



Bridging the gap between policy and knowledge
on Biodiversity in Europe

Document of Work (DoW)

Request “Building resilient coastal communities through Nature-Based Solutions and Empowerment Tools”

Version 17/03/2023;

Validated by the requesters





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1) Preamble

Coastal communities face many challenges including extreme weather associated with climate change, increased pressures from urban development and tourism, as well as changes in traditional and cultural practices. When faced with such a myriad of ever-changing challenges, it can be difficult to adapt. Recognising that these complex challenges require multiple, integrated solutions, the European Union's Horizon Europe project EmpowerUs "[Socio-economic EMPOWERment of Coastal communities as USers of the sea to ensure sustainable coastal development](#)" (EmpowerUs - Grant Agreement No. 848180) will support coastal communities to create multiple, integrated and flexible solutions to encourage and promote their transition towards more sustainable, inclusive and resilient coastal development.

The objectives of the project are:

- to co-assess & co-plan six innovative [Transition Coastal Labs \(TCLs\)](#);
- to co-create, test and monitor six pilots for collaborative adaptive empowerment as Transformation Mechanisms;
- to improve skills in ocean literacy education and awareness-raising and uptake of solutions;
- to co-monitor and co-evaluate transformation mechanisms' success and make a transdisciplinary synthesis, understanding the barriers and enabling factors, that can be upscaled, leading to more sustainable, balanced and inclusive coastal development;
- to support effective knowledge co-production, management and transfer to ensure scalability and replicability of project knowledge and build/improve stakeholder capacity to take direct and sustainable actions.

In order to propose adequate empowerment tools to coastal communities, EmpowerUs project aims at consolidating 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. In this context, EmpowerUs identified two main knowledge synthesis needs and mandated Eklipse to process them and ensure their policy relevance:

- Request n° 1: "Nexus between coastal challenges, ecosystem services and nature-based solutions"
- Request n° 2: "Development of an empowerment framework tailored to coastal resilience (including a review of existing empowerment tools)"

This document of work (DoW) describes and compiles the results of the scoping activities and the background of the request. The information in this document is also the basis for the next step: the call for experts (CfE) to select the members of an Eklipse Working Group (EWG) that will work on answering the request. It explores the existing knowledge in this area, how the request relates to existing policy processes at the EU level, identifies plausible and relevant methodologies and the timeline for answering this request.





2) Background and context of the request

Background

All people on Earth depend directly or indirectly on the ocean, seas and inland waters ([IPCC, 2019](#)). Without healthy ocean and waters, there is simply no life on earth. This is why knowing, protecting and restoring our ocean, seas, and waters is one of the defining endeavours of our time ([Mission Oceans](#)). Healthy and resilient societies depend on giving nature the space it needs ([EU Biodiversity Strategy for 2030](#)). The intensification of major challenges such as ecological degradation, extreme weather events, sea-level rise, pollution and coastal erosion must urgently be addressed by European Coastal Regions. The realisation of the EU's Mission: Restore our Ocean and Waters and the [UN's Sustainable Development Goals \(SDGs\)](#), implies a transformation that reverses the environmental, societal, and financial crises coastal communities are facing. The aspirational priorities identified by the [EU Green Deal \(EGD\)](#) and associated policies have the potential to catalyse transformation towards sustainable, balanced and inclusive coastal development and resilience; however, the preconditions, barriers and success factors for such change and necessary innovations are not yet adequately understood at local, regional, national or European levels.

Coastal communities are key “living labs” where co-exist coastal, urban and/ rural challenges and are a great opportunity to study potential pathways towards sustainable transformation. Nature-based solutions (NBS) are proposed as critical and transformative elements for coastal development models addressing the combined climate, biodiversity and pollution crises, including the need for sustainable and equitable social and economic development. In this context, coastal communities will not only be seen as passive beneficiaries or end-users of nature's benefits but could be empowered as key actors and agents who can proactively decide, plan, protect, manage and/or restore ecosystems and thus significantly contribute to enhancing resilience and economic development.

Challenges and Policy relevance of the request

The project [EmpowerUs](#) is structured around the establishment of six Transition Coastal Labs (TCLs) that are sites where multiple actors will collaboratively design and facilitate transition solutions in coastal communities (more information on the TCLs can be found in the website: <https://empowerus-project.eu/transition-coastal-labs/>).

Through a preliminary survey to the six TCLs in January 2023, Eclipse has identified the following key challenges those coastal communities face: 1) Seasonal influx of people and heightened holiday home demands, 2) Economic development policies favouring some sectors (e.g tourism, fishing) but negatively affecting local people, 3) Conflicts between different users of the sea and/or with land users, 4) Decline of fishing stocks, 5) Lack of career opportunities for professionals/higher educated, 6) Changing weather patterns, and 7) Loss of coastal biodiversity. Most of those key challenges are at the interface of the environment and people, and the pressures they face relate to environmental change and social inequality (see Annexes 2 and 3 for more information).

These challenges crosscut key European policy priorities. Empowerment of coastal communities will be key to achieve the central, transformative promise of the [EU Green Deal](#) – to leave no one behind. The recent [European Rural Vision](#) has emphasised that, in the future, rural areas should be stronger, resilient, connected and prosperous and thereby developing equality among regions. Furthermore, as highlighted in the [2021 EU Adaptation Strategy](#), coastal communities are vulnerable to climate change and rising sea levels, as well as extreme weather events like storms and floods. It suggests NBS to increase adaptive capacity and resilience of communities in order to enhance coastal protection. Another key EU policy, the [European Biodiversity Strategy 2030](#) supported by the [Global 30 by 30 initiative](#), acknowledges the key importance of NBS by aiming to bring nature back into people’s lives in a sustainable and equitable way. More broadly, the realisation of the [Horizon Europe Missions Ocean](#) and the [UNs Sustainable Development Goals \(SDGs\)](#) implies a transformation that reverses the environmental, societal, and financial crises coastal communities face.

The challenges identified in the six TCLs as well as the empowerment solutions that will be developed in the whole EmpowerUs project resonate with many other coastal and non-coastal European rural communities.

The added value of Eklipse:

Eklipse only accepts to process a request if the following criteria are met and justified (Table 1).

Table 1. Eklipse criteria for processing a request and related added values of the request

Criteria for Eklipse to accept processing the request	Specific added values for Eklipse to process EmpowerUs ‘ requests
A clear mandate and a strong willingness/support from policy or other societal actors to follow the Eklipse process and to contribute to the dissemination, uptake and impact of the output.	Through facilitating a dedicated group of requesters from EmpowerUs and facilitating a cross-sectoral dialogue between different DGs on the topic of the request.
Policy relevance and its timeline needs to be ensured.	The request is in line with various key European and international environmental policies and frameworks, as EU Green Deal, the 2021 EU Adaptation Strategy, the Adaptation Strategy, the European Biodiversity Strategy 2030 supported by the Global 30 by 30 initiative, the Horizon Europe Missions Ocean and the UNs Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).
Scale: The request should be of European or at least of a wide region relevance.	The request is of European relevance as the Transition Coastal Labs (TCLs) are situated in different European regions, as well as of international relevance.
No duplication: Eklipse should ensure that there is no known work already done or planned on the topics (coinciding with the period of the request).	Through a preliminary literature review and a survey sent to the TCLs ensure that the outputs of the request will avoid potential overlaps with existing initiatives.





Transdisciplinary and cross-sectoral approach: The request would need to address the socio-environmental challenges, which are linked to different sectors.	The transdisciplinary and cross sectoral approach will be ensured through an transdisciplinary Expert Working Group (see Call for experts in Annex 4).
Feasibility to process the request in the time and resource allocated (see section Suggested methods and timeline for answering the process).	With the support of the Eclipse Methods Expert Group (MEG), the most suitable methods to answer the request considering time and resources will be selected (see suggested methods in the section Suggested methods and timeline for answering the request).

3) Summary of the scoping activities

Overview of the Scoping phase

The scoping phase is the key step within the [Eclipse process](#). It aims to refine the question, identify how Eclipse could provide an added value, seek knowledge and expertise on the refined question, and provide suggestions regarding methods and resources needed to answer the request. Table 2 shows the key scoping activities followed to refine the request.

Table 2. Overview of the different steps of refining the request.

Timeline	Key activities / events	Requester	Outcomes / Formulation of the evidence need
September - October 2021	Proposal writing	EmpowerUs consortium	<i>Formulation in the proposal:</i> Request n° 1 “Nexus between coastal challenges, ecosystem services and NBS”. <i>and discuss on how to agilize it</i> Request n° 2: “Development of an empowerment framework tailored to coastal resilience (including a review of existing empowerment tools)” .
November 2022	Set up of the Eclipse Scoping Group (see Table 3)	EmpowerUs consortium	<i>Involvement of transdisciplinary experts from the Eclipse Knowledge Coordination Body (KCB) and Methods Expert Group (MEG) to refine the</i> Request n° 1 “Nexus between coastal challenges, ecosystem services and NBS”. <i>and discuss on how to agilize it with the</i> Request n° 2: “Development of an empowerment framework tailored to coastal resilience (including a review of existing empowerment tools)”.
November 2022	Various meetings with the scoping group	EmpowerUs consortium	<i>Discussion on possibility to link up with the Global Biodiversity Framework’s 30 by 30 target and EU restoration Law.</i>

December 2022 – January 2023	Survey sent to and answered by six Transition Coastal Labs (TCLs), in order to narrow their challenges .	EmpowerUs consortium	<i>Discussion of the request in relation of the most relevant challenges:</i> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Seasonal influx of people/heightened holiday home demands 2. Weather patterns 3. Conflicts between different users of the sea / with land users 4. Fishing stocks decline 5. Water quality
February 2023	Meeting between requesters and scoping group	EmpowerUs coordinator + appointed deputy + two to three appointed TCL representatives	First proposal of reformulation for the request: <i>“the request would explore to what extent can Nature-Based Solutions help to meet multiple policy goals and address coastal challenges for the benefit of both people and nature.”</i>
February 2023	Meeting among the scoping group	EmpowerUs coordinator + appointed deputy + two to three appointed TCL representatives	Second proposal of reformulation for the request: <i>“The requests would explore how community empowerment tools and NBS can contribute to addressing coastal challenges and building resilient communities.”</i>
February 2023	Through an exchange of emails	EmpowerUs coordinator + appointed deputy + two to three appointed TCLs’ representatives	Acceptation of the final formulation
March 2023	Through an exchange of emails	EmpowerUs coordinator + appointed deputy + two to three appointed TCLs’ representatives	Validation of the Document of Work and the call for experts

Members of the Eclipse Scoping Group

The scoping phase is guided by an Eclipse subgroup composed by members of the Knowledge Coordination Body (KCB), the Methods Expert Group (MEG) and the Eclipse Management Body (EMB) (Table 3).

Table 3. Members of the Eclipse Scoping Group

Eclipse body	Name	Affiliation
<u>Knowledge Coordination Body (KCB)</u>	Simo Sarkki	University of Oulu, Finland
	Sebastien Costedoat	Moore Center for Science, Conservation International





Methods Expert Group (MEG)	Nils Bunnefeld	University of Stirling, UK
	Spyridoula Ntemiri	Green Fund, Greece
Eclipse Management Body (EMB)	Marie Vandewalle	Helmholtz Centre for Environmental Research (UFZ), Germany
	Candice Pouget	Helmholtz Centre for Environmental research (UFZ), Germany
	Diana Dushkova	Helmholtz Centre for Environmental research (UFZ), Germany

EmpowerUs Requesters

One key milestone of the scoping phase was to decide which members of the project’s consortium could act as key points of contact to further co-produce the knowledge needs and follow the knowledge synthesis process. Through the survey developed by Eclipse for the EmpowerUs TCLs (see Annex 3), it was decided that the ideal combination would be EmpowerUs coordinator + appointed deputy + two to three appointed TCLs’ representatives. The selection proceeded as following: in the survey sent to the six TCLs, the TCLs’ representatives could show their interest in being part of the members; only two people answered positively to take this role. During a steering committee project meetings, it was validated that the TCLs’ representatives would be the one identified in the survey and it was decided that the appointed deputy would be the person leading the Work Package 2 (Table 4). Regular exchanges and feedback will occur between Eclipse and the requesters in the different steps of the process.

Table 4. EmpowerUs Requesters

Requesters	Description	Agreement with final reformulation
Maiken Bjørkan	EmpowerUs Project Coordinator: https://empowerus-project.eu/team/steering-committee/	Yes
Wesley Flannery	EmpowerUs Work Package 2 Lead; WP 2 will coordinate the six Transition Coastal Labs (TCLs): https://empowerus-project.eu/team/steering-committee/	Yes
Kristina Svelds	TCL Academic lead, Finland: https://empowerus-project.eu/transition-coastal-labs/finland/	Yes
Diyana Kostovska	TCL Host, Bulgaria: https://empowerus-project.eu/transition-coastal-labs/bulgaria/	Yes

Raising policy relevance

Eclipse aims to raise the policy relevance of this request by seeking to engage with various EC Directorates Generals (DGs) to ensure cross-sectoral dialogue across EU policy sectors, and to further co-develop the knowledge needs to create more opportunities for the produced evidence to be taken up by policy. Therefore, Eclipse is in direct contact with relevant DGs (REGIO, ENV, CLIMA and MARE), given their links to addressing three policy priorities (rural development, climate change adaptation and biodiversity conservation) in the context of coastal communities.

Defining linkages and connections across silos will enable to better understand joined goals and identify the conflicts and barriers to transformative solutions for upcoming challenges across the EU's environmental, economic and social priorities.

First screening of literature and results of the 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-1iyQRe2OI/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://eklipse.eu/request-empowerus/>):

- Compilation of the results: https://docs.google.com/document/d/1XebSqXL9TA-kri5Uvlz_9Dxyf22p6Cm/edit?usp=sharing&oid=104087066338284811268&rtpof=true&sd=true

4) Refined request question

Following the survey sent to the Transition Coastal Labs (TCLs) and the discussion that took place among the scoping group, a first proposal was discussed with the EmpowerUs requesters. After this meeting, the scoping group concluded that the request should be reformulated to address better the needs of the requesters. As a result, the following revision was suggested:

How community empowerment tools and nature-based solutions can contribute to addressing coastal challenges and building resilient communities.

The request process would include:



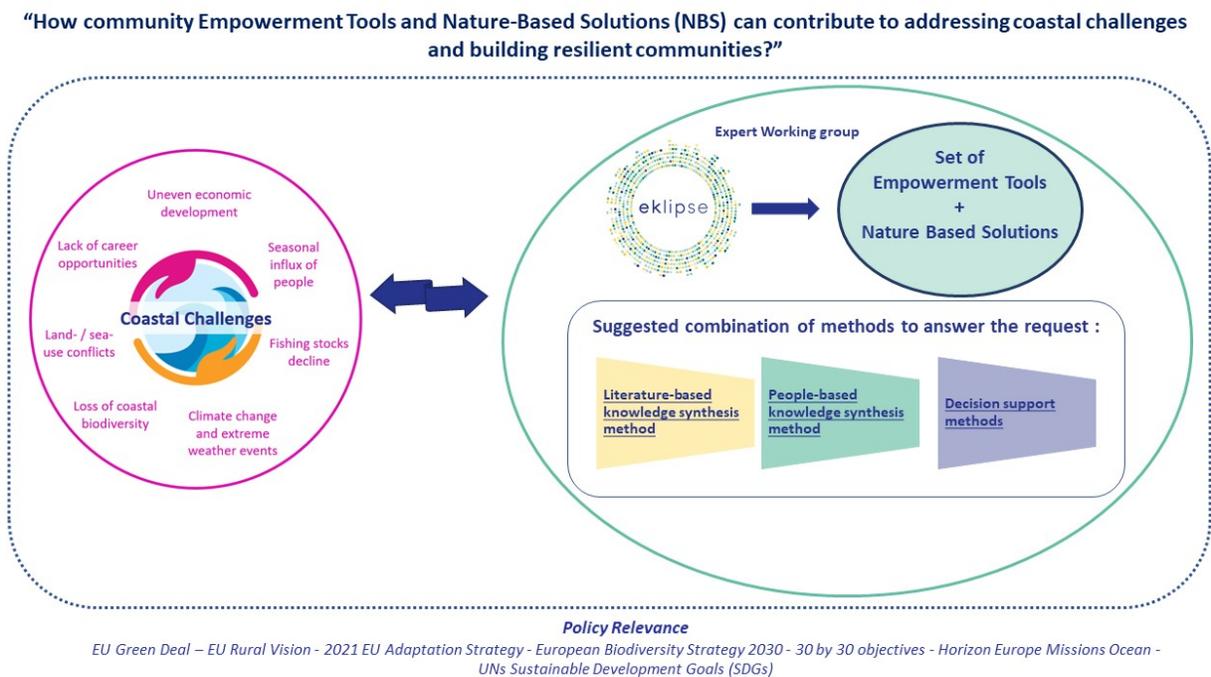


- Regular exchanges with the Transition Coastal Labs (TCLs) on their challenges and possible solutions;
- Development of a catalogue of nature-based solutions (NBS) and empowerment tools that could address the identified coastal challenges;
- Participation in the process of co-creation of empowerment programme tailored for each TCL and decision support.

5) Suggested methods and timeline for answering the process

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 to the Eclipse website under "[Methods](#)").

Figure 1. Framework and methods suggested by the Scoping Group to explore how community empowerment tools and nature-based solutions can contribute to addressing coastal challenges and building resilient communities



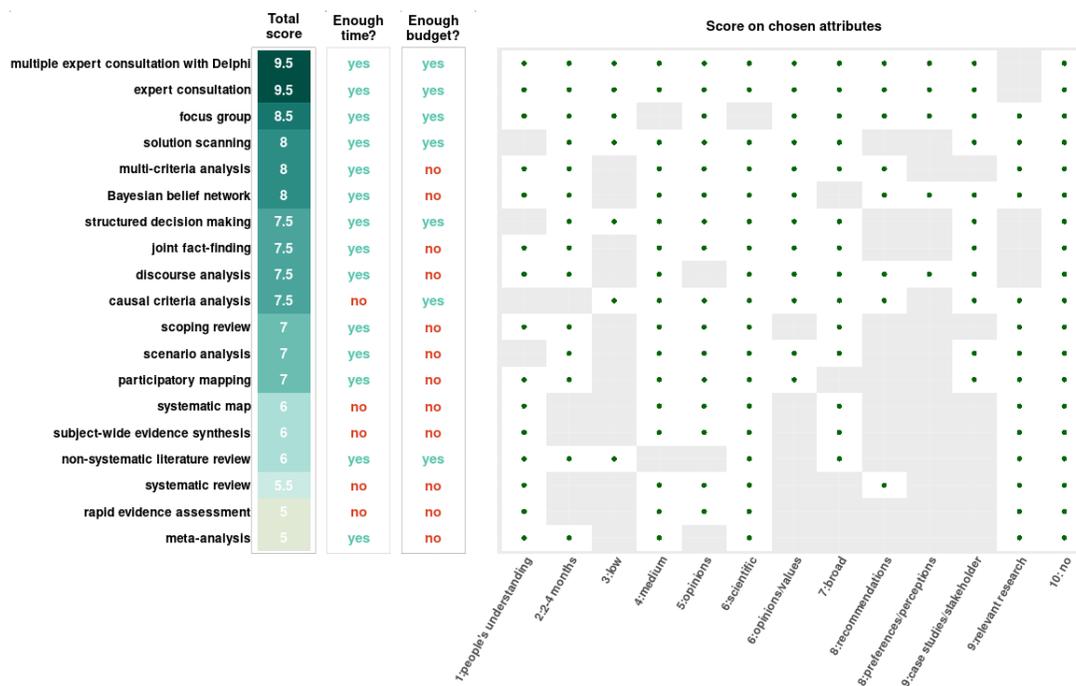
Methodologies suggested by the MEG

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](#).

In order to understand what combination of methods outlined above might best address the request, the MEG recommends to collectively use the [MAGICKS](#) tool. This guides a dialogue about the characteristics of the required knowledge synthesis, matches these characteristics to expected attributes of different methods, and provides concise guidance on how to apply each method. An example output is shown below.

Figure 2. 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 synthesis for a previous request addressed to Eklipse.



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 provide, i.e. the Method





Protocol. All Eclipse Method Protocols are peer-reviewed, open for public consultation, and once revised they are published on Eclipse website (sometimes in scientific articles also) and broadly disseminated.

Future timeline

Following the agreement of the present Description of Work by all requesters, a Call for Experts will be launched to select best experts. Once the EWG set up, the EWG and the MEG will be discussing the best method(s) to answer the request, depending on the needs of the requester(s), the complexity of the request and the timeline, Please see Table 5 with the suggested timeline of the next steps of the [Eclipse process](#).

Table 5. Suggested timeline

Suggested timeline	Key activities	Actions or feedback from requesters
Between 17/03/23 and 10/04/2023	Open Call for Experts https://eclipse.eu/calls/	Dissemination of the call
Second week of April	Selection of the Expert Working Group	None
In the two weeks after nomination of the members of the EWG	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
2 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
<i><u>Duration of the answering phase of the Eclipse process</u></i> 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

6) *Call for experts*

Under the supervision of the scoping group in close collaboration with the requester, the answering phase of the requests usually involves a call for experts aiming to create a topical Expert Working Group (EWG) which will work within all the guidelines agreed in the Document of Work (DoW). The EWG then develops a background report with the support of the Knowledge Coordination Body (KCB) and the Methods Expert Group (MEG) describing the current knowledge gaps and research needs on the topic. This

document/report goes through an extensive peer review process which involves an open consultation with knowledge holders of that particular topic.

Please find below the criteria that will be reflected in the call for experts and will guide the selection process of the members of the future EWG:

- The individual experts that nominate themselves should have demonstrated expertise or experience in the following disciplines:
 - o Co-creation processes, capacity building and knowledge co-production;
 - o Community development;
 - o Conceptual frameworks and theories on climate change adaptation and resilience;
 - o Corporate responsibility;
 - o Decision-making approaches;
 - o Dialogue facilitation;
 - o Empowerment approaches;
 - o Environmental economics;
 - o Impact or programme evaluation;
 - o Integrating technology and nature;
 - o Land-use, Rural planning and development;
 - o Nature-based solutions to address coastal challenges;
 - o Nature-based solutions;
 - o Policy frameworks supporting nature-based solutions;
 - o Promising approaches for business and biodiversity;
 - o Resilience to climate change;
 - o Science communication;
 - o Seascape and coastal restoration;
 - o Social equity;
 - o Socio-economic benefits of Nature-based solutions;
 - o Sustainable transition;
 - o Theories and approaches of socio-economic empowerment;
 - o Transformative change;
 - o Voluntary environmental approaches.

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

- Participants should have **either direct experience** in systematic reviews or 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](#).

For more information on the call for experts, please see Annexe 4 below.

7) Logbook

The logbook records all events and exchanges within the Eclipse Scoping group (see Table 3 in section Summary of the scoping activities) and with the requester(s) (see Table 4 in section Summary of the scoping activities).

Table 6. Logbook

Date	Participants	Topic	Platform
October 2022	EmpowerUs consortium	Formulation in the proposal: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> . Request n° 1 “Nexus between coastal challenges, ecosystem services and Nature - Based Solutions” . Request n° 2 “Development of an empowerment framework tailored to coastal resilience (including a review of existing empowerment tools)”. 	Kick-off meeting project EmpowerUs
November 2022	Set up of the Eclipse Scoping Group (see Table 2)	Involvement of transdisciplinary experts from the Eclipse Knowledge Coordination Body (KCB) and Methods Expert Group (MEG) to refine the request n°1 (see below), and discuss on how to align it with the request n° 2.	Emails and Online meetings
November 2022 – February 2023 Weekly meetings every Friday at 13:00 (CET)	Various meeting with the scoping group	<p><u>November 2022:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> . Discussion on possibility to link up with Biodiversity strategy 2030 (30x30 . Goals) and EU restoration Law . First screening of literature . Development of a survey <p><u>December 2022 – January 2023:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> . Discussion on how to create a cross-sectoral consortium of requesters . Listing and identification of potential requesters . Survey is conducted <p><u>January – February 2023:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> . Analysis of the survey results . Creation of a pager for the European Commission and a first reformulation of the request. <p><u>February 2023:</u></p>	Online meetings

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> . Second formulation of the request and discussion on the expertise researched in the call for experts . Writing of the Document of Work (DoW) . Preparation of the Call for Experts (CfE) 	
December 2022 - January 2023	EmpowerUs consortium	Discussion of the results of the survey sent to and answered by the Transition Coastal Labs (TCLs), in order to identify the most relevant challenges (see Annexes 1 and 3)	Online survey and meetings
January 2023	EmpowerUs steering committee	Decision of the composition of the EmpowerUs requesters: EmpowerUs coordinator + appointed deputy + two to three appointed TCLs' representatives	Online meeting
February 2023	Meeting between requesters and scoping group	First proposal of formulation for the request: "the request would explore to what extent can Nature-Based Solutions help to meet multiple policy goals and address coastal challenges for the benefit of both people and nature."	Online meeting
February 2023	Email exchanges between the requesters and the scoping group	Second proposal for formulation of the request: "The requests would explore how community empowerment tools and nature-based solutions can contribute to addressing coastal challenges and building resilient communities."	Email





8) Annexes

Annexe 1: Description of scoping and framing of the requests.

Request n° 1: “Nexus between coastal challenges, ecosystem services and Nature-Based Solutions”

+

Request n° 2: “Development of an empowerment framework tailored to coastal resilience (including a review of existing empowerment tools)”



First reformulation: To what extent can Nature-Based Solutions help to meet multiple policy goals and address coastal challenges for the benefit of both people and nature.”



Second reformulation: How community empowerment tools and nature-based solutions can contribute to addressing coastal challenges and building resilient communities?

Challenges identified during the scoping phase that could potentially be integrated in this request:

1. Seasonal influx of people and heightened holiday home demands
2. Economic development policies favouring some sectors (e.g tourism, fishing) but negatively affecting local people
3. Conflicts between different users of the sea and/or with land users
4. Decline of fishing stocks
5. Lack of career opportunities for professionals/higher educated
6. Changing weather patterns
7. Loss of coastal biodiversity. Seasonal influx of people and heightened holiday home demands

Potential Outputs:

- Written report plus other communication materials (e.g. policy brief)
- Possible interactive knowledge and data-database of existing evidence/results
- Matrix showing how different options perform on agreed criteria
- Concise decision question; objectives hierarchy; influence diagram; lists and definitions of ultimate objectives, management options, and external factors that are at least partly beyond control of managers; consequence table; weights of importance among objectives; expected utilities of management options (presented in an user-friendly concise to detailed written reports and interactive websites)

Annexe 2: Survey

Eclipse Survey for EmpowerUs requests

<https://docs.google.com/forms/d/1d11moJFmM09pRrFtNBctmoZEgZu...>

Eclipse Survey for EmpowerUs requests

Dear EmpowerUs TCLs Teams,

We kindly invite you all to participate in a first short EmpowerUs survey, in order to support Eclipse having a better understanding of the Transition Coastal Labs (TCLs) challenges before starting the evidence synthesis processes of the two initial questions proposed in the EmpowerUs proposal (Task 4.1). The aim of this survey is mainly to support the Eclipse Scoping Phase during which the initial questions will be discussed, refined and reformulated to meet the evidence needs of the requesters by 1) defining who should be the requesters for the EmpowerUs requests (see section 1) and 2) defining the main challenges to be addressed in your TCLs (see section 2.).

Completing this survey should take approximately 10-15 minutes and is open **until January 6th 2022**.

Many thanks in advance for your input to the Survey for the Eclipse requests. If you have any question, please contact us at: candice.pouget@ufz.de

Eclipse was created in 2016 to help governments, institutions, businesses, and NGOs make better-informed decisions when it comes to biodiversity and ecosystem services in Europe. Eclipse is a science-policy mechanism of the public interest. The lawful basis for processing your personal data under the EU's General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR) will be a public task. Our privacy policy (<http://eclipse.eu/privacy-policy/>) contains further information on the purpose and lawful basis for processing your personal data.

* Required

1. Last name, First name *

2. Name of the Transition Coastal Lab (TCL), Country *

3. Role in EmpowerUs *





4. Are you living in the TCL community? *

Check all that apply.

- Yes
- No
- Other: _____

5. Which of the following group(s) of stakeholders are you working closely with in your TCLs? *

Check all that apply.

- Public authority (e.g. municipality, agency, ministry)
- Political entity (e.g. city or regional parliament)
- Civil Society Organisation (e.g. non-governmental organisation)
- Private sectors (e.g. company, small and medium-sized enterprise, consultant)
- Academia/Research (e.g. university, research institute)
- International or transnational organisation (e.g. EU, UN, River basin management)
- Local organisation (e.g. local associations, initiatives)
- Land owners
- Other: _____

6. Please specify your above answers *

Section 1: Definition of the requesters for the EmpowerUs knowledge synthesis needs

7. Who should be part of the requester consortium? *

Mark only one oval.

- EmpowerUs coordinator + an appointed deputy
- EmpowerUs coordinator + appointed deputy + two appointed TCL representatives
- EmpowerUs coordinator + appointed deputy + two appointed TCL representatives + external relevant stakeholders and interest groups at the EU level (e.g. EC DG MARE, EC-KCBD, EC DG REGIO, etc...)
- EmpowerUs coordinator + an appointed deputy + external relevant stakeholders and interest groups at the EU level (e.g. EC DG MARE, EC-KCBD, EC DG REGIO, etc...)
- Only external relevant stakeholders and interest groups at the EU level (e.g. EC DG MARE, EC-KCBD, EC DG REGIO, etc...)
- Other: _____

8. If you choose "Other", please specify

9. Would you be interested in being appointed to represent the TCLs in the requester consortium? *

Mark only one oval.

- Yes
- No
- Maybe

Section 2: Main challenges to be addressed in your TCLs





10. A) What are the main challenges your coastal community is facing today? *

Please, weight each of them using the following scale:

- a. Not relevant at all for the community
- b. Relevant to some extent for part of the community
- c. Relevant to some extent for the whole community
- d. Very relevant for part of the community
- e. Very relevant for the whole community
- f. Extremely relevant: Priority number one to tackle by the community
- g. I don't know

(If you don't see all the columns a - g, please scroll right.)

Mark only one oval per row.

	a. Not relevant at all for the whole community	b. Relevant to some extent for part of the community	c. Relevant to some extent for the whole community	d. Very relevant for part of the community	e. Very relevant for the whole community	f. Extremely relevant: Priority number one to tackle the community
A.1. Coastal / Beach erosion (e.g. Is it safe to build here, or will erosion increase?)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
A.2. Marine pollution (e.g. Is it safe to swim here, or is the water too polluted? Is it safe to eat fish caught here, or do they contain too many contaminants? Do you see a lot of plastic and other garbage floating)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

A.3. Fishing stocks decline (e.g. Are small-scale fisheries and fishing industry suffering from declining fishing stocks? Can leisure fishermen catch as much fish (and fish species) as the former generation? Are fishing stocks being overharvested or have coastal communities still the possibility to have fishing activities?)

A.4. Weather patterns (e.g. Have you noticed that storminess, flooding due to sea level rise, flash floods, etc. increased?)

A.5. Land degradation & deteriorating ecosystems (e.g. Is it wise to invest in tourism development or other projects here, or will the area lose its attractiveness due to other





land use /
developments?)

A.6. Population growth in coastal areas (e.g. Have you noticed that the effects of booming population growth and economic and technological development are occurring here?)

A.7. Economic development and competing demands (e.g. Do you observe unprecedented pressure on the economic development of their resources?)

A.8. Loss of coastal biodiversity (e.g. Are the unique coastal ecosystems and their functions threatened due to habitat conversion, land cover change, pollutant loads, and introduction of invasive species, etc?)

A.9. Water quality (e.g. Is pollution from industry, agriculture, and urban areas degrading the quality of much water?)

A.10. Conflicts with predators (e.g. predator-human conflicts, or predator-farm animal/fish conflicts.)

A.11. Conflicts between different users of the sea / with land users.

11. Please elaborate or comment on your answers to question A) in the box below.





12. B) What types of other societal challenges are at play in your TCL? *

Please, weight each of them using the following scale:

- a. Not relevant at all for the whole community
- b. Relevant to some extent for part of the community
- c. Relevant to some extent for the whole community
- d. Very relevant for part of the community
- e. Very relevant for the whole community
- f. Extremely relevant: Priority number one to tackle by the community
- g. I don't know

(If you don't see all the columns a - g, please scroll right.)

Mark only one oval per row.

	a. Not relevant at all for the whole community	b. Relevant to some extent for part of the community	c. Relevant to some extent for the whole community	d. Very relevant for part of the community	e. Very relevant for the whole community	E: n l r t: co
B.1. Gender segregated labour force	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	
B.2. Ethnically segregated labour force	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	
B.3. Outmigration of young people	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	
B.4. Lack of higher educational opportunities	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	
B.5. Lack of career opportunities for professionals/higher educated	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	
B.6. Poor connectivity/mobility	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	

/transport networks

B.7. Seasonal influx of people/heightened holiday home demands

B.8. Lack of investment in local area

B.9. Skewed gender ratios in population

B.10. Challenges adding and capturing value locally to raw materials/resources (e.g., fish processing for higher-value products)

B.11. Generational labour change (e.g. 'greying of the fleet' in fisheries)

B.12. Over-use/over-tourism

13. In question B), how are any of the challenges rated d, e or f related to the fact that you are living near the sea? Please elaborate or comment on your answers in the box below.

Section 3: Next steps of the Eklipse process





Many thanks for your input to the Eclipse initial scoping on:

Request n°1: Nexus between Nature-Based Solutions (NBS), Ecosystem Services (ES) and Coastal Challenges (CC) in the paradigm of sustainable development.

Request n°2: "Development of an empowerment framework tailored to coastal resilience (including a review of existing empowerment tools).

The series of steps within the scoping phase go as follow:

- EmpowerUs and Eclipse to decide on composition of requester consortium
- Eclipse analyses the answers to the survey
- Eclipse starts a process of dialogue with the requesters and other relevant stakeholders
- Through the dialogue and the pre-screening on existing reviews/assessments and national reports and potentially a Call for Knowledge, the requests will be refined and reformulated.
- A document of work (DoW) that collates the results of the survey, the literature screening as well as a summary of requester expectations, methodological options, timeline and potential outcomes will be produced.
- If both requesters and Eclipse Knowledge Coordination Body (KCB) agree on the DoW, it will be shared publicly and available on the Eclipse website (Answers to the survey will be anonymised).
- Eclipse develops and launches a Call for Experts and sets up an independent Expert Working Group (EWG), selected by Eclipse Knowledge Coordination Body (KCB). The EWG will be responsible of the answering process of the requests in the agreed timeline
- Following Eclipse ethical infrastructure, Requesters are not allowed to be part of the Expert Working Group and are not part of the selection committee. During the dialogue phase and depending on requester expectations and Eclipse guidelines, it should be decided on whether TCL experts would be eligible to apply to the Call for Experts.

14. Any additional comment?

15.

By answering the following survey, I agree to the collection, storage and use by Eklipse team of the information provided by me. I retain the right to ask Eklipse to delete all my personal data at any moment. For further information:

<http://eklipse.eu/privacy-policy/>

Mark only one oval.

Yes

No

Please don't forget to finalize the survey by clicking on the button "submit" in the next page.

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Annexe 3: Results of the survey

ANSWERS OF THE EKLIPSE SURVEY

EMPOWERUS REQUESTS



BACKGROUND INFORMATION FOR PARTICIPANTS

Dear EmpowerUs TCLs Teams,

We kindly invite you all to participate in a first short EmpowerUs survey, in order to support Eklipse having a better understanding of the Transition Coastal Labs (TCLs) challenges before starting the evidence synthesis processes of the two initial questions proposed in the EmpowerUs proposal (Task 4.1). The aim of this survey is mainly to support the Eklipse Scoping Phase during which the initial questions will be discussed, refined and reformulated to meet the evidence needs of the requesters by 1) defining who should be the requesters for the EmpowerUs requests ([see](#) section 1) and 2) defining the main challenges to be addressed in your TCLs (see section 2).

Completing this survey should take approximately 10-15 minutes and is open until [January 6th 2022](#).

Many thanks in advance for your input to the Survey for the Eklipse requests. If you have any question, please contact us at: candice.pouget@ufz.de

Eklipse was created in 2016 to help governments, institutions, businesses, and NGOs make better-informed decisions when it comes to biodiversity and ecosystem services in Europe. Eklipse is a science-policy mechanism of the public interest. The lawful basis for processing your personal data under the EU's General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR) will be a public task. Our privacy policy (<http://eklipse.eu/privacy-policy/>) contains further information on the purpose and lawful basis for processing your personal data.

|

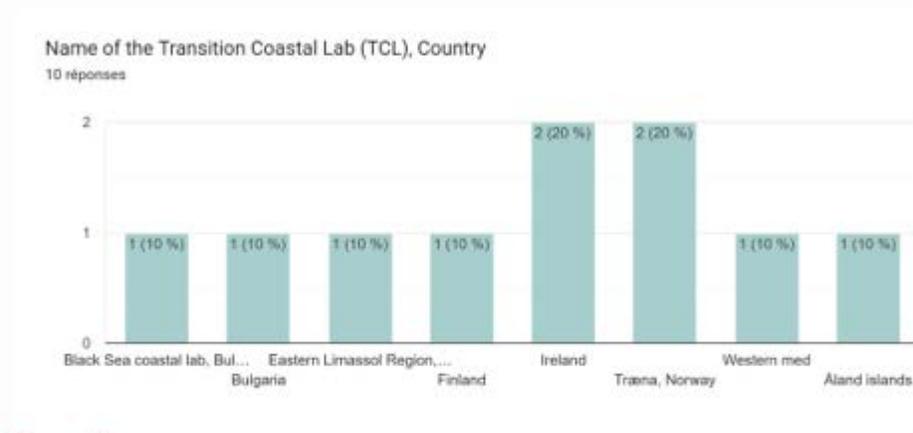




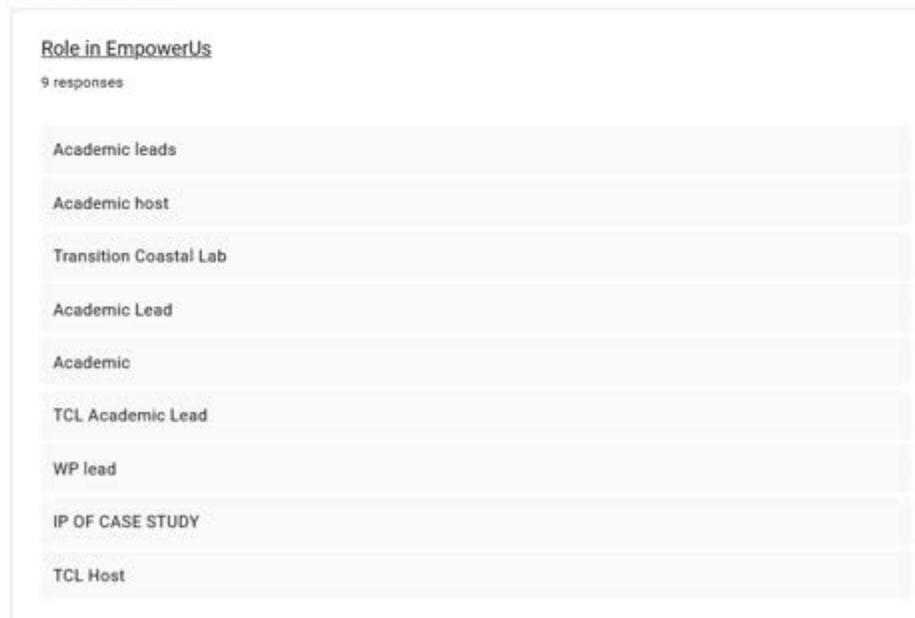
SUMMARY OF THE ANSWERS FROM THE PARTICIPANTS

(ANONYMISED, FROM THE FORM)

1. NAME OF THE TRANSITION COASTAL LAB (TCL), COUNTRY



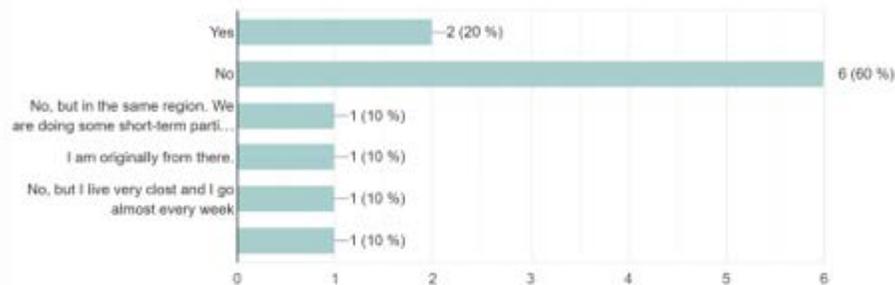
2. ROLE IN EMPOWERUS



3. ARE YOU LIVING IN A TCL COMMUNITY?

Are you living in the TCL community?

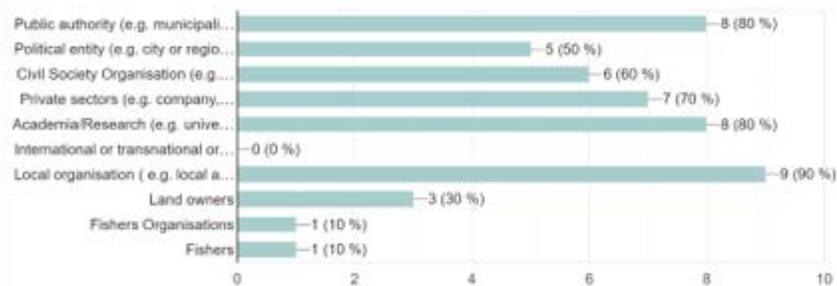
10 réponses



4. WHICH OF THE FOLLOWING GROUP(S) OF STAKEHOLDERS ARE YOU WORKING CLOSELY WITHIN YOUR TCLs?

Which of the following group(s) of stakeholders are you working closely with in your TCLs?

10 réponses





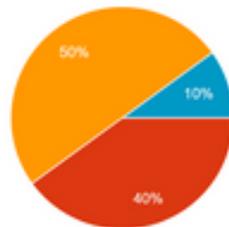
ANSWERS OF THE EKLIPSE SURVEY EMPOWERUs REQUESTS

SECTION 1: DEFINITION OF THE REQUESTERS FOR THE EMPOWERUs KNOWLEDGE SYNTHESIS NEEDS

WHO SHOULD BE PART OF THE REQUESTER CONSORTIUM?

Who should be part of the requester consortium?

10 réponses



- EmpowerUs coordinator + an appointed deputy
- EmpowerUs coordinator + appointed deputy + two appointed TCL represent...
- EmpowerUs coordinator + appointed deputy + two appointed TCL represent...
- EmpowerUs coordinator + an appointed deputy + external relevant stakeholder...
- Only external relevant stakeholders a...
- Civil Society on demand

If you choose "Other", please specify

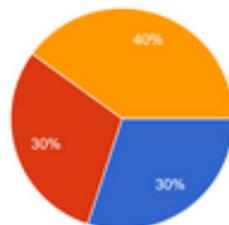
1 response

Civil Society in order to ensure real bottom-up processes

WOULD YOU BE INTERESTED IN BEING APPOINTED TO REPRESENT THE TCLs IN THE REQUESTER CONSORTIUM?

Would you be interested in being appointed to represent the TCLs in the requester consortium?

10 réponses

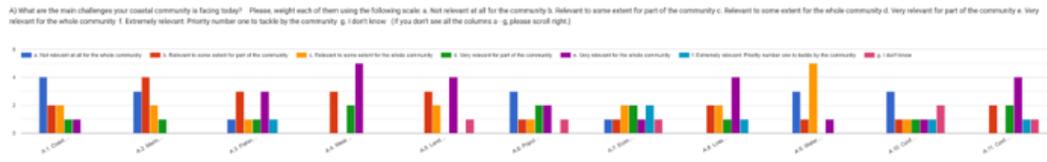


- Yes
- No
- Maybe

SECTION 2: MAIN CHALLENGES TO BE ADDRESSED IN YOUR TCLS

7. A) WHAT ARE THE MAIN CHALLENGES YOUR COASTAL COMMUNITY IS FACING TODAY?

GENERAL ANSWERS (please find the answer per item below.)



Please, weight each of them using the following scale:



Please elaborate or comment on your answers to question A) in the box below.





ANSWERS OF THE ECLIPSE SURVEY
REQUESTS

- RESPONSE 1:** Some of these answers are uncertain and must be further investigated in the lab. There are several relatively large projects ongoing/in the starting phase, so we do not yet know the consequences and potential conflicts that may arise from these. In our TCL, the issue is quite the opposite to that of A.6. There are few childbirths and young people are leaving, so there are some concerns regarding the domino effect of this on the population/demographics. Interestingly, there is a housing shortage (due to amongst other things, homes being kept as holiday houses by those ~~outgoing~~). Future economic development relies on available housing for employees, and conflicts surrounding who's responsibility it is to provide this is an issue.
- RESPONSE 2:** Some responses such as for example the issue of extreme storm events are a guess as we are yet to conduct interviews with the communities there to see how they have seen things change.
- RESPONSE 3:** SOME QUESTIONS ARE NOT SUITABLE FOR OUR CONTEXT. ARE NOT WELL FORMULATED. AN EXAMPLE: THE QUALITY OF WATER WILL BE MEASURED DIFFERENTLY ACCORDING TO THE CONTEXT. IN OUR TCL THE QUALITY OF WATER IS "EXCELLENT". IF YOU GO YOU WILL SEE TRANSPARENT WATERS FOR SWIMMING, BEAUTIFUL CAVES ("CALAS"), NEVERTHELESS, THERE ARE PLASTICS AND MICROPLASTICS, AND FISHERS COMPLAIN ABOUT THIS. THEY COMPLAIN THEY FISH PLASTICS. THERE ARE ALSO CAMPAIGNS FOR CLEANING BEACHES AND CAVES ("CALAS") ORGANIZED BY FISHERS AND CIVIL SOCIETY TOGETHER. THIS IS ONLY AN EXAMPLE. THERE ARE OTHER QUESTIONS NOT WELL FORMULATED...A.5, A.6, A.7, not suitable. A.11 IS NOT UNDERSTANDABLE...THERE ARE TENSIONS OR COMPETITION (NOT CONFLICTS...WHAT DO YOU UNDERSTAND BY CONFLICTS? PROBLEMS REPORTED TO POLICE?...THIS IS NOT VERY WELL FORMULATED AND MAY PRODUCE SOME CONFUSION)...QUESTION A.5 IS NOT RELEVANT TO OUR TCL. WE HAVE TOURISM DEVELOPMENT SINCE THE 50s IN THE ~~XXth~~ century. AND NOW IS ONE OF THE MAJOR PROBLEMS...IT IS EXPECTED MAY THERE BE NEW THREATS TO BIODIVERSITY, FOR EX. MEGA PROJECTS IN FRONT OF THE MPA IN SPECIALLY VULNERABLE AREAS



ANSWERS FOR EACH ITEM





ANSWERS OF THE ECLIPSE SURVEY REQUESTS

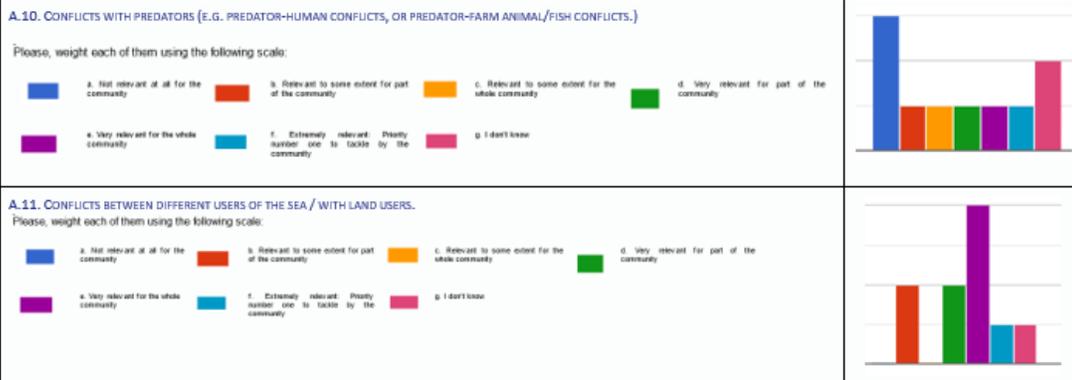






ANSWERS OF THE EKLIPE SURVEY

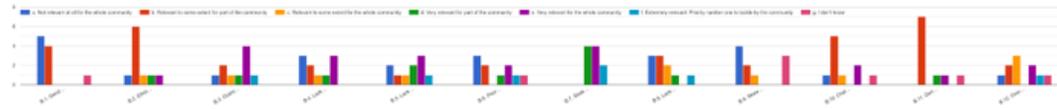
COMMUNITARIAN REQUESTS



9. B) WHAT TYPES OF OTHER SOCIETAL CHALLENGES ARE AT PLAY IN YOUR TCL?

GENERAL ANSWERS (please find the answer per item below.)

B) What types of other societal challenges are at play in your TCL? Please, weight each of them using the following scale: a. Not relevant at all for the whole community b. Relevant to some extent for part of the community c. Relevant to some extent for the whole community d. Very relevant for part of the community e. Very relevant for the whole community f. Extremely relevant: Priority number one to tackle by the community g. I don't know (If you don't see all the columns a-g please scroll right)



Please, weight each of them using the following scale:



In question B), how are any of the challenges rated d, e or f related to the fact that you are living near the sea? Please elaborate or comment on your answers in the box below.

RESPONSE 1: A majority of them are indirectly linked to the fact that the lab is on an island out in the sea, but mostly due to the long distance to the mainland and other cities. An ethnically segregated labour force is quite common in rural coastal communities of Norway where the fish industry and tourism are a major economic activities. However, it is also common in other lower-paid sectors of the economy, such as construction work, all over Norway. In both the fish and construction industries, a large part of the seasonal workers is from Eastern Europe. B.3., B.4. and B.5.: The outmigration of young people is common in rural areas all over Norway, and especially in northern Norway. It doesn't help that the youth have to go other places from grade 11 and onwards, in addition to having few employment options to come back to after having finished higher education. With such few people and few pupils, it does not make sense to have higher education opportunities on the island, however, a more diverse job market could potentially attract the youth enough to return after finishing their studies. B.6. There have been many demonstrations and "fights" with the county government for a better transportation, both between the islands within the municipality and between the islands and the mainland. The county government can only provide so many routes and has to plan for many coastal towns. Many still complain a lot about the lack of connectivity with other transportation methods once





ANSWERS OF THE EKLIPSE SURVEY REQUESTS

they arrive to the mainland. B.7. During the summertime there is a large influx of tourists, especially during the **Traça** music festival. Additionally, several cruise ships arrive with large amounts of people, that want something to do and something to see. Some of the actors we have talked to say there are too few amenities and activities for the cruise tourists. For those who do not come in cruises and do not own holiday homes, there is a limited accommodation offer. A new hotel is currently in the making and might tackle some of these challenges. There are also heightened influx of people from abroad during the high fishing season.

RESPONSE 2: Season: affects summer season as attractor for tourists and expats. Archipelago living = rural living. Same **challenges** with generational shifts, outmigration and jobs/education.

RESPONSE 3: It does not have to do with the sea but with the governmental policies for specific development in the area. It is also important to say here that there is not a very long distance between the communities at hand and the bigger cities of Limassol and **Larnaca**. Commuting is therefore not an issue for higher educated professionals.

RESPONSE 4: Tourism is a major pressure linked to coastal resorts and the Wild Atlantic Way tourism initiative.

RESPONSE 5: The sea and the coast, specially the **spanish** one, have been for decades a touristic attraction.

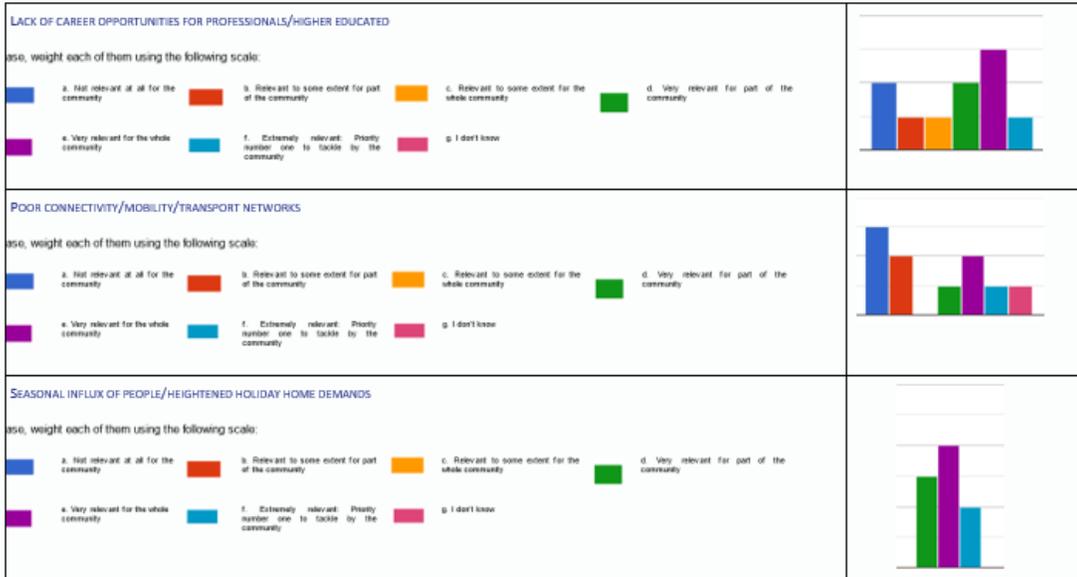
ANSWERS FOR EACH ITEM







ANSWERS OF THE ECLIPSE SURVEY
REQUESTS







ANSWERS OF THE EKLIPSE SURVEY

COMMUNITY REQUESTS



Annexe 4: Call for Experts (CfE)

Bridging the gap between policy and knowledge
on biodiversity in Europe

CALL FOR EXPERTS (CfE 11/2023)
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: March, 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 sustainable coastal communities through Nature-Based Solutions and 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 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 [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-1iyQRe2OI/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

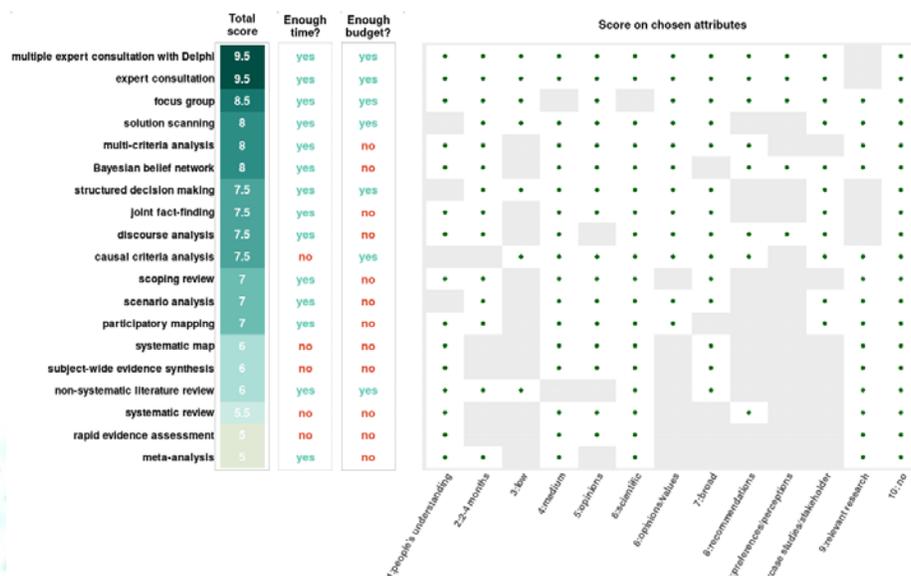
No single method addresses all the methodological challenges in this request. Rather, a combination of techniques in the process may be needed to tackle the following knowledge synthesis aims. The following methodologies provide a starting point for the work of the EWG to develop the Methods Protocol:

- 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.

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 Eclipse.





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 Eklipse Method Protocols are peer-reviewed, open for public consultation, and once revised they are published on the [Eklipse website](#) (sometimes in scientific articles also) and broadly disseminated.

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 tow 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 calls](#)'. 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](#).

