



EKLIPSE

Knowledge & Learning Mechanism
on Biodiversity & Ecosystem Services

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

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

It invites proposals from groups and/or individual experts via calls for expertise.

More information on the processes and the EKLIPSE project funded by the EU in H2020 is available at
www.eclipse-mechanism.eu

CALL FOR EXPERTISE No.1/2016, EKLIPSE – May 2016

Deadline for Call: 17th of June, 2016

Deadline for results: 16th of December, 2016

Topic:

NATURE-BASED SOLUTIONS TO PROMOTE CLIMATE RESILIENCE IN URBAN AREAS – developing an impact evaluation framework

1 Invitation to join/ set up a working group

EKLIPSE is inviting **experts to form an expert working group** to develop an impact evaluation framework for nature-based solutions to promote climate resilience in urban areas.

Are you or your institution an expert in one or more thematic areas of the call?

Nature based solutions, urban planning, conceptual frameworks, resilience to climate change, co-benefits of natural solutions, impact or programme evaluation, integrating technology and nature, methods for knowledge synthesis...

Would you like to contribute to a policy-relevant process in your field of expertise?

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 express your interest in participating at www.eclipse-mechanism.eu



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For Research & Innovation
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The expert working group will cover diverse and complementary skills (including multidisciplinary skills and a broad geographical coverage) and will interact with relevant stakeholders to ensure appropriate methodological choices and uptake of outputs.

Interested experts should apply before **17th June, 2016** by following the rules and procedures detailed below. The working group will be selected by **7th July, 2016** and should start its work immediately thereafter. The deadline for final outputs is **16th December, 2016**.

The selected group will be supported financially by the EKLIPSE project for travel expenses and in certain cases through honorary contracts. Specific work, e.g. collecting information or any other supporting tasks identified by the expert working group can be sub-contracted to individual experts or institutions. Up to €8,000 will be available for this purpose (see sections 6 & 7 for details).

2 Request to be addressed by this call

This first request to EKLIPSE, from the European Commission Directorate General Research and Innovation (DG-RTD), asks the following:

“Which criteria should be used in NBS demonstration projects on climate resilience in urban areas to identify and assess the multiple benefits, disservices, trade-offs and synergies of Nature-Based Solutions?”

Background to this request: EC DG-RTD intends to fund Nature Based Solutions (NBS) demonstration projects within the Horizon 2020 programme¹. The purpose of these projects is to enhance resilience in urban areas in the face of climate change impacts such as temperature extremes, wind, drought and flooding, using nature-based solutions (SCC-02-2016-2017 – *“Demonstrating innovative nature-based solutions for climate and water resilience in cities (2016)”*). The EC wants to ensure that the conclusions that will emerge from these projects will demonstrate the multiple benefits of NBS (i.e. environmental, economic and societal benefits). This is, however, only possible if all projects use a *similar assessment framework allowing the outputs of the demonstration project to be comparable*.

The framework should, however, be applicable to any implemented NBS, both in urban areas and in the rural landscape. The framework should also be able to assess interactions between the different NBS interventions.

NBS may be defined as: “Solutions inspired or supported by nature that simultaneously provide environmental, social and economic benefits and help to build resilience. Solutions that bring more nature and natural features and processes into cities, landscapes and seascapes, through locally adapted, resource-efficient and systemic interventions. NBS physical interventions¹ include green walls, green roofs, planting trees, restoring water sources, urban green areas; applications of NBS can include hybrids with technical engineering².

The assessment framework developed will recommend criteria that should be measured, scored or evaluated, using the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) as reference. Criteria should also include the cost-effectiveness of the interventions, as well as their environmental and socio-economic effects. *The medium term objective is to facilitate transition to the use of ecosystem services with decreased input of non-renewable natural capital and increased investment in renewable natural processes.*

The assessment framework should *ensure compatibility with [MAES Urban Pilot](#)³ framing, ecosystem-based adaptation and relevant information on [Climate Adaptation](#)⁴, [natural water retention](#)⁵, [green infrastructure](#)⁶, greening cities and other Commission based initiatives (see links below in section 7.3).*



EC DG RTD intends to request a second phase starting in 2017 (not subject to this call), when the framework developed by this expert working group will be applied. The framework shall be further tested and modified (as relevant) in cooperation with the SC5-10-2016 project "[Multi-stakeholder dialogue platform to promote innovation with nature to address societal challenges](#)", which will take over the responsibility for its further development and application. The second phase aims at applying the developed framework, and to test whether it can become a European-wide reference for assessing relevant projects. Some members of the working group may potentially extend their mandate and act as mentors in this process. The second phase will, however, be handled via a separate contract.

3 Objectives of the call

EKLIPSE is looking for a working group to develop and propose an assessment framework through the following tasks:

- *Identify sources of good practice on the assessment of multiple benefits;*
- *Identify how people/projects/initiatives have captured the multiple benefits and/or dimensions of NBSs (including trade-offs and synergies);*
- *Identify gaps in knowledge and 'know-how';*
- *Highlight measurement and assessment tools that are relevant, reliable, and robust.*

The expert group is expected to provide:

- *A set of draft criteria* (including economic, social, ecological etc.) and a scoring system for assessing impacts of NBS on climate resilience in urban areas, taking account of the Sustainable Development Goals and feedback from a range of stakeholders (e.g. the requester and other stakeholders).
- Development of a *common framework with a list of criteria* and, potentially, needs for further investigation and research.
- *A revised version of the framework* taking account of the feedback from an extended peer review, including relevant FP7 and H2020 projects, organized by EKLIPSE's **Knowledge Coordination Body** (KCB)/EKLIPSE secretariat (for further info see www.eclipse-mechanism.eu and section 5).

Specifications of the outputs:

1. *Assessment framework should be composed of a series of definitions, criteria and guidance for measuring the effectiveness of NBS projects in delivering multiple benefits.*
2. *The methodological guidance should include recommendations on how to address trade-offs and synergies between different impacts of NBS.*
3. *The framework should be applicable in any European setting.*
4. *The framework should be used and improved by the demonstration projects (e.g. adaptive management approach), who will be supported by the SC5-10-2016 Platform.*
5. *The framework should also be user-friendly, in the sense that it can be incorporated into, for example, city management/decision tools.*

4 Implementation steps and timeline

The work is expected to follow the EKLIPSE knowledge synthesis process, i.e. it will include the following steps:



- **Kick-off dialogue meeting with EKLIPSE** Knowledge Coordination Body (KCB) to ensure common understanding of the request among experts (within 3 weeks of nomination of expert group).
- **Preparation of the work** (to be concluded within 9 weeks of nomination)
 - Plan and coordinate expert group meetings, (these can be hosted by EKLIPSE and will be accompanied by a KCB representative)
 - Scanning of literature and other sources
 - Development of methodological protocol (to be agreed with KCB and requester)
 - Review of protocol through open consultation (organized by KCB)
- **Programme of work**
 - Analysis of the collected information
 - Early draft framework (to be discussed with KCB and possibly requester)
 - Focus group with representatives of ongoing FP7/H2020 projects to consult and improve the framework (OPERAs, OpenNESS, Turas, GreenSurge, ESMERALDA)
 - Full framework draft completed for review.
- **Finalisation including review**
 - Extended peer review (via open consultation, organised by EKLIPSE)
 - Revision
 - Presentation of process and results at the 1st EKLIPSE joint conference (Brussels, 8th of December 2016)
 - Final product for requester by 16th of December 2016.

The entire process should be documented: final framework, list of literature analyzed, report on the entire process including report of the expert group meetings.

The working group experts will have full authorship of the work and the products that will be published under [creative commons 4.0](#)⁸. Funding by the EC via EKLIPSE should be acknowledged.

5 SUPPORT PROVIDED BY EKLIPSE

EKLIPSE team: The working group will be supported in all steps by the EKLIPSE Secretariat^a in communication, documentation (via the EKLIPSE website), and dissemination of products as required for this request. The working group will be supported thematically and strategically by the KCB.

Financial support: EKLIPSE activities rely on in-kind contributions as in similar science-policy processes. The benefits for experts and institutions arise from the networking in the group and the visibility of expertise to policy and society via the products. EKLIPSE will actively support this visibility of experts and their institution's contributions. In addition:

- kick-off meeting, focus group meeting and final meeting will be hosted by and travel costs covered via EKLIPSE funds as needed
- upon specific request, individual experts from Eastern and Southern European countries might be supported via a honorary contract by an EKLIPSE partner institution.
- a maximum budget of € 8.000 can be granted for tasks such as the literature review and synthesis (for this a separate contract is required see section 6).

^a The secretariat is jointly managed by the Centre for Ecology and Hydrology, the Helmholtz-Centre for Environmental Research – UFZ, and the Royal Belgian Institute of Natural Sciences.



Technical support: Access to literature databases will be facilitated/ provided as needed. EKLIPSE will cover the layout, printing, and dissemination of interim and final products, i.e. using the [OPPLA platform](#)⁹.

6 ELIGIBILITY AND APPLICANT INFORMATION

6.1 SELECTION CRITERIA FOR THE COMPOSITION OF THE EXPERT GROUP

Selection of the expert working group will be done by the KCB according to selection process and criteria outlined below (6.2) and on the EKLIPSE website.

The group should cover all relevant disciplines including natural, social, economic and planning sciences.

Gender balance and geographical diversity of EU countries will be considered in the selection. If teams are applying, this will also apply, and the KCB may decide to complement a team selected with additional individual experts.

The working group is expected to have up to 10 experts.

6.2 ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA FOR INDIVIDUAL EXPERTS

- Demonstrated expertise in relation to the call covering one or more of the following: *Nature based solutions, urban planning, conceptual frameworks, resilience to climate change, co-benefits of natural solutions, impact or programme evaluation, integrating technology and nature, methods for knowledge synthesis...*
- Overview and insights into relevant projects and other activities
- Experiences in inter- and transdisciplinary work on topics related to Nature-based solutions and in science-policy interface processes
- Experts will have to comply with the principles and rules of EKLIPSE (e.g. conflicts of interest policy (see http://www.eclipse-mechanism.eu/our_ethical_framework for more detail).
- Project partners of EKLIPSE and KCB members are excluded.

6.3 PROCESS AND ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA FOR SUPPORTING CONTRACTS

Based on the needs identified by the expert working group in its kick-off meeting, EKLIPSE will support the work of the group by sub-contracting some tasks to individual experts (or institutions, from and beyond the Expert working Group) via working contracts up to a total amount of 8,000€. The aim of these will be to carry out dedicated work supporting the Group, e.g., a literature search and/or review based on the protocols decided by the Group. An EKLIPSE partner will prepare and issue a (restricted) call for tender for this purpose.

Honorary contracts will be given upon request to experts chosen for the expert groups on an individual basis, if they could not contribute otherwise. We expect this to apply to experts especially from eastern, central and southern European countries that might not be able to join the activities otherwise. The honorary will be based on the individual's level of involvement and may not exceed a sum of 1,250€.

6.4 DATA AND INFORMATION POLICY

All results will be made publicly available through the EKLIPSE website and transparent procedures will apply, following [Creative Commons Agreement 4.0](#) (see above), which includes the reference of authorship and involvement⁸.



6.5 INFORMATION TO PROVIDE

The EKLIPSE expert form should be completed, including a list of relevant publications and outlining relevant experience on the topic and details of experience in previous assessments or knowledge synthesis processes. This form, together with a full CV should be sent to secretariat@eklipse-mechanism.eu

7 APPLICATION AND NOTIFICATION OF RESULTS

7.1 HOW TO APPLY

The EKLIPSE expert form can be found on the EKLIPSE website under 'Open calls'. The completed form (see 6.5) together with a full CV should be sent to secretariat@eklipse-mechanism.eu **before June 17th, 2016.**

Should you require any further information do not hesitate to contact us secretariat@eklipse-mechanism.eu.

7.2 ANNOUNCEMENT OF THE RESULTS

Successful applicants will be notified directly by EKLIPSE KCB by July 7th 2016. As soon as they accept the nomination, names of selected experts will be made public on the EKLIPSE website.

EKLIPSE has received funding from the European Union's Horizon 2020 program under grant agreement 690474

¹ For an overview, see :

https://ec.europa.eu/research/environment/index_en.cfm?pg=nature-based-solutions

² <http://bookshop.europa.eu/en/towards-an-eu-research-and-innovation-policy-agenda-for-nature-based-solutions-re-naturing-cities-pbKI0215162/>

³ <http://biodiversity.europa.eu/maes>

⁴ <http://climate-adapt.eea.europa.eu/>

⁵ <http://www.nwrm.eu/>

⁶ http://ec.europa.eu/environment/nature/ecosystems/index_en.htm and <http://biodiversity.europa.eu/bise-catalogue>

⁷ See call at

http://ec.europa.eu/research/participants/data/ref/h2020/wp/2016_2017/main/h2020-wp1617-climate_en.pdf

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⁹ See www.oppla.eu

