



Bridging the gap between policy and knowledge
on Biodiversity in Europe

CALL FOR EXPERTS (CfE 12/2023)
Eclipse – March 2023

Identified policy-relevant knowledge need requiring expertise:

How community empowerment tools and nature-based solutions (NBS) can contribute to addressing coastal challenges and building resilient communities?

Deadline for Call: April, 10th 2023 midnight (CEST)

Eclipse is inviting experts to join an Expert Working Group (EWG) to contribute to answering an identified policy-relevant knowledge need that requires an in-depth analysis or consolidated views from science and other knowledge holders: see formulation above and hereafter referred to as Request “Building resilient coastal communities through nature-based solutions (NBS) and other empowerment tools”. This request was initially put forward by the [project “Socio-economic EMPOWERment of Coastal communities as USers of the sea to ensure sustainable coastal development” \(EmpowerUs\)](#). For further information about the request, see the Eclipse website under [Request > Building resilient coastal communities through nature-based solutions \(NBS\) and other empowerment tools](#).

The EWG will cover diverse and complementary skills (including multi- and trans-disciplinary skills and broad geographical coverage – Further information on criteria can be found in section 5). The EWG will closely interact with relevant members of the [Eclipse governance bodies](#) to ensure appropriate methodological choices and uptake of outputs, as well as to guide them through the ethical and robust [Eclipse process](#). Selected experts will have to comply with the [Eclipse Code of ethics](#) to integrate the EWG.





In order to create this EWG, we are seeking expressions of interest from experts from a broad range of disciplines. Before applying, please consider the following questions below. **Please consider the list of disciplines / expertise below as non-exhaustive**, as we are happy to consider others that you may think are relevant to answer the request.

- **Are you an expert on one or several of the following disciplines?**
 - Co-creation processes, capacity building and knowledge co-production;
 - Community development;
 - Conceptual frameworks and theories on climate change adaptation and resilience;
 - Corporate responsibility;
 - Decision-making approaches;
 - Dialogue facilitation;
 - Empowerment approaches;
 - Environmental economics;
 - Impact or programme evaluation;
 - Integrating technology and nature;
 - Land-use, Rural planning and development;
 - Nature-based solutions to address coastal challenges;
 - Nature-based solutions;
 - Policy frameworks supporting nature-based solutions;
 - Promising approaches for business and biodiversity;
 - Resilience to climate change;
 - Science communication;
 - Seascape and coastal restoration;
 - Social equity;
 - Socio-economic benefits of Nature-based solutions;
 - Sustainable transition;
 - Theories and approaches of socio-economic empowerment;
 - Transformative change;
 - Voluntary environmental approaches.

- **Are you originally from one of the countries/regions where the [EmpowerUs Transition Coastal Labs](#) are situated (Bulgaria, Cyprus, Finland, Ireland, Norway or Spain), or do you have a professional or research experience related to one or several of the following countries; or are you familiar with the official language spoken in one or several of these countries?**

- **Do you have either direct experience in knowledge synthesis or experience in qualitative or quantitative research and/or would you like to learn more about knowledge synthesis methods?**

- **Do you have any experience interacting directly with policy makers or contributing to policy-relevant knowledge synthesis processes?**

- Do you have any experience in network coordination?
- Do you have experience in trans-disciplinary, multi-disciplinary or multi-cultural collaboration?

Please read the information below to apply to the call.

Important dates and information:

How to apply: <http://eklipse.eu/calls/>

Deadline to apply: April, 10th 2023 before midnight (CEST).

Expert Working Group (EWG) selection: second week of April 2023

Online kick-off meeting and training of the EWG: 2 sessions of 2 hours, in the two weeks following the notification of the EWG members selected (decided through a doodle).

Expected duration of the process: Between 3 and 8 months, depending on the selected method(s) (see section 3).

The participation in this EWG will require **approximately 10% of your time** (see Eklipse [Guidance note n°6](#)). As in similar science-policy processes, Eklipse activities rely on in-kind contributions.

For further information on the request, please read the Document of Work (DoW) on Eklipse website under Request > [“EmpowerUs – Building resilient coastal communities through nature-based solutions \(NBS\) and other empowerment tools.”](#)

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





1. Request to be addressed by this call

1.1 Background to the request “Building sustainable coastal communities through Nature-Based Solutions and Empowerment Tools

The self-sustaining and independent science-policy mechanism [Eclipse](#) has a long experience of enabling policy-makers and other societal actors to make better informed decisions by an in-depth collection, analysis and synthesis of existing knowledge from the scientific literature and other sources (find more information about Eclipse on Annex 1.). It can also be used to identify knowledge and research gaps (see [examples of past requests](#)).

For this reason, [Horizon Europe project EmpowerUs “Socio-economic EMPOWERment of Coastal communities as USers of the sea to ensure sustainable coastal development”](#) has asked Eclipse to consolidate the development of multiple, integrated and flexible solutions related to the challenges faced by coastal communities and by that allow their smooth transition towards more sustainable, inclusive and resilient coastal development.

1.2 First screening of literature and Call for Knowledge through a survey

A literature screening during the Scoping Phase resulted in a compilation of existing relevant literature:

- **(Non-exhaustive) Literature review collected by the Eclipse Management Body (EMB):** <https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/1OU9hwLlz79IV5GCqQYzjTKMn6fbvp0VIR-1iyQRe2O1/edit?usp=sharing>

Following on this first screening exercise, a survey addressed to the six Transition Coastal Labs took place in between December 2022 and January 2023 (for more information, please refer to the request webpage: <https://eclipse.eu/request-empowerus/>):

- **Compilation of the results:** https://docs.google.com/document/d/1IXebSqXL9TA-kri5Uvlz_9Dxyf22p6Cm/edit?usp=sharing&oid=104087066338284811268&rtpof=true&sd=trueA%20

The screening and survey aim to gather relevant knowledge to be considered during the selection process and to search for existing or planned initiatives that may (partly) answer the requests. Both activities were essential during the Scoping Phase to avoid duplication of ongoing efforts and ensure the outputs will be timely developed.

2. Suggested programme of work and methods

During the scoping phase, the members of the [Eclipse Methods Expert Group \(MEG\)](#) discussed potential knowledge synthesis methods suitable for this request (For more information on the range of methods, please refer to the [Eclipse report Dicks et al. 2018](#) on knowledge synthesis methods and in the Eclipse website under “[Methods](#)”).

Methodologies suggested by the MEG

No single method addresses all the methodological challenges in this request. Rather, a combination of techniques in the process may be needed to tackle the following knowledge synthesis aims. The following methodologies provide a starting point for the work of the EWG to develop the Methods Protocol:

- Literature-based knowledge synthesis methods, to identify and assess published peer-reviewed literature, wider grey literature and policy documents. Methods may include: [systematic map](#); [scoping review](#); [systematic review](#); [rapid evidence review](#).
- People-based knowledge synthesis methods, to consult experts and stakeholders at the local level (which could be achieved from the series of first workshops that will take place in the TCLs). Methods may include: [expert consultation](#); [joint fact-finding](#); [focus groups](#).
- Decision-support methods, to analyze how decisions are taken and how they may empower TCLs including objectives, possible actions, and models linking actions to objectives. Methods may include: [structured decision-making](#); [multi-criteria decision analysis](#); [Bayesian belief networks](#); [scenario analysis](#); [participatory mapping](#); [collaborative adaptive management](#).

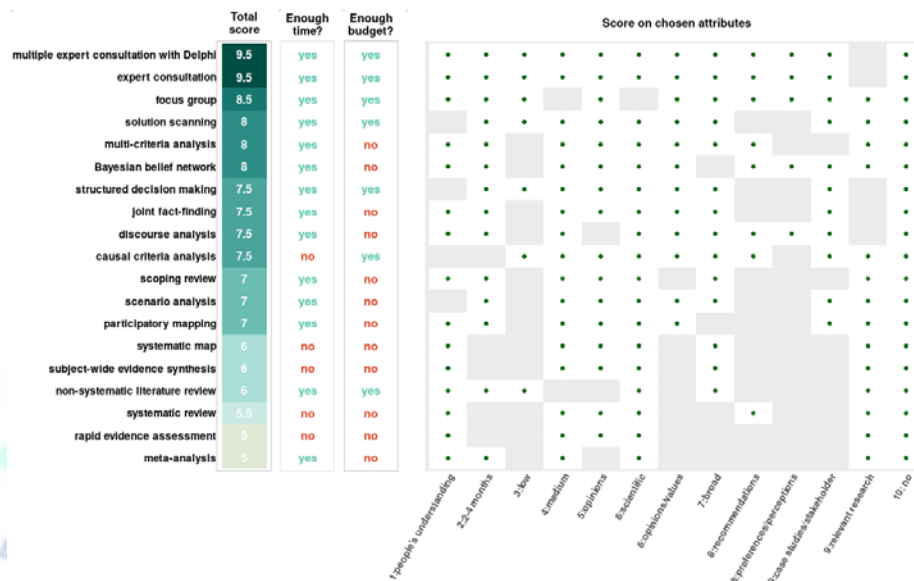
The Expert Working Group (EWG) will be given the flexibility to decide which exact method is more adequate to be used in the TCLs (and if they should be homogenized or differ depending on the TCL). In order to understand what tools might best address the two-step process outlined above, the MEG recommends collectively using the [MAGICKS](#) tool. This guides a dialogue about the characteristics of the required knowledge synthesis, matches these characteristics to the expected attributes of different methods, and provides concise guidance on how to conduct each method. An example output is shown below.

The final decision on which method or combination of methods will be used to process the request will be made after a thorough dialogue between the EWG and the MEG. The description and justification for the selected method(s) will be part of the first deliverable the EWG will have to deliver, i.e. the Method Protocol. All Eclipse Method Protocols are peer-reviewed, open for public consultation, and once revised they are published on the Eclipse website (sometimes in scientific articles also) and broadly disseminated.





Figure 1. Example of the use of MAGICKS (Method Application and Guidance in Conducting Knowledge Syntheses) to help guide the process of choosing a method of knowledge synthesis for a previous request addressed to Eklipse.



3. Implementation steps and timeline

The work of the EWG is expected to follow the [Eklipse knowledge synthesis process](#). The Scoping Group has developed a provisional timeline to give an orientation of the milestones and duration of the answering process until the final outputs (see Table 2 below). As a key component of the method protocol, the EWG will develop a refined timeline for answering the request considering the needs of the requesters, the relevant policy process(es), the complexity of the request and the selected tailored methods. Please note, that a Kick-off dialogue meeting between the Expert Working Group and the consortium of requester(s), will be held in the two weeks after the selection of the members of the Expert Working Group. This kick-off meeting will be facilitated by the [Eklipse Knowledge Coordination Body \(KCB\)](#), and aims to ensure a common understanding of the request among experts.

Table 2. Suggested timeline

Suggested timeline – Duration	Key activities	Actions or feedback from requesters
Two weeks after the nomination of the selected experts 2 sessions of 2 hours each	Online kick-off meeting of the EWG	Participation in the first part of the meeting to explain the specific interest in the request and answer key questions of clarifications from the experts

Two months after the kick-off meeting	Call for Open consultation and Peer Review of the Methodological Protocol	Dissemination of the call Requesters can submit a review
<u>Duration of the answering phase of the Eklipse process</u> Between 3 and 8 months, depending on the selected method(s)	Call for Open consultation and Peer Review of the synthesis report	Dissemination of the call Requesters can submit a review
	Launch of the final report	Dissemination and contribution to ensure the uptake of the evidence produced by EWG by research and policy, i.e. ensuring the usefulness of the results /evidence

4. Support provided by Eklipse

Eklipse team: The Expert Working Group (EWG) will be supported in all steps by the [Eklipse Management Body \(EMB\)](#) in logistics, communication, documentation (via the Eklipse website), and dissemination of products required for this request. The working group will be supported thematically and strategically by the [Knowledge Coordination Body \(KCB\)](#) and by the [Methods Expert Group \(MEG\)](#) on the choice and use of knowledge synthesis methods.

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 and beyond the group, capacity building and the visibility of expertise to policy and society via the products. Eklipse will actively support the visibility of experts and their institution's contributions. In addition, travel costs to potential events hosted physically by Eklipse will be covered via Eklipse funds as needed. During the Kick off meeting will be discussed the possibility to hire a research assistant that could support the EWG in tasks related to the methods selected to answer the knowledge synthesis needs.

Technical support: Access to literature databases will be facilitated if needed. Eklipse will cover the layout, printing, and dissemination of interim and final products.

5. Eligibility and applicant information

6.1 Selection criteria for the composition of the Expert Group





The EWG is the group of selected experts that will be in charge of answering the request “Building resilient coastal communities through Nature-Based Solutions and Empowerment Tools” based on the [Eklipse process](#). They are individual experts who will nominate themselves following the call for experts. The final selection of the EWG will be carried out by the Knowledge Coordination Body (KCB), which will ensure the best possible coverage in terms of disciplines, geographic and gender balance (see our [Guidance note 7c. “Preparing and managing Calls for Experts”](#) for more information). The selected EWG will consist of scientists and practitioners and will be supported by dedicated members from the KCB, the MEG and the EMB (see [Guidance Note 6. “Expert working groups \(EWGs\)”](#)). The EWG should cover all relevant disciplines, including natural, social, economic and planning sciences. Gender balance and geographical diversity of EU countries will be considered in the selection. KCB may decide to open a follow-up, more tailored Call for Experts to this one to complement the EWG with additional expertise.

The working group is expected to have up to 15 experts.

6.2 Selection criteria for individual experts

- The individual experts that nominate themselves should have demonstrated expertise or experience in one or several disciplines related to the topic of this call.
- Some individual experts of the EWG should have **either direct experience** in knowledge synthesis or experience in qualitative research. Specific techniques/experiences that are especially valued include: [systematic map](#); [scoping review](#); [systematic review](#); [rapid evidence review](#). [expert consultation](#); [joint fact-finding](#); [focus groups](#); [structured decision-making](#); [multi-criteria decision analysis](#); [Bayesian belief networks](#); [scenario analysis](#); [participatory mapping](#); [collaborative adaptive management](#).
- Experience in **European policy processes** will be regarded during the selection discussion.
- Eklipse highly encourages all applicants to provide a **letter of support from their organisation**.
- Selected Experts will have to comply with the principles and rules of Eklipse: e.g. conflicts of interest policy, Code of Conduct, etc... (for more details see in the Eklipse website under [“Ethical framework”](#)).
- Requesters, as well as Eklipse Knowledge Coordination Body and Eklipse Management Body members are **not eligible**. Please note that two members of the Eklipse Methods Expert Group (MEG) with relevant knowledge synthesis methods will be selected from the MEG team to integrate the EWG, but will not need to apply to the Call for Experts. Please note that the MEG is composed of experts selected for a mandate of 3 years to integrate EWGs.

6.3 Information to provide

The Eklipse 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.

6. Application and notification of results

7.1 How to apply

The application form for experts can be found on Eklipse website under [“Open Call for Experts on “Building resilient coastal communities through nature-based solutions \(NBS\) and other empowerment tools”](#)”. The completed form should be completed **by midnight on April 10th 2023 (CEST) at the latest**. Should you require any further information, do not hesitate to contact us: emb@eklipse.eu

7.2 Announcement of the results

Successful applicants will be notified directly by the EMB in the second week of April 2023. As soon as they accept the nomination, the names of selected experts will be made public on the Eklipse website. The kick-off meeting of the new EWG members will take place on two weeks following the nomination of the experts selected (2 sessions of 2 hours).

7.3 Data and information policy

The result of this call will be made publicly available through the Eklipse website, and transparent procedures will apply, following [Eklipse's privacy policy](#).

