Bridging the gap between policy and knowledge
on biodiversity in Europe

# Fifth Call for Nominations for members of the
# Methods Expert Group (MEG)
# (CfMEG. 05/2024)

## Eklipse – March 2024

**Deadline for Call**: April 22nd, 2024
**Period in office:** May 2024 – April 2027

## *1. Invitation to become a member of the Methods Expert Group*

**Eklipse** (https://eklipse.eu) **is inviting applications from experts to join the Eklipse Methods Expert Group (MEG).** The MEG plays a fundamental role in advising the Eklipse Expert Working Groups (EWGs) on the strengths and weaknesses of available methods of knowledge synthesis, including their costs, and requirements in terms of human capital and technical tools. The MEG will cover diverse and complementary methodological skills (including multi- and trans-disciplinary skills and broad geographical coverage). This important Eklipse governance body interacts closely with relevant members of the Eklipse governance bodies to ensure appropriate methodological choices, following the ethical and robust Eklipse process.

- **Are you an expert on knowledge synthesis and/or engagement methods?**
- **Would you like to contribute directly to a policy-relevant process in your field of expertise?**
- **Would you like to expand your network and learn?**
- **Are you interested in collaborating in a trans-disciplinary and multi-cultural setting?**

**Then please express your interest in participating as a MEG member by filling out the Eklipse application form.**

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1

## Important dates and information

**How to apply**: http://eklipse.eu/calls/

**Deadline to apply:** April 22nd 2024

**Methods Expert Group (MEG) selection:** Three working weeks after the closing deadline

**Online kick-off meeting and training of the MEG:** a session of 2 hours (date to be further agreed upon between the actual members and the newly selected members of the MEG)

**Participation in the MEG will require approximately about 10% of your time** (see Eklipse Guidance note n°5). As in similar science-policy processes, Eklipse activities rely on in-kind contributions.

For further information:
- on the current members of the MEG, please visit our webpage: https://eklipse.eu/team/#methods-expert-group.

- on the broad range of methods developed by past and current MEG members, please visit our webpage: https://eklipse.eu/methods/

Should you require any further information or support, please contact the **Eklipse Management Body (EMB) at** emb@eklipse.eu

## 2. Methods Expert Group role and expected contributions

The task of the Methods Expert Group (MEG) is to *support Eklipse Expert Working Groups to identify the most appropriate method or bundle of methods to answer a specific request*. Here the focus is on *knowledge synthesis and engagement methods*. Such methods enable robust identification of evidence and knowledge gaps.

The MEG plays a fundamental role in advising the EWGs on the strengths and weaknesses of available methods of knowledge synthesis and stakeholder engagement, including their costs and requirements in terms of human capital and technical tools.

The MEG membership lasts for a term of 3 years and 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.

Members of the MEG will contribute to the following tasks:

- For each request accepted by Eklipse, interact 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 (NB. existing tools developed by Eklipse are available to aid decision-making on method choices, see [MAGICKS](#)).
- If assigned to a request, support the EWGs over the course of the request with methodological guidance as and when needed. Attendance at regular meetings is required.
- 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 evaluations and guidances notes to ensure that the evaluation of approaches and methodologies used by Eklipse remains up-to-date, following the work initiated in Biodiversity Knowledge (see [Pullin et al. 2016](#)) and continued in the [MEG Eklipse Report](#) (Dicks et al. 2018), as relevant.
- Co-authoring scientific articles and/or books and/or developing other relevant tools on methods for knowledge synthesis and engagement for (European) policy processes, as relevant.

In addition, members are expected to:

- Dedicate about10% of their time to Eklipse requests when engaged with a request.
- Each MEG member is expected to support no more than one Eklipse request per year or two if acting as a secondary advisor for one of these requests.
- Comply with the ethical principles of the Eklipse process (read the [Ethical Framework webpage](#) for more information). All Eklipse request results will be made publicly available through the [Eklipse website](#), and transparent procedures will apply, including authorship and involvement.


## 3. Support provided by Eklipse

- **Eklipse team:** The expert group will be supported by the [Eklipse Management Body (EMB)](#) 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 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, accommodation and subsistence? costs
✓ Upon specific request, individual experts from Eastern and Southern European countries may be supported via an honorary contract provided by Eklipse.

- **Technical support:** Eklipse will cover the layout, printing, and dissemination of interim and final products.

## 4. Eligibility and applicant information

### 4.1 Application and selection process

Please apply by reading the open calls webpage and 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. If you require further information, please do not hesitate to contact us at emb@eklipse.eu . Successful applicants will be notified by the Eklipse Management Body (EMB) within two working weeks after the closing deadline. When they accept the nomination, their names and affiliation will be listed on the Eklipse website.

### 4.2 Selection process and criteria

Eklipse expects to integrate up to 5 new experts into the current MEG, covering all relevant disciplines; natural, social, and political sciences as well as humanities. The selection of members will be performed by a selection committee constituted by members of the Eklipse Knowledge Coordination Body (KCB) according to the following criteria:

A) **Demonstrated expertise in knowledge synthesis approaches or methodologies** (must be more than one):

a. Experience of knowledge synthesis in 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.
b. Scientific experience: at least two papers or reports published in the last five years, in more than one knowledge synthesis approach or methodology.
c. Or technical/practical expertise: clear evidence of having worked directly in more than one knowledge synthesis approach or methodology.
d. Expertise should cover one or more of the following topic areas:
   ✓ Demonstrated expertise in methodologies related to quantitative and/or qualitative synthesis of scientific, technical or indigenous and local knowledge.

- Candidates with demonstrated experiences in the following methodologies will be especially valued: *Causal criteria analysis; Joint fact-finding; Participatory mapping; Collaborative adaptive management; Discourse analysis.*
- Candidates *with expertise in other innovative knowledge synthesis methodologies* not listed in the Methods webpage are welcome to apply and bring their knowledge and expertise to the group.

✓ Demonstrated skills in knowledge search, collection and management (librarians, information managers), including grey literature.

✓ Demonstrated skills in knowledge assessment, and evidence-based approaches, including social sciences such as justice and ethics.

✓ Demonstrated experience with decision-making and 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):

a. Proven ability to work in international scientific and policy processes (e.g. fluency in English language skills - written and spoken)

b. Experiences in inter- and transdisciplinary work on topics related to knowledge synthesis and/or in science-policy interface processes

c. Time that they can dedicate to the process (about 10%)

d. Support from their respective team/company, students etc.

e. Experience in working with Eklipse requests as a member of Expert Working Groups.

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

*Required*

✓ Breadth of experience and expertise across all 20 endorsed knowledge synthesis methods (see Dicks et al. 2018) with a focus on the specific methods mentioned in this call.

✓ Geographical and gender balance. Applicants from all regions of the world are welcome to apply.

✓ Breadth of disciplinary backgrounds.

✓ Policy experience/expertise: experience in knowledge synthesis processes with policy at the EU level.

✓ Expertise in impact evaluation and/or conceptual frameworks and/or decision-making tools to guide research processes.

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5

> ✓ Experience in visualisation or infographics to support decision-making.
> ✓ Experience in leadership of knowledge assessment processes.
> ✓ Representation of evidence synthesis collaborations or partnerships (e.g. Collaboration for Environmental Evidence, Conservation Evidence, etc.) collaborations working on criteria to develop standards in evidence synthesis.

## *5. References & resources*

- 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. LINK

- 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. LINK

- 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. LINK

- MAGICKS tool: https://ksm-eklipse.shinyapps.io/MAGICKS/