



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 organizes and facilitates knowledge synthesis processes, horizon scanning and societal dialogue on topics that relate to or impact on biodiversity and ecosystem services by making the best knowledge available.***

More information on the processes and the EKLIPSE project funded by the EU in H2020 is available at [www.eclipse-mechanism.eu](http://www.eclipse-mechanism.eu)

**First CALL for Nominations for members of the  
Expert Group on Knowledge Synthesis Methods - July 2016**

**Deadline for Call: 10th September 2016**

**Initial period in office: October 2016 – October 2017**

## 1 Invitation to become a member of the Expert group on Knowledge Synthesis Methods

EKLIPSE is inviting ***applications*** for members of the **Expert Group on Knowledge Synthesis Methods**.

*Are you interested in sharing expertise about different knowledge synthesis methods to support decision making?*

*Are you interested in working in a transdisciplinary and multicultural setting?*

*Are you interested in building a network on methods for transdisciplinary knowledge synthesis?*

The task of the **Expert Group on Knowledge Synthesis Methods** is to provide and share knowledge about the different available methods for knowledge collation, appraisal and synthesis. These methods will be used to identify and characterise robust evidence and knowledge gaps, in response to requests to EKLIPSE from policy makers and societal actors. 'Knowledge' here can refer to scientific knowledge, technical practitioner knowledge and/or Indigenous and Local knowledge ('ILK').

The work of the expert group will inform those addressing EKLIPSE requests about the knowledge synthesis methods available, including their pros and cons, costs, and requirements in terms of human capital and technical tools. The specific tasks of the group will be to take part in a workshop



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and to contribute to a report and visualisation about the strengths and weaknesses of existing approaches and methodologies. The group will also identify gaps among available methods and recommend how the gaps could be filled.

The group will work closely with EKLIPSE's [Knowledge Coordination Body](#) in providing advice to working groups facing methodological or technical problems when conducting their syntheses. Group members are expected to communicate on the range of methods available, rather than promoting one over the others, drawing on a landscape of methodological opportunities for requesters (see [Pullin et al. 2016](#) for initial work conducted in the BiodiversityKnowledge project).

**Please express your interest in participating at [www.eclipse-mechanism.eu](http://www.eclipse-mechanism.eu)**

## 2 Implementation steps and timeline

The work will include the following steps:

- **Workshop** – scheduled for week starting 10<sup>th</sup> October 2016
- **Report** - Contribute actively to writing a report on the strengths and weaknesses of existing approaches and methodologies to jointly provide evidence, identifying potential gaps in existing approaches, and providing suggestions on how to address these gaps. To be completed by 28<sup>th</sup> February 2017
- **Visualisation** - Contribute actively to developing novel visualisation techniques to enhance the understanding of available knowledge synthesis methods and the trade-offs between them, within science, policy and society. To be completed by 23<sup>rd</sup> January 2017

Following this initial work, the expert group may be involved in the following tasks:

- Contributing to a paper and/or book on methods for knowledge synthesis for (European) policy processes
- For each knowledge synthesis request accepted by EKLIPSE, interact with the KCB to help select appropriate methods
- Accompany working groups to ensure support with methodological aspects, as needed
- Ensure peer-review includes methodological review by appropriate experts
- Experts may be peer-reviewers for synthesis processes, but will need to sign a declaration of conflict of interest in this case.
- Contribute to one or several 'critical evaluations' of existing approaches and methodologies, following the work initiated in BiodiversityKnowledge ([Pullin et al. 2016](#)).

## 3 Support provided by EKLIPSE

**EKLIPSE team:** The expert group will be supported by the EKLIPSE Secretariat<sup>a</sup> for communication, documentation (via the EKLIPSE website), and dissemination of products as required.

**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. EKLIPSE will actively support the visibility of experts and their institution's contributions. In addition:

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<sup>a</sup> 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.



- All meetings 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 an honorary contract provided by an EKLIPSE partner institution.

**Technical support:** EKLIPSE will cover the layout, printing, and dissemination of interim and final products, i.e. using the OPPLA platform<sup>b</sup>.

## 4 Eligibility and applicant information

### 4.1 Selection process and criteria for the composition of the expert group

Selection of the methods expert group will be done by an EKLIPSE selection committee according to selection process and criteria outlined on the EKLIPSE website. The group should cover all relevant disciplines including natural, social and planning sciences as well as humanities. The expert group is expected to have up to 10 experts.

### 4.2 Selection criteria for expert group on knowledge synthesis methods

At least one of the following:

- Demonstrated expertise in methodologies related to quantitative and/or qualitative synthesis of scientific, technical or Indigenous and Local knowledge
- Demonstrated skills in knowledge search, collection and management (librarians, information managers), including grey literature
- Demonstrated skills in knowledge assessment, evidence-based approaches, including social sciences such as justice and ethics
- Skills in epistemology, philosophy, and any social sciences related to knowledge, beliefs and justification, risk management and decision-making processes.
- Demonstrated experience with impact assessment processes at the EU level and a good understanding of policy making processes particularly but not limited to the EU.

All of the following:

- Able to spend between 10 and 15% of a full-time equivalent (between 10 and 14 working days) from October 2016 - January 2017. The time spent from February 2017 onwards is expected to be significantly lower, but will depend on the personal level of engagement (see potential activities in 2).
- Willing to comply with the principles and rules of EKLIPSE (e.g. conflicts of interest policy (see [http://www.eclipse-mechanism.eu/eclipse\\_ethical\\_infrastructure\\_framework](http://www.eclipse-mechanism.eu/eclipse_ethical_infrastructure_framework) for more detail).
- Free to attend the 2 day kick off workshop week starting 10<sup>th</sup> October.

### 4.3 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 involvement.

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<sup>b</sup> oppla.eu



#### 4.4 Information required

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** (no longer than 3 A4 pages) should be sent to [Secretariat@EKLIPSE-mechanism.eu](mailto:Secretariat@EKLIPSE-mechanism.eu)

## 5 Application and notification of results

### 5.1 How to apply

Before applying, you are strongly encouraged to read the [call for Nominations for Members of Knowledge Coordination Body](#). The KCB and methods expert group will be working closely together and it is important you apply to the call best suited to your interests.

Please present your application via the EKLIPSE website in the [form provided](#).

The EKLIPSE expert form can be found on the EKLIPSE website under 'Open calls'. The completed form together with a full CV (no longer than 3 A4 pages) should be sent to [Secretariat@EKLIPSE-mechanism.eu](mailto:Secretariat@EKLIPSE-mechanism.eu) by **10<sup>th</sup> September 2016**.

Should you require any further information do not hesitate to contact us at [Secretariat@EKLIPSE-mechanism.eu](mailto:Secretariat@EKLIPSE-mechanism.eu).

### 5.2 Announcement of results

Successful applicants will be notified directly by EKLIPSE Secretariat in week starting **19<sup>th</sup> September 2016**. As soon as they accept the nomination, names of selected experts will be made public on the EKLIPSE website.

### 5.3 Useful links/reading

**Biodiversity knowledge synthesis at the European scale: actors and steps** B. Livoreil · I. Geijzendorffer · A.S. Pullin · S. Schindler · M. Vandewalle · C. Nesshöver (2016) **Biodiversity and Conservation 25(7): 1269-1284** doi:10.1007/s10531-016-1143-5  
<http://link.springer.com/article/10.1007/s10531-016-1143-5>

**Selecting appropriate methods of knowledge synthesis to inform biodiversity policy** A. Pullin · G. Frampton · R. Jongman · C. Kohl · B. Livoreil · A. Lux · G. Pataki · G. Petrokofsky · A. Podhora · H. Saarikoski · L. Santamaria · S. Schindler · I. Sousa-Pinto · M. Vandewalle · H. Wittmer (2016) **Biodiversity and Conservation 25(7): 1285-1300** doi:10.1007/s10531-016-1131-9 (**open access**)  
<http://link.springer.com/article/10.1007/s10531-016-1131-9>

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