is established at the Universiteit van Antwerpen (UAntwerpen). Thanks to this collaboration, a broad expertise is found within the ETC ranging from plant ecology, soil chemistry, micro meteorology, and chemical laboratory analysis to big data processing and the development and management of online tools and databases.

The mission of the ETC is threefold: (I) the ETC coordinates the ecosystem station network by providing the highly standardized protocols and instructions for the measurements and evaluating and safeguarding the quality of the data. (II) the ETC supports the ecosystem station network with various services such as the centralized chemical analysis of soil and plant samples and the centralized processing of all the data collected and (III) the ETC ensures the continuous development of the ecosystem station network by testing new instruments and methods to be deployed in the network.

## CONTACT DETAILS

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*Bert Gielen, Dario Papale and Denis Loustau of the ETC executive committee | [Download](#)*