

Alternet Steering Committee Meeting: January 2026

Date: 16/1/2026

Location: Virtual

Notes by: Tyler Kulfan

Present: Philip Roche (Chair), Allan Watt (Vice Chair), Jiska van Dijk (Council Chair), Ana Lillebo (Council Vice Chair), Uta Fritsch, Maurice Hoffmann, Marie Vandewalle, Tyler Kulfan, Joan Pino, Lisa Norton, Karmen Czett, Fiona Nevzati, Mart Kulvik

The Alternet Steering Committee (SC) meeting began at 14:00 on Friday, 16 January 2026 for the purpose of discussing and finalising proposals on Alternet activities and budgets prior to the 2026 Council meeting to be held in February.

The meeting commenced with discussion of budget proposals. No budget was needed for the CESAM Conference. The eLTER conference is in 2027 and we are not certain if the conferences will be merged. Ana proposes a budget of 2k in case it is needed.

There is an increase in grants and train travel, leading to an increased expected Summer School cost and requested budget. 2k is requested for Council meetings; 4k for comms; 5k for A4Cap; 20k (10k+10k) for ACP, because no payments were made in 2025; a new call for 2026 is intended. Despite their offer of significant in-kind concerning the communications activity, it was agreed that prospective partner institute Pensoft should pay a membership fee.

An Eklipse budget of 89,240 euros was proposed, most of which would fund the cost of a ten-year anniversary event for Eklipse and an update of the web-site. As discussed at the SC meeting in December, however, the amount available is much less than this, approximately 16,000 euros (excluding the 0.1 fte financial admin support of 20,000 euros for Eklipse). The current financial basis for Eklipse is made up from paid requests and EU projects (through Alternet and UfZ). To develop Eklipse, however, and achieve self-sustainability, further income is needed. The use of overheads has been seen as a solution. Overheads have been used to provide the financial and legal support needed for the EU projects but this has left insufficient additional funding for the amount proposed for 2026. It was proposed that Council should be made aware of this and that a further meeting involving Eklipse and the MB should take place before the next Council meeting, when all figures can be reviewed.

It was discussed whether the equality and non-discrimination plan should be an official activity/action of the SC—this question will be raised to Riikka, and she will be asked whether she wants to appoint a deputy and possibly expand the activity, if so.

Mart is to make a proposal to the Council with help from Fiona on Internal Engagement. Other new activities proposed (which will need Council approval) include the merged science/SPI seminars, policy rapid policy position statements, and European research strategy.

Once we have nominees, we need to explicitly ascertain that they have the support of their institute/council rep. SC members are to share their activity plans and budget proposals in a [shared folder](#) for the preparation of the agenda and proposals to Council.

Current members and functions:

- **Chair SC:** Philip Roche
- **Vice Chair SC:** Allan Watt
- **Chair Council:** Jiska van Dijk
- **Vice Chair Council:** Ana Lillebo
- **Treasurer:** Maurice Hoffmann
- **Secretary MB:** Uta Fritsch
- **Summer School:** Allan Watt; Uta Fritsch nominated as deputy rep
- **SPI (seminars):** Juliette Young (steps down), activity becomes merged SPI/science seminars
- **Call Exchange:** Sibylle Schroer takes over from Mart, activity becomes European Research Strategy
- **Eclipse:** Eclipse stays an Alternet activity; Marie stays on the SC.
- **Communications:** Adriana steps down; Pensoft can take over the SC vacancy (pending vote on membership); Tyler to serve as deputy rep
- **ACP Collaborative Projects:** Joan Pino remains
- **Conferences:** Lisa Norton and Ana Lillebo to lead activity
- **A4Cap:** Karmen remains
- **Research infrastructure:** Mark steps down; Michael Mirtl to be nominated for this vacancy
- **Equality & Non-Discrimination:** Confirmation needed from Riikka

New activities:

- **Internal Engagement:** Mart Kulvik; additional support from CREAM, Fiona
- **Rapid Response/Policy Position Statements:** Fiona Nevzati, with support from Allan Watt (one pager proposal needed for Council)
- **Merged SPI and Science Seminars** (one activity): Outreach to A4Cap/Alternet ECR community for potential leadership
- **European Research Strategy:** Sibylle Schroer

Key actions to be taken:

- Review current and new members
- Appointment of deputy SC representatives
- Finalise budget
 - Budget document can be found here:
<https://docs.google.com/document/d/1zUlit1rYxvYHn33YqxZ6OSZZjNftijl4/edit?usp=sharing&ouid=101948358924955757989&rtpof=true&sd=true>
- Finalise proposals and activity plans

- Folder for activity/budget proposals to the Council:
https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/11giv46SWccHCYOrPNefQs8U_y6nkntJw?usp=drive_link