



Bridging the gap between policy and knowledge
on biodiversity in Europe

TARGETED CALL FOR EXPERTS (CfE 13/2023)
Eclipse – June 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 to apply: July, 14th 2023 midnight (CEST)

Eclipse is inviting experts to complement an [Expert Working Group \(EWG\)](#) and contribute together 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 sustainable coastal communities through Nature-Based Solutions and Empowerment Tools](#).

The EWG is covering 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 interacts closely 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 complete the EWG, we are seeking expressions of interest from experts from the **list of disciplines/expertise in the following page** (please consider it as non-exhaustive, as we are happy to consider others that you may think are relevant to answer the request and would complete the group already in place).





- **Are you an expert on one or several of the following disciplines/topics?**
 - Climate indicators and vulnerability
 - Co-creation processes, capacity building and knowledge co-production
 - Cost-benefit and/or economic impact analysis of nature-based solutions (NBS)
 - Engagement of individuals and the private sector including social enterprises.
 - (E)valuation of cultural ecosystem services
 - On-ground/practical knowledge of empowerment tools for urban/rural/territorial development
 - Participatory and facilitation approaches for management/conservation (i.e. PGIS)
 - Socio-environmental justice
- **Do you have either direct experience in the literature - and people - based knowledge synthesis methodologies, such as Rapid Evidence Assessment or Multi-Criteria Decision Analysis?**
- **Are you originally from Bulgaria, Cyprus, Norway or Sweden, or do you have professional or research experience related to one or several of the countries where [EmpowerUs Transition Coastal Labs](#) are situated?**
- **Do you have any experience interacting directly with policy makers or contributing to policy-relevant knowledge synthesis processes?**
- **Do you have experience in trans-disciplinary, multi-disciplinary or multi-cultural collaboration?**

Important dates and information:

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

Deadline to apply: July, 14th 2023 before midnight (CEST).

Expert Working Group (EWG) selection: Third week of July 2023

Online training of the EWG: 1 session of 3 hours, in the two weeks following the notification of the EWG members selected (decided through a doodle).

Expected duration of the process: 7 months approximately (see section 3).

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 and 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 [Eklipse](https://eklipse.eu/) has a long experience of enabling policy-makers and other societal actors to make better informed decisions through an in-depth collection, analysis and synthesis of existing knowledge from the scientific literature and other sources (find more information about Eklipse on the website: <https://eklipse.eu/>). 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 Eklipse 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 Initial call for experts and selection of an Expert Working Group

To answer this request, Eklipse sent out a first Call for Expertise (CfE), from which 7 experts were selected in April 2023 to form the Eklipse Expert Working Group (EWG). These experts already cover a broad range of expertise, gender and geographical representation (7 countries).

2. Suggested programme of work and methods

During the scoping phase, the members of the [Eklipse 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 [Eklipse report Dicks et al. 2018](#) on knowledge synthesis methods and in the Eklipse website under [“Methods”](#).)

2.1 Methodologies selected by the EWG in place:

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



- Literature-based knowledge synthesis method: [Rapid evidence assessment](#) to identify and assess published peer-reviewed literature, wider grey literature and policy documents.
- Decision-support method: [Multi-Criteria Decision Analysis](#) to analyze how decisions are taken and how they may empower TCLs including objectives, possible actions, and models linking actions to objectives.

The Expert Working Group (EWG) selected the methods above, after using the [MAGICKS](#) tool and guided by the Method Expert Group (MEG) members through a dialogue about the characteristics of the most adequate knowledge synthesis to be used in the TCLs. The description and justification for the selected method(s) will be part of the first deliverable of the EWG, 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.

2.2 Implementation steps and timeline

The work of the EWG is expected to follow the [Eclipse knowledge synthesis process](#) and a provisional timeline has been developed to give an orientation of the milestones and duration of the answering process until the final outputs (see Table 1 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.

Table 1. Suggested timeline

Task / Milestone	Description	Duration / Deadline
Task 1	Method protocol	2.5 months after the EWG Kick-off meeting
Milestone 1	Final Method protocol	Mid - August, 2023
	Methods protocol finalised draft	July, 14th, 2023
	Open Call for Methodological Protocol Peer Review and Open Consultation	July 17th – August 7th, 2023
	Method protocol peer-review finished	August 21st, 2023
	Reply comments peer review	August 21st, 2023
Task 2	Literature - based method: Rapid Evidence Assessment	1,5 months
Milestone 2	Rapid Evidence Assessment database and preliminary results	Mid - September, 2023
Task 3	People-based method: Multi-Criteria Decision Analysis	3 months
Milestone 3	Definition of the evaluation and feasibility criteria	September, 2023
Task 4	EmpowerUs workshop 2	October-November, 2023
Milestone 4	Consultation finished	November, 2023
Task 5	Report writing	December, 2023- January, 2024
Milestone 5.1	Draft report ready for peer review	Beginning of February, 2024
Milestone 5.2	Report finished	March, 2024

3. 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: Eclipse 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. Eclipse will actively support the visibility of experts and their institution's contributions. In addition, travel costs to potential events hosted physically by Eclipse will be covered via Eclipse 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. Eclipse will cover the layout, printing, and dissemination of interim and final products.

4. Eligibility and applicant information

4.1 Selection criteria for the composition of the Expert Working 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 [Eclipse 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 EWG would ideally have 3 more members, in order to be 10 experts in total.

4.2 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 [rapid evidence review](#) and [multi-criteria decision analysis](#).

- ☑ 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.

5. Application and notification of results

7.1 How to apply

The application form for experts can be found on the Eklipse website under '[Open calls](#)'. The completed form should be completed **by midnight on July 14th, 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 third week of July 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 in the two weeks following the nomination of the experts selected (1 session of 3 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](#).

