



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 organises 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.

Visit www.eklipse-mechanism.eu for more information on the EKLIPSE EU H2020 project

Second CALL for Nominations for members of the

Methods Expert Group - May 2020

Deadline for Call: 1st June 2020

Period in office: June 2020 – June 2023

1 Invitation to become a member of the Methods Expert Group

The task of the Methods Expert Group (MEG) is to provide and share knowledge about different forms, methods and limitations of knowledge collation, appraisal and synthesis to EKLIPSE Expert Working Groups (EWGs) in the process of answering a request. Such methods enable robust identification of evidence and knowledge gaps. The MEG plays a fundamental role, advising the EWG on the strengths and weaknesses of available methods of knowledge, including their costs, and requirements in terms of human capital and technical tools. The MEG also provides support to the EWG throughout the knowledge synthesis process. MEG experts are expected to communicate the range of methods available for a request, rather than promoting one over the others, thus drawing on a landscape of methodological opportunities for requesters. Membership of the MEG is an exciting opportunity to contribute to diverse knowledge syntheses of high EU-level policy relevance, in collaboration with international researchers. Appointed MEG expert(s) are an integral part of a request and their contributions are accredited in any EWG output(s), such as reports or scientific publications.



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

2 Expected contributions

- Members of the MEG are expected to contribute to the following tasks: For each request accepted by EKLIPSE, interacting with the Knowledge Coordination Body (KCB) and possibly the requester, to advise on appropriate methods to draw on diverse types of knowledge, including non-scientific knowledge. It is anticipated that one or two members will advise on each request and become an integral part of the request's EWG.
- If assigned to a request, supporting the EWGs over the course of the request with methodological guidance, as and when needed.
- Ensuring peer-review includes methodological review by appropriate experts. Members may peer-review synthesis processes but will need to sign a declaration of conflict of interest.
- Co-authoring one or several 'critical evaluations' of existing approaches and methodologies, following the work initiated in Biodiversity Knowledge (see Pullin et al. 2016), and continued in the MEG EKLIPSE Report (Dicks et al. 2018).
- Co-authoring scientific articles and/or books on methods for knowledge synthesis for (European) policy processes

In addition, members are expected to:

- Dedicate 5-10% of their time to EKLIPSE requests, when engaged with a request.
- Comply with the principles of EKLIPSE (e.g. [conflict of interest policy](#); see [here](#) for more detail). All EKLIPSE request 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.

3 Support provided by EKLIPSE

EKLIPSE team: The expert group will be supported by the EKLIPSE Secretariat^a 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:

- EKLIPSE will host all meetings and fund travel costs
- Upon specific request, individual experts from Eastern and Southern European countries may 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.

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



4 Eligibility and applicant information

Application and selection process

Please apply by completing the [online form](#) on the **EKLIPSE website, including a list of relevant publications and outlining relevant experience on the topic and details of experience in previous knowledge assessments or syntheses, according to the selection criteria below. Should you require any further information, please do not hesitate to contact us at Secretariat@EKLIPSE-mechanism.eu. Successful applicants will be notified directly by EKLIPSE Secretariat in the week starting **8th June 2020**. When they accept the nomination, their names will be listed on the [EKLIPSE website](#).**

4.1 Selection process and criteria

The Methods Expert Group is expected to have up to 10 experts, covering all relevant disciplines including natural, social and planning sciences as well as humanities. Selection of members will be performed by an EKLIPSE selection committee according to the criteria:

- A) Demonstrated expertise in knowledge synthesis approaches or methodologies (must be more than one):
 - a. Experience of knowledge synthesis for non-academic settings (e.g. policy, business) should be demonstrated, e.g. for project participation, work package or project coordination, business engagement, membership of an expert group, or similar activities.
 - i. Scientific experience: at least two papers published in the last five years, in more than one knowledge synthesis approach or methodology
 - ii. Or technical/practical expertise: clear evidence of having worked directly in more than one knowledge synthesis approach or methodology.
 - b. Expertise should cover one or more of the following topic areas:
 - i. Demonstrated expertise in methodologies related to quantitative and/or qualitative synthesis of scientific, technical or Indigenous and local knowledge
 - ii. Demonstrated skills in knowledge search, collection and management (librarians, information managers), including grey literature
 - iii. Demonstrated skills in knowledge assessment, evidence-based approaches, including social sciences such as justice and ethics
 - iv. Skills in epistemology, philosophy, and any social sciences related to knowledge, beliefs and justification, risk management and decision-making processes.
 - v. 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.
- B) Other important criteria: to ensure the good working ability of the expert group, all selected individuals should have most of these characteristics:
 - e. Proven ability to work in international scientific and policy processes (e.g. fluency in English, language skills)
 - f. Experiences in inter- and transdisciplinary work on topics related to knowledge synthesis and/or in science-policy interface processes



- g. Time that they can dedicate to the process (5-10%)
- h. Support from their respective team/company, students etc.

In addition, the selection committee will aim to ensure that the MEG expert group as a whole represents:

- i. Breadth of experience and expertise across all 20 endorsed knowledge synthesis methods (see Dicks et al. 2018)
- j. Geographical and gender balance
- k. Breadth of disciplinary backgrounds
- l. Policy experience/expertise: experience of knowledge synthesis processes with policy at the EU level
- m. Expertise on impact evaluation and/or conceptual frameworks and/or decision-making tools to guide research processes
- n. Experience of visualisation or infographics to support decision-making (bonus rather than a must)
- o. Experience in leadership of knowledge assessment processes.
- p. Representation of evidence synthesis collaborations or partnerships (e.g. Collaboration for Environmental Evidence, Conservation Evidence, etc.) – these are collaborations working on criteria to develop standards in evidence synthesis.

5 Further information

Watt, A.D., Ainsworth, G., Balian, E., Cojocaru, G., Darbi, M., Dicks, L., Eggermont, H., Furman, F., Goudeseune, L., Huybrecht, P., Kelemen, E., Koch, F., Konstantinou, Z., Livoreil, B., Locher-Krause, K., Lux, A., Lyytimäki, J., Mehring, M., Neßhöver, C., Paloniemi, R., Saarela, S-R., Saarikoski, H., Sousa Pinto, I., Vandewalle, M., Varjopuro, R., Varumo, L., Wittmer, H., Young, J.C. 2019. EKLIPSE: engaging knowledge holders and networks for evidence-informed European policy on biodiversity and ecosystem services. *Evidence and Policy* 15(2): 253-264.

Pullin, A., Frampton, G., Jongman, R., Kohl, C., Livoreil, B., Lux, A., Pataki, G., Petrokofsky, G., Podhora, A., Saarikoski, H. and Santamaria, L., 2016. Selecting appropriate methods of knowledge synthesis to inform biodiversity policy. *Biodiversity and Conservation*, 25(7), pp.1285-1300.

Dicks LV, Haddaway N, Hernández-Morcillo M, Mattsson B, Randall N, Failler P, Ferretti J, Livoreil B, Saarikoski H, Santamaria L, Rodela R, Velizarova E, and Wittmer H. (2018). Knowledge synthesis for environmental decisions: an evaluation of existing methods, and guidance for their selection, use and development – a report from the EKLIPSE project

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

