



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.

EKLIPSE invites proposals for requests from groups and/or individuals via calls for request.

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

www.eclipse-mechanism.eu

CALL FOR REQUEST Cfr.1/2016, EKLIPSE – JULY 2016

Deadline to answer the Call: 30th September, 2016

Announcement of the selected request: Week starting 14th November, 2016

1 Invitation to request knowledge for informed decision-making

Policy and other societal actors are invited to **identify topics or evidence needs relating to biodiversity and ecosystem services requiring in-depth analysis and a consolidated view from science and other knowledge holders.**

Please put forward your request in the form of a question(s) at www.eclipse-mechanism.eu

Interested parties should apply by **30th September, 2016** by following the rules and procedures detailed below. The results of the selection will be announced week starting **14th November, 2016** and will be published on the EKLIPSE website.

2 Objective of the call

EKLIPSE coordinates innovative and transparent approaches for science, policy and societal actors to jointly provide the best available evidence leading to better informed decision-making. The topic and/or evidence needs are identified by policy and other societal actors. The objective of this call is to encourage policy and other societal actors to suggest topics and/or evidence needs to be addressed by EKLIPSE.

The selected requests will be framed jointly with the relevant science, policy and societal actors. Each request will be scoped and specified by a dedicated and specialized expert group that will together with the requester agree on the methodological approach to be taken for the knowledge synthesis



Horizon 2020
European Union Funding
For Research & Innovation
Grant agreement 690474

which will be specified in a protocol and made publicly available. During the process of gathering, integrating and synthesizing the best available evidence, communication between all relevant actors will be key. Finally, the results of the co-generated evidence will be communicated in targeted ways to each requester (e.g. as a report or brief or other output to be discussed with the requester), as well as relevant decision-makers, the knowledge community and the general public.

Potential requests might include:

- **Greater understanding or predictive power** e.g. what is the role of biodiversity in maintaining specific ecosystem functions e.g. biogeochemical cycles?
- **Measures of anthropogenic impact** e.g. what is the impact of wind farms on bird populations?
- **Measures of effectiveness of interventions** e.g. how effective are marine protected areas at enhancing commercial fish populations?
- **Appropriate methodologies** e.g. what is the most reliable method for monitoring changes in carbon stocks in forest ecosystems?
- **Optimal management options** e.g. what is the optimal grazing regime for maximizing plant diversity in upland meadows?
- **Socio-economic impacts of specific developments in biodiversity** e.g. what are the anticipated costs of the spread of the invasive species xyz on health or agriculture?
- **Desirable states** e.g. what is the desirable state of forest in terms of deadwood and other biodiversity-relevant structures?
- **Scenario building** e.g. how will the risk of flooding change under current climate scenarios up to 2050?
- **Horizon scanning** e.g. what will be the biggest novel threats to biodiversity in 2050?
- **Public opinion/ perception issues** e.g. is there public support for badger culling in the UK?
- **Distribution of species, diseases and other elements of biodiversity** e.g. how has the distribution and abundance of rabies in fox populations changed in the last 10 years?
- **Clarification of definitions** e.g. how do different people/groups define ecosystem services?

3 Process for the call for requests

Interested parties should apply before **30th September, 2016** by following the rules and procedures detailed below. The requests will be selected week starting **14th November, 2016** and will be publicized on the EKLIPSE website. The request is the first step in the EKLIPSE knowledge synthesis process, following a dialogue with the requester; EKLIPSE will then organize Calls for Expertise (CFE No.2 & 3).

A request form outlining the major elements of the request will need to be filled in. This form can be found on the EKLIPSE website. In this form, the requester is expected to provide some background on why the topic/evidence need is of interest and to which sectors or societal groups, its relevance for the European scale, an indication of required outputs, deadline for final outputs, etc. The requester should also outline why EKLIPSE is the best mechanism to address this request.

During the selection process, the request form will be screened by the EKLIPSE Secretariat who might engage in an initial exchange with the requester to clarify general questions. The selected requests will then be proposed to and discussed with the Knowledge Coordination Body and Strategic Advisory Board of EKLIPSE. This stepwise selection will help to ensure the quality and relevance of the selected requests. It is in the interest of the requester to prepare their request as thoroughly and precisely as possible to benefit from an efficient process. As part of EKLIPSE

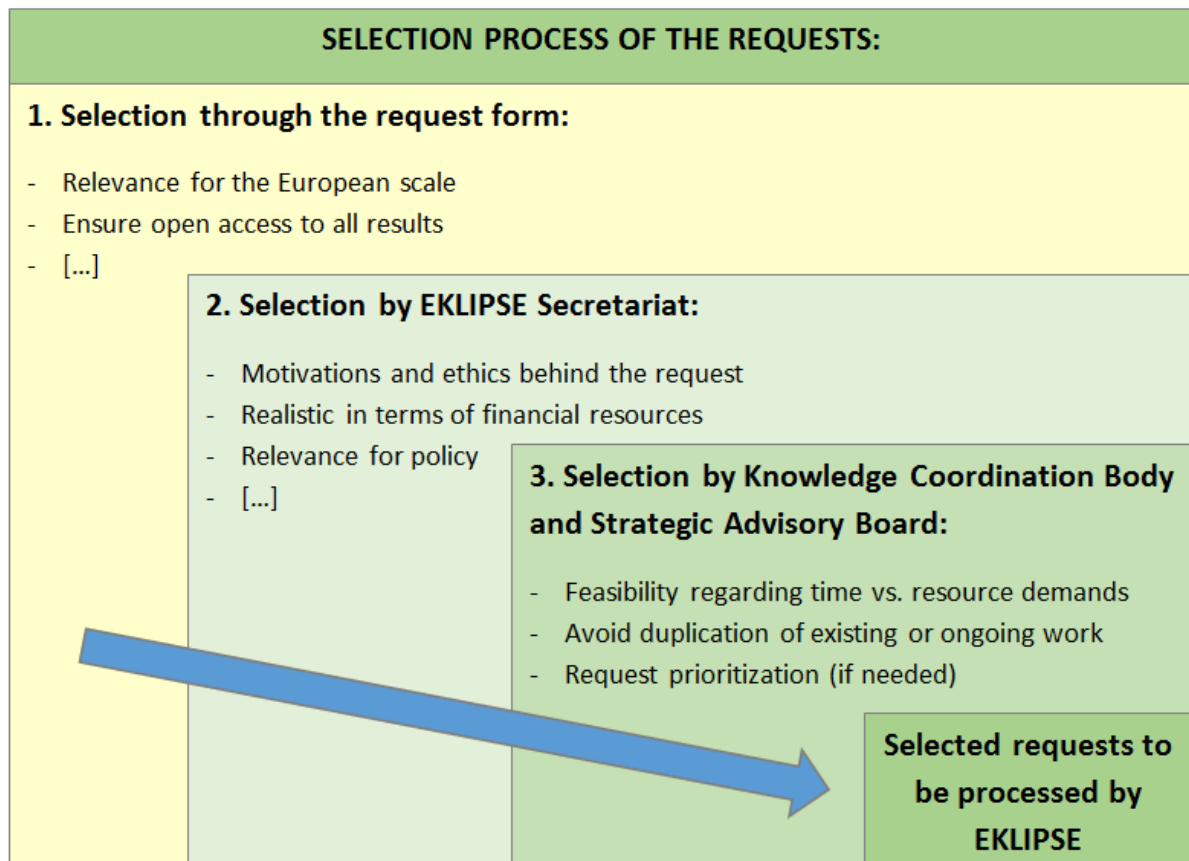


transparency principle, any interested person or institution will be able to check the selection process of requests on the project website.

4 Eligibility and selection criteria

4.1 Selection criteria for accepting a request

The selection process for assessing and selecting requests is shown in the following diagram:



4.2 Eligibility criteria for requesters

- Requesters cannot be members of the EKLIPSE consortium, the Knowledge Coordination Body, or Strategic Advisory Board.
- Requesters cannot be single individuals
- Requesters should be able to represent the 'community' view of their policy or societal group e.g. an administration, international business group, NGO, local community group etc.

4.3 Selection criteria for requests

- Relevance to the European scale
- Relevance to ongoing or future policy processes
- Relevance to biodiversity and ecosystem services if possible please specify European EUNIS habitat type
- Relevance to society
- Not requiring new knowledge, but based on the synthesis of existing knowledge



- A principle of EKLIPSE is to avoid duplication of existing mechanisms; it will therefore not accept requests that could for example be done by consultancy contracts.

5 Support provided by EKLIPSE

EKLIPSE team: The EKLIPSE Secretariat will compile all requests and engage in initial dialogue with the requesters if clarification is required. The EKLIPSE Secretariat will then transmit the received requests to the Knowledge Coordination Body and Strategic Advisory Board, and will liaise with requesters to communicate outcomes of these discussions. The Secretariat will then support the successful requester through the knowledge synthesis process.

EKLIPSE will finance the requests in the limits of its budget; requests are expected to be addressed in less than a year.

The main goal of EKLIPSE is to establish a self-sustaining mechanism, also in financial terms.

If selected, requesters are expected to specify and discuss their requests with the Knowledge Coordination body and relevant stakeholders, and agree with the dedicated expert group on a methodological protocol.

6 Data and information

6.1 Data and information policy

All selection procedures and results will be made publicly available through the EKLIPSE website. To encourage transparency we would like to publish all requests to the website once the selection has been fulfilled. The form indicates which information will be made public.

6.2 Information needed

The EKLIPSE request form should be completed and sent to secretariat@eklipse-mechanism.eu by September 30th 2016.

7 Application and notification of results

7.1 How to suggest a request

The EKLIPSE request form can be found on the EKLIPSE website under 'Open calls'. The completed form should be sent to secretariat@eklipse-mechanism.eu **by September 30th, 2016**.

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

7.2 Announcement of the results

The successful requests will be notified directly by EKLIPSE week starting 31st October 2016 and will be made public on the EKLIPSE website. If for any reason, a requester is not willing to publicise their request, EKLIPSE Secretariat will need to be notified in the form.

EKLIPSE receives funding from the European Union's Horizon 2020 program under grant agreement 690474.

