



EKLIPSE

Knowledge & Learning Mechanism
on Biodiversity & Ecosystem Services

Developing a mechanism
for supporting better
decisions on our
environment
based on the best
available knowledge.

CALL FOR EXPERTS N.6/2019 EKLIPSE-October 2019

"What do we currently know about the impacts of pesticide and fertiliser use in farmland on the effectiveness of adjacent pollinator conservation measures such as flower strips and hedgerows and what additional research would be needed?"

Deadline for Call: 3rd November 2019

The recent "EU Pollinators' Initiative" sets strategic objectives and a set of actions to be taken by the EU and its Member States to address threats to pollinators. One action under this EU Pollinators' Initiative is the development of a guidance document on land management practices that benefit pollinators, which is aimed at managing authorities, advisory services and farmers. Part of this guidance will cover pollinator conservation measures, such as management of field margins, hedgerows or other non-cropped habitat.

In this context, Pollinis a European non-for-profit organization has submitted a request to EKLIPSE to explore current knowledge and understanding of the impact of pesticide (including herbicide) and fertilizer use in the wider environment on these pollinator conservation measures. In particular, there is a need to determine the impact of pesticides and fertilisers in farmland on adjacent pollinator conservation measures, in order to develop guidelines on the most effective pollinator-friendly agro-infrastructure. (For more details see the EKLIPSE [document of work](#)).

Please note that this request is not about the impact of pesticides and fertilisers on pollinators generally. These impacts are widely discussed and well-known. It is about the impact of pesticide and fertiliser use **on the effectiveness of other pollinator conservation measures**.

To implement this request, EKLIPSE is inviting experts from relevant fields and sectors to join a short-term expert working group (EWG), who will work from November 2019 to January 2020:

- 1) to frame the scope of conservation measures that will be considered
- 2) to identify and provide access to the current relevant evidence (including scientific studies, grey literature and other types of knowledge). A research assistant will make use of these sources to prepare a draft knowledge review on **the impacts of pesticide and fertiliser use in farmland on the effectiveness of adjacent pollinator conservation measures such as flower strips and hedgerows**.

- 3) to participate in a face-to-face workshop (9-10 of January 2020) that aims at discussing the proposed knowledge review and forecasts, and develop common assumptions and informed opinions. In terms of knowledge gaps and research priorities.

The endeavour will follow the guidelines of a joint fact finding – research priority process and will involve as EWG members, experts representing all perspectives and relevant disciplines including representatives of organic and conventional farming organisations, landowners organisations, agrochemical manufacturers, pollinator NGO, beekeepers, decision makers.

For more information on the process, see the [methods protocol](#)

The following principles will apply:

- The process is voluntary and will require the agreement by key stakeholders to constructively engage in the effort
- Different views should be expressed with mutual respect and the use of correct language
- Confidentiality of the discussions is required: “Chatham House Rule” applies. Quotes/photos in social media are not allowed. Delegates will jointly agree on what is communicated of the discussions after the workshop.
- Facilitation is neutral and impartial.

Preliminary agenda of the workshop:

- Day 1: 12h-18h: the first day will focus on current available evidence and identification of gaps and uncertainties/disagreements
- Day 2: 9h-17h: The second day will focus on research needs and priorities and ways to address them.

We are putting together a short-term working group of enthusiastic, dedicated experts representing the full range of relevant sectors, including business, academia, NGO and local or national government.

- Are you an expert working on issues related to pollinators, wild pollinators ecology/health, or the environmental safety of pesticides, in a business, regulatory authority, academic or research institute or NGO?
- Are you an expert in pesticide use and impacts?
- Are you an expert in land systems, crop production, agronomy, habitat management biodiversity, genetics, or ecotoxicology?
- Would you like to contribute directly to a policy-relevant process related to a major current environmental challenge?
- Would you like to expand your network and learn about methods of knowledge synthesis?
- Are you interested in collaborating in a trans-disciplinary and multi-cultural setting?

Then please apply at www.eklipse-mechanism.eu

Important dates and information:

-Interested experts should apply before midnight on the 3rd of November, 2019, following the rules and procedures detailed below.

-The Experts Working Group (EWG) will be selected by 8th November 2019

-We will aim to have a first expert group meeting in the week of the 11th of November, 2019.

-All experts of the EWG are expected to attend the multi-stakeholder workshop that will be held on the 9-10 of January 2020 in Brussels.

-Please find more information on expectations of and support to EKLIPSE Expert Working Groups on EKLIPSE website at http://www.eclipse-mechanism.eu/apps/Eclipse_data/website/Guidance_note-Expert_working_groups.pdf.

EKLIPSE is developing a European Mechanism to answer requests from policy makers and other societal actors on biodiversity-related issues

More information on the processes and the EKLIPSE project funded by the EU in H2020 is available at

www.eclipse-mechanism.eu

More specific information on the request can be found at the dedicated subpage:

http://www.eclipse-mechanism.eu/Pollinators_request

We are happy to receive your feedback and comments on these key findings. Please send them via email to

secretariat@eclipse-mechanism.eu