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 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.eklipse-mechanism.eu

CALL FOR KNOWLEDGE, EKLIPSE – MARCH 2017

Deadline to answer the Call: April 18th, 2017

Which types of urban and peri-urban natural spaces (blue and green) and which characteristics (components) of such spaces have a significant impact on human mental health and well-being?

Invitation to share existing knowledge EKLIPSE invites scientists, policy, practitioners and other societal actors to share their knowledge on the question stated above. This question was proposed by the Working Group Biodiversity & Health of the French National Action Plan Health & Environment, at the French ministry of Environment. The goal of the WG B&H is to provide recommendations for the conservation, creation, design and management of natural spaces that would benefit urban citizens,by maintaining or enhancing their well-being and mental health.

The objective of this call is to assess whether similar work has already been conducted, how large the quantity of literature may be, and if current programmes are studying this question. This "scoping exercise" primarily aims to ensure that the EKLPSE expert group that will be in charge of answering the question is aware of existing relevant knowledge and programmes that should be taken into account in order to avoid duplicating work and provide the best possible answer. Quantifying the amount and type of knowledge available will also ensure that the resources allocated to the Expert Working Group will be sufficient.

Please contribute with comments and relevant knowledge on the topic by contributing information and/or participating in the discussion on this topic in the KNOCK forum at http://www.eklipse-mechanism.eu/forum_home (click on the Discussion Forum box)

1   What are we looking for?

We are seeking to know what type of knowledge is available to answer the question stated in the front page. Scoping the literature using databases is a task currently undertaken by our team, but in addition to this we are also looking for:

- Your **feedback on other current similar projects that are conducted or will be conducted soon** (in order to merge forces and avoid duplicate work)
- Your feedback on **existing reviews, synthesis, assessment**s that address the question of "Which types of natural spaces and which characteristics (components) of such spaces have a significant impact on mental health and well-being?"
- Your knowledge about **grey literature, in any language**, that has addressed the question "Which types of natural spaces and which characteristics (components) of such spaces have a significant impact on mental health and well-being?"

There is a lot of literature and knowledge about health and the environment, so we are calling upon your **attention to this question that precisely addresses types of nature and characteristics (or components, features…) of nature,** that affect well-being and mental health (physical health is not prioritized right now although we acknowledge that physical activity affects mental health). **You can signal your publications, current work on the topic, and grey literature, or any information that would help us in our Forum** (see below).

We are not interested in the effects of alien invasive species, GMOs or pollutants or allergens, as **the ultimate goal of the requester is to set up actions that will trigger positive impacts on well-being and mental health of urban citizens based on the knowledge synthesis provided by EKLIPSE.** And the requester does not aim to use invasive species or elements detrimental to biodiversity and health for such initiatives.

This call for knowledge aims at helping us assess the amount of existing work on this question, the relevance of such work and align it with resources that will be allocated to the Expert Working Group in charge of answering the question. You may be interested in contributing to this EWG (a call will circulate, see below). You may also be interested in peer-reviewing the work that will be implemented, or to contribute as a knowledge-holder, a knowledge user or a decision-maker to this mission. Please get in touch with us.

How to contribute:

Please find the Health and Biodiversity request on our EKLIPSE KNOCK FORUM, where you can register and post comments and inputs. This forum is moderated and only relevant and constructive contributions will be retained.

http://www.eklipse-mechanism.eu/forum_home (click on the Discussion Forum box and then select Health impacts in the Theme Summary box)

2 What is EKLIPSE?

EKLIPSE is an EU-funded project that started in February 2016. The project aims to establish a robust and flexible long-term mechanism to provide knowledge for policy support on biodiversity and ecosystem services. It aims at communicating and engaging a wide set of knowledge holders in its work to ensure tailor-made results to knowledge requesters and society more broadly.

The success of EKLIPSE and its resulting mechanism is in everyone's hands:

- the 'requesters' from policy and society who need to know what knowledge is out there to answer their policy or societal decision needs;
- the knowledge holders (be they scientists or other citizens) who want their knowledge to be useful for decision-making; and
- the networks of people working on biodiversity and ecosystem services who can ensure a good dissemination of the knowledge, recommendations and decisions.

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.

3 How EKLIPSE answers requests

The outcomes of this Call for Knowledge will be taken into account in the discussions with the requester, in order to define the scope and scale of the question that matches the resources and expectations of the requesters (scope of the answer, level of confidence…). All the elements resulting from these discussions will be grouped into a Document of Work that will set up the agreement between Eklipse and the requester including the calendar, the resource, proposed methodologies to answer the request (based on recommendations of Eklipse Method Group).

 Once the document of work is finalised, Eklipse will then organise a **Call for Experts** to form an expert working group in charge of answering the request, using the information provided during the scoping phase (this call for knowledge is part of the scoping), and recommendations provided by the Methods group regarding the range of methods for knowledge synthesis that would meet the requirement of the requester (in terms of timeframe, risk of bias..) and the resources.

The selected expert group will, together with the Knowledge co-ordination body and the requester, finalise the choice of the methodology and will add all the details about how they will intend to answer the question into a Protocol that will be made publicly available and peer reviewed. The knowledge assessments conducted by Eklipse to answer a question rely on existing available evidence that this call for Knowledge helps to identify. Eklipse is neither conducting research, not conducting site-specific impact studies.

Finally, the results will be peer reviewed before being communicated in to the 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 (see figure below).

4 Next step: Call for Experts

The expert working group will include diverse and complementary skills (including multidisciplinary skills and a broad geographical coverage) and will interact with relevant stakeholders to ensure appropriate uptake of outputs.

The Call for Experts will be widely publicized on the EKLIPSE website, on the Forum and other dissemination channels to ensure a broad coverage of disciplines and geography. The selected group will be supported financially by the EKLIPSE project for travel expenses and in certain cases through honorary contracts.

Figure 1: the different stages of the EKLIPSE mechanism to answer a request