

	Minutes Alternet Council meeting 21 February 2024
Venue	INBO, Brussels Herman Teirlinck building, Havenlaan 88 bus 73, 1000 Brussel, Belgium Room 01.72
Meeting link	To join the video meeting, click this link: https://meet.google.com/gyw-hhfz-xta Otherwise, to join by phone, dial +1 978-533-1236 and enter this PIN: 136 061 567# To view more phone numbers, click this link: https://tel.meet/gyw-hhfz-xta?hs=5
Minutes	Tyler Kulfan
Chair Council	Jiska van Dijk. In case of absence Vice Chair Ana Lillebø will chair the meeting
MB	MB feedbacks and proposals will be presented physically or online by the MB member responsible for the activity or by Maurice Hoffmann
Participating in person	1. Jiska van Dijk (NINA), Council Chair 2. Maurice Hoffmann (MB) 3. Mark Frenzel (UFZ) 4. Ulf Grandin (SLU) 5. Johannes Peterseil (ILE) 6. Thierry Caquet (INRAE) 7. Rob Alkemade (PBL) 8. Clara Veerkamp (PBL) 9. Leonard Plaetinck (RBINS) 10. Lukas Egarter (Eurac) 11. Matt Reed (CCRI) 12. Mart Külvik (IAES) 13. Jomme Desair (INBO) 14. Alison Hester (Hutton) 15. Kerry Waylen (Hutton) 16. Sonja Jaehnig (IGB) 17. Mihai Adamescu (Unibuc) 18. Joan Pino (CREAF) 19. Ben Delbaere (DC) 20. Katja Brinkmann (ISOE) 21. Chris Short (CCRI)

Participating virtually	1. Allan Watt (UK-CEH), MB Vice Chair 2. Eszter Kelemen (ESSRG) 3. Jørgen Rosvold (NINA) 4. Sindre Langaas (NIVA) 5. Nicolas Dendoncker (ILEE) 6. Ana Lillebø (CESAM), Council Vice Chair 7. Kinga Krauze (ERCE)
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Abbreviations of topics - INFO: information topic; DECI: decision/approval topic; DISC: discussion topic

Wednesday 21 February 2024, 09:00-17:00

12:30-13:00 Lunch

Tea/coffee breaks in between

A. General issues

1. INFO: Welcome, meeting objectives and notion of our 20th birthday anniversary in 2024

The annual Council meeting was opened by Maurice Hoffmann, and all were welcomed. The meeting commenced with voting instructions concerning in-person and hybrid participation. Raised hands were counted as positive votes for hybrid participants. Celebration of the 20th anniversary of Alternet was recognized, with note that 1 April 2024 will be the official anniversary. In-kind contributions from the Management Board, Council, and Alternet community were given recognition and appreciation.

2. INFO: Alternet leadership (Chair Council)

It was announced that Jiska van Dijk will take over the chair of the Alternet Council from Maurice Hoffmann and that she will chair this meeting from point 3 on the agenda onwards. Maurice Hoffmann retired from INBO on 31 OCT 2023. Consequently his leadership position within Alternet could not be maintained, not being an official employee of one of the member institutes of Alternet anymore.

Ben Delbaere recognized all that was accomplished for Alternet under the leadership of Maurice Hoffmann since 2014. Great appreciation for his contributions was expressed by all.

3. DECI: Approval of the agenda ([Doc 0](#))

Decision: The agenda that was previously distributed was approved with one addition; Mark Frenzel will additionally present on eLTER.

4. INFO: Roundtable intros (including presentation of new representatives)

Roundtable introductions were provided by all those in attendance, with special attention to new representatives. Leendert Plaetinck presented on the newest Alternet partner institute: RBINS (Royal Belgian Institute of Natural Sciences), which joined Alternet in 2024. A meeting will be organized with Lenny and the leadership of Alternet.

5. DECI: Approval minutes of the 2023 council meeting ([Doc 1](#) - Tyler)

The draft minutes of the 2023 Council meeting were distributed. There was unanimous support for the finalization and publication of the minutes.

Decision: The 2023 minutes were officially approved and will be published on the Alternet website.

6. INFO: Budgetary principles, Budgetary overviews, budgetary proposal 2024 ([Doc 2](#) - Maurice)

In addition to partner institute annual contributions, funding for Alternet is now additionally coming from Biodiversa+ support and participation in Horizon Europe projects. This has led to complications in financial administration, which has been managed to date by Maurice Hoffmann.

Budgetary principles were shared by MH:

1. Alternet uses one bank account to deal with all its financial transactions. Income and expenditures are internally categorized in order to enable visualization of financial overviews for all distinguished categories.
2. We distinguish two major categories in the Alternet budget, i.e. internal Alternet activities and externally financed activities.
3. Financial transactions that can be unequivocally assigned to internal activities and that are not foreseen in any of the externally financed projects, are to be realized with the internal income posts. At the moment these are membership fees, registration fees of Alternet activities (Summer School, Conferences), sponsoring of (specific) Alternet activities.
4. Financial transactions that can be unequivocally assigned to any of the specific externally financed projects, are to be allocated to those respective projects, and according to the subdivision in these projects (personnel costs, travel and subsistence costs, indirect costs).
5. Financial transactions that **cannot** be unequivocally assigned to specific internal activities or specific externally financed projects can be assigned to any of both categories. At the moment costs of these 'ambiguous' financial transactions can be part of the general secretariat, legal advice, administrative support, financial support, infrastructure, bank costs. Part of the overhead of any of the externally financed projects and of Eclipse requests can be used for this category.

Income and the evolution of Alternet's capital was shared by MH. The individual costs and incomes associated with various activities and elements of Alternet were reviewed. It was noted that payment to IGB for employment of the secretariat was made in 2023, resulting in what appears to be a higher secretariat cost.

The proposed budget for 2024 will cost €83,000.00 and the expected income from membership fees will bring in €78,000.00

The issue of Horizon project overheads was raised. It was agreed that overheads would be used for such things as financial advice and legal advice. Alternet's participation in projects currently entails the employment and work of Tyler Kulfan and, via secondment, Nils Bunnefeld (Stirling) and (incoming) Brooke Wilkerson (NORCE). The complications of hiring for Alternet were acknowledged, as well as the complication of tax issues.

The question was raised to the Management Board whether continued participation of Alternet in EU projects was supported, and there was strong support; however, it is ultimately a decision of the Council whether or not to continue in these and any potential new projects.

COFFEE BREAK

7. DECI: New Alternet MB chair

Jiska van Dijk has taken up the leadership of the Council, as previously decided. Maurice Hoffmann has retired from INBO and is now retiring from the leadership of the Management Board, leaving this position vacant.

Philip Roche was nominated by INRAE to serve as MB chair. No other nominations have been received to date.

Decision: Philip Roche was appointed as MB chair with unanimous support. Vice MB Chair remains Allan Watt; Chair of Council is Jiska van Dijk, and Vice Chair of Council remains Ana Lillebø.

8. DECI: Potential adjustments of the Alternet Statutes ([Doc 3](#) & [reasons](#) - Maurice) FYI [the original statutes in Flemish](#), [the original statutes translated in English](#) & [the statutes in Flemish with the potential adjustments](#).

Suggested revisions to the statutes (to which all partners commit) of the Alternet Association were drafted and distributed. The binding legal statutes are in Dutch; draft suggestions have been made on these as well as the English translation.

In summary, the potential adjustments in the statutes deal with:

1. Our proposal to delete 'associated membership' as an option when joining Alternet. In the past it hasn't been used with the exception of one, and it makes the voting procedures and representation in council not very clear.
2. Our proposal to be more specific on the Management Board, including to allow persons in the Management Board who are not per se affiliated to an Alternet partner institute
3. Our proposal to limit the period of Chairs to six years max, to allow new chair- persons to take over. And including that the Chair of council (also Vice-chair if he/she steps in for the Chair) doesn't represent his/her institute at Council meetings.
4. Our proposal to explicit mentioning and explaining the voting procedure in case we have only virtual (i.e. all representatives are joining online) and hybrid meetings (i.e. some joining online and some joining in-person)
5. Miscellaneous: among others textual corrections and number of paragraphs corrections

Ben Delbaere reviewed the statutes and offered additional suggestions. It was noted that the Dutch version is the legally binding version. Ben will send his additional suggestions to the Chair and secretariat.

It was suggested by Kerry Waylen and Joan Pino that representation of an institute by a chair isn't necessarily done by the chair but that this could be a stated option. Alison suggested that at least a certain (tbd) percentage of MB members come from Alternet member institutes. It was noted that MB appointments are a decision of the Council. Jomme Desair suggested that article 16.3 could benefit from more flexibility in length of term, as three years would be an intimidatingly lengthy appointment for early career researchers. MH stated that withdrawal at any time is possible, and this could perhaps be more clearly stated in the statutes. Ben Delbaere noted that the exclusion of natural persons as members would exclude his participation in the Council. Jiska van Dijk stated that his legal organisation is entitled for membership, but Ben noted that according to Horizon Europe he is a natural person. Ben recommended using the terminology "sole trader" for inclusion. The Council previously decided to not include membership of natural persons.

The INBO address will need to be changed in due time.

Decision: All suggested revisions to the statutes were accepted in principle. The Council will be consulted electronically as legally-suitable revisions are finalized and made.

9. INFO/DISC: In-kind contributions and recognition ([Doc 16](#) - Jiska)

It was recommended that specific in-kind contributions be recognized on the Alternet website, in gratitude and promotion of the institutes and personnel providing them. The Council supports the publication of in-kind contributions on the Alternet website for promotion and as an expression of gratitude.

10. INFO: Appointment of Financial/Administrative support, paid by EU project overhead (preferably to be hosted by a partner institute)

A dedicated person appointed to provide Alternet with financial and administrative support is needed. This personnel will be paid for via EU project overheads. Mark Frenzel and Alison Hester have requested further information on the specific needs that this person should fulfill. If no institute can provide such a person, external hiring will be necessary. A breakdown of individual separate tasks coordinated by one person was suggested by Matt Reed; Jiska van Dijk noted that this brings its own complications and that a singular personnel is preferred. This position can be hosted in any country and knowledge of EU-level legal matters (rather than specifically Belgian/Flemish law) is needed; two person-months is foreseen for this position. Personnel from Oppla are potentially interested.

In summary: further clarification of the task specifics of this job will be made; options for internal appointments will be explored and nominations are encouraged.

B. Alternet activities - other than its yearly activity plan

11. INFO: Science Lectures Seminars ([Doc 7](#) - Maurice)

There was a Council decision to further elaborate the idea of Jacques Berlo and Maurice Hoffmann to introduce an Alternet science lecture series. A resulting new activity proposal was prepared and distributed. This proposed activity seeks to provide a platform for Alternet institutes to share and promote their scientific research. A model similar to the ongoing Alternet SPI webinar series is foreseen, but with a focus on scientific research. This is in line with the original goals of Alternet (formulated in 2003), and no necessary budget is foreseen.

Lectures would be recorded and made publicly available. It would be foreseen that such seminars are held on a regular and predictable basis. Alison Hester recommended merging this proposed activity with the ongoing SPI webinar series, which may help in ensuring its regularity. Sonja Jaehnig supported the event but suggested that once per month would be too frequent. Rob Alkemade suggested that the event may require some budget if it is to be done in an attractive and professional manner. Ana Lillebo advised against merging activities, as these lectures would target a different audience than the SPI webinars. Eszter Kelemen recommended merging the lecture series with more emphasis on dialogue and knowledge exchange. Kinga Krauze supported Eszter's comments.

NIVA supported the view of keeping the proposed science lectures separate from the SPI webinars. The main reason is that the latter has established itself successfully with a unique European SPI profile/branding that may risk become diluted with a merging.

There is strong general support for this proposed activity. The merging will be voted upon alongside establishment of the activity.

12. INFO: Draft minutes of MB meeting JAN 2024 ([Doc 4](#) - Tyler) including an overview of the activities of 2023

Draft minutes of the January 2024 MB meeting were shared to provide an overview of the activities of 2023 and the proposed activities of 2024. These were shared for informational purposes.

13. DECI: Acceptance of Alternet gender equality plan ([Doc 5](#) - Riikka)

Riikka Paloniemi, with support by Sonja Jaehnig, drafted and shared a proposed gender equality plan for Alternet, which was reviewed by the MB and shared with the Council. The gender equality plans of various member institutes were used and synthesized as a basis for Alternet's own plan. The proposed plan was reviewed.

Kerry Waylen noted that it is appropriate to focus on what Alternet can do, but directives stating what partner institutes should themselves do (e.g. blind review of CVs, etc.) should not be included. It was noted by Matt Reed that gender inequality is discipline specific.

Decision: The proposed gender equality plan is accepted with planned revisions making directives Alternet-specific (not aimed at member institutes' own policies) and elaborating on the discipline-specific nature of equality challenges and directives for ensuring equality. Revisions will be shared with the Council electronically; the final plan will be published on the Alternet website.

14. INFO: Nature Restoration Knowledge Hub, state of affairs. ([Doc 18](#) - Maurice)

Biodiversa+ approached Alternet about becoming active with Biodiversa+ and SER-E in the formation of a nature restoration knowledge hub network. Ideas about this potential initiative are still in a preliminary state. The approaching election is complicating matters. All parties are waiting on the outcome of the European parliamentary vote on the nature restoration law. Potential developments to advance this initiative will likely not commence until after the June election. However, Alternet is already in collaboration with Biodiversa+ and has collaborated with SER-E on a webinar. The Alternet Day at the 2024 SRI Congress in Helsinki will also be topically focused on nature restoration.

Alison Hester noted that it's very important to specify whether this initiative is focused on nature restoration knowledge or particularly on nature restoration law—and recommended the latter. Maurice Hoffmann noted that there is neither a sense of urgency nor strong interest in this initiative at the moment.

LUNCH BREAK

15. INFO: Alternet European projects: BioAgora, COOP4CBD, Eco-Ready ([Doc 6](#) - Jiska)

The status and progress of the projects Restoreid, Eco-Ready, BioAgora, and CO-OP4CBD were presented.

The question was raised, as at the MB meeting, whether Alternet wishes to continue with these projects and, if so, how to further involve Alternet partners in such projects (how are partners to be consulted on such opportunities, etc.).

It was questioned by Rob Alkemade how involvement of Alternet partners in the CO-OP4CBD is being encouraged, and reference to the calls for experts and mobilization of knowledge holders was mentioned. However, it is clear that the 48 month allotment is a lot of person-months and there are issues fulfilling it. Marie Vandewalle recommended making a strict distinction between Eclipse participation in projects and direct Alternet participation in projects. Kerry Waylen noted that projects focused on knowledge exchange rather than primary research are where it would be more appropriate for partners to be involved through Alternet. Jomme Desair suggested writing Alternet internal activities into EU project proposals so that funding can be used to support these activities.

Decision: The Council agrees to continue with these projects with a recognized need to assemble a strategy regarding how projects are approached, communicated, and understood concerning added value. A task force or MB member will be assigned with this work.

Mart Külvik volunteers, as the call exchange MB representative; Eszter Kelemen, Allan Watt, Marie Vandewalle, and Jomme Desair all likewise volunteer. Sonja Jaehnig noted that Sybille Schroer could serve on the MB on behalf of this activity.

C. Activities 2023 and Activity plan 2024

16. INFO: Overview Alternet activities 2023 and activity plan 2024 ([Doc 4](#))

- **Communication - overview 2023 and proposal 2024 ([Doc 8](#)- Adriana, Tyler)**

On behalf of MB communications representative Adriana Cliville, Tyler Kulfan shared an overview of 2023 communications activity and a budget proposal for 2024. The total budget requested is €6,000. Tyler noted that this higher amount is due to two factors: 2024 is a conference year (Alternet Day in Helsinki) and communications budget may be needed for activities and promotion surrounding the 20th anniversary of Alternet. Additionally, an IT specialist has been hired for web maintenance, security. and development.

Tyler and Adriana will share a list of the assigned communications contact persons of Alternet institutes and request contact info of communications contact persons for partner institutes that do not yet have one assigned.

- **SPI Webinars overview 2023 and proposal 2024 ([Doc 9](#) - Juliette)**

Juliette Young presented on the Science-Policy Interface Seminar series activity. Three free SPI webinars were hosted in the past year by INBO and SER-E, Hutton, and INRAE respectively. The INBO/SER-E webinar was particularly successful in terms of attendance; but the highly interesting and relevant content of all three webinars was recognized.

The SPI seminar activity is intended to continue throughout 2024 with no requested budget. The next webinar will be hosted by Eklipse on 11 March. Promotional info about upcoming events should be shared with Oppla, and an opt-in for future events should be included in registration for attendees. An exit survey and a calendar invitation could also be set up. In gauging success, it was recommended to consider quality of engagement rather than just quantity of attendance.

- **Call Exchange - overview 2023 and proposal 2024 (No doc - Mart)**

Mart Külvik reviewed the Call Exchange activity and developments concerning call exchange activity in 2024, including the use of a new call sharing system on the website.

Mart questioned how Alternet can make communications between institutes more efficient; and it was noted that the most successful consortium building has come from calls that were proactively shared by members (e.g. Maurice Hoffmann's sharing of the science service call that became BioAgora). Tyler Kulfan requested more proactive call sharing for the success of the Call Exchange activity.

The question of how funding bodies and projects can raise the profile of Alternet was raised, with the suggestion that Alternet could potentially be a commenter on draft calls in the European community. A team of Mart, Eeva Primmer, Riikka Palomieni, Jiska van Dijk and Philip Roche are leading exploration of the commenter initiative. The relevance of PEER for such an initiative was also raised. Sonja Jaehnig noted that prior concerns about commentators having conflicts of interest to later participate in calls should not be an issue in practice; and Kerry Waylen drew attention to Mission Boards.

- **Collaborative Activities (MSR, AHIA, Mobility Fund) proposal 2024 ([Doc 11](#) - Philip)**

Philip Roche and Joan Pino, representatives of the AHIA and MSR activities respectively, distributed a proposal for a new joint Collaborative Activities initiative, which would combine these two activities along with the Mobility Fund. A requested budget of €10,000 in flexible funding would support the selection of up to two proposals of €5,000 each in 2024. Proposals can be submitted on a rolling basis.

Alison Hester noted that the proposal is lacking explicit reference to the Mobility Fund, which should be included and absorbed into the collaborative activities grouping, as well. She likewise recommended that any Council personnel (not only MB) can serve on the selection committee; this should be rephrased to be more explicitly inclusive. There was general agreement that the

selection committee should be opened up. Jomme Desair recommended that the review and funding process be sped up, as the present timeline is conditionally hard for researchers to plan and proceed with projects.

- **Summer School - overview 2023 and proposal 2024 ([Doc 12](#) - Allan)**

Allan Watt presented on the 2023 Summer School, which was another successful and dynamic programme with a diverse body of speakers and students. There will be a planning meeting held in March to discuss the future of the Summer School and to rethink different elements of its organisation and programme. A requested 2024 budget allocation of €22,000 would support both the school itself (€17,000) and the planning meeting (€5,000). This budget is prepared under the assumption that Biodiversa+ will provide €12,000 in support as in the past two years. It is planned that the maximum student contribution (fee) will be increased to €1,200 but with additional flexibility for grants/waivers. Lastly, the proposal includes a request for approval of the 2025 Summer School in Peyresq and its organisation.

It was questioned when there will be certainty of Biodiversa+ support. It was explained that Biodiversa+ intends to continue sponsorship of the summer school in addition to the A4Cap alumni network. Maurice Hoffmann is the contact person to date for support negotiations with Biodiversa+. There were requests to review the feedback questionnaires; Allan Watt noted that these are confidential and sensitive in nature but that numbers and figures will be shared.

Decision: The Council approved the organisation of the 2025 Summer School in Peyresq.

- **A4Cap Alumni network [report 2023](#) and proposal 2024 ([Doc 13](#) - Jomme, Tyler)**

Jomme Desair presented on the A4Cap Alternet Summer School alumni network, noting that this group has been operating unofficially up until this point. Since 2021, a self-organised group of alumni have held two capacity-building workshops, hosted Alternet conference sessions, published a paper on transformative change (using the Alternet Summer School as a case study), won a poster presentation award, and developed a network governance structure, report, and proposal. It was emphasised that A4Cap is intended to be as broadly and proactively inclusive an alumni network as possible, but does not claim to represent the whole of the alumni body. A budget of €5,000 and recognition of the A4Cap as an official Alternet activity is presently proposed. Support from Biodiversa+ of an equal amount is anticipated.

Alison Hester stated that while the activity being led by alumni makes sense, it should be as inclusive as possible to all early career researchers; it should likewise be as integrated as possible into the broader Alternet community. Strengthening the linkage with Alternet should be developed; Maurice Hoffmann requested more explicit inclusion of Alternet and Biodiversa+ in the governance structure moving forward if the Council approves this activity. It was noted that the intended platform was envisioned to be an extension of the summer school community rather than in competition with the Alternet Summer School. Jomme Desair noted that the democratic structure of A4Cap means that the present proposal cannot be significantly altered

without alumni approval, but that exploration and development of requested contingencies can be pursued.

- **Conference (Alternet Day 2024 and Alternet Conference 2025) ([Doc 14](#) - Lisa, Ana)**
[Alternet-Day-Session-Descriptions-and-Call.pdf](#)

Lisa Norton and Ana Lillebø are responsible for overseeing the organisation of the 2024 and 2025 conference activities, respectively. Ana Lillebø shared an overview of the structure and planning for the planned Alternet conference in 2025 to be held in Aveiro, Portugal. It was agreed that the structure of previous Alternet conferences would be maintained (e.g. a three-day conference starting at noon on the 1st day and closing at noon on the 4th day). Volunteers for the scientific committee included: Mark Frenzel, Alison Hester, Lukas Egarter, Clara Veerkamp. Eszter Kelemen volunteers to serve on an organising committee.

Lisa Norton is overseeing the planning of the Alternet Day at the SRI Congress in Helsinki (in collaboration with SRI and FutureEarth), to be held 12 June 2024. This initiative opportunity was opened by Syke. It was noted that the call for speakers and sessions is presently open and that mobilisation of the Alternet community is desired. A budget of €6,000 is proposed for three Alternet Day sessions of 1.5 hours each at Future Earth/SRI Congress.

Decision: The Council agrees in principle with the organisation plans of Ana Lillebø and Lisa Norton. No budget proposal was attached to this proposal. The Council selected the week 20 (13-16 May) for the 2025 conference.

- **Eclipse - overview 2023 and proposal 2024 ([Doc 15](#) - Marie)**

Marie Vandewalle presented on the 2023 progress and activities of Eclipse, which operates as an autonomous mechanism under the management of Alternet. A central role in BioAgora and numerous new requests and related projects were noted.

There is a remaining need for financial support personnel in Eclipse. Eclipse requested a separate bank account from the Alternet NGO, but recognized that the labeling by the treasurer could also work. All contracts must be finalized before work commences. Complications of adhering to the tax laws of both Belgium (Alternet) and Germany (UFZ) were noted. Marie Vandewalle stated that continuing to participate in EU projects through Alternet as it is currently arranged is difficult; and that going through institutes (such as UFZ) may be an alternative, but this necessitates a reevaluation of what the relationship between Alternet and Eclipse is and will be.

Alternet's responsibility encompasses everything that is signed off on by the signatory of Alternet. It was sought by the MB to find a candidate (internally or externally) who could handle the financial and legal administration of both Alternet and Eclipse; and there was a principle agreement to spend project overheads on this service. There was a request for expanded representation of Eclipse and an associated task force in the management board; Maurice

Hoffmann noted that it was the decision of the MB that Alternet representation be present in Eklipse governance structure (e.g. SAB) and that a single Eklipse representative in the MB (Marie Vandewalle) could be sufficient. No budget is requested at this time.

As Eklipse has a representative in the MB, reciprocal representation of Alternet (e.g. in KCB or SAB) in the Eklipse governance structure was requested. Marie will pursue the request of Alternet representation in the Strategic Advisory Body of Eklipse at its next convening.

- Alternet Anniversary activities (No doc - Jiska, Tyler)

There is no allocated budget for Alternet Anniversary activities, but robust celebration of the 20th anniversary milestone is desired. The communications budget can be used for promotion and e.g. video projects. Jiska van Dijk suggested additional activity, such as reserving the monastery in Ghent for two days dedicated to in-depth Alternet brainstorming with invited speakers, etc. Alison suggested using the reserve funds exceeding 80,000€ to organise such an event.

Brainstorming has already commenced in the MB, and anniversary activities will be further explored in terms of planning and budget. It is suggested to keep the budget below €10,000. A paper or project exploring the last twenty years of environmental change, progress, and policy could potentially be initiated; and it was noted that there are also many opportunities for synergies with the A4Cap.

17. INFO: Recap of proposed activity plan 2024 incl. Budget ([Doc 2](#) - Maurice)

The full activity plan and budget proposal were reviewed. There is a total budget allocation proposal of €83,000 proposed.

18. DECI: Two new activities (Science Lectures Seminars & A4Cap Alumni network) and new MB members

Decision: The SPI and Science Lecture Seminar series are to be merged as a single activity using shared infrastructure. The new activity of the science lecture seminars is approved with Maurice Hoffmann as the associated MB representative.

Decision: The A4Cap proposal and appointment of Karmen Czett in the MB is approved with a contingency to explore how the broader community of Alternet early career researchers can be included and integrated in the future.

19. DECI: Allocation of the proposed budgets and budget approval ([Doc 2](#) - Maurice)

Decision: The proposed activity plan and budget proposals are unanimously approved.

20. INFO/DISC/DECI: Any other business

Mark Frenzel delivered an informational presentation on the status and progress of eLTER. Because of the termination of WIFI at 17:00 the issue was postponed to the next council meeting. The secretariat will forward the presentation of Mark to Council.

21. DECI: Next AC meeting

The location of the next Council meeting is open; Chair Jiska van Dijk recommended that potential hosts come forward and inform her accordingly with potential dates within the timeframe of January-February 2025. The meeting should be held over two days.

The meeting concluded at 5pm. All those present were thanked for their participation.

Council dinner at 19:30 Restaurant: Chez Leon