

CALL FOR EXPERTS No. 2/2019 EKLIPSE – March 2019

Bridging the gaps between citizens' environmental concerns and knowledge, the scientific evidence and EU environmental policy for collaborative recommendations for the post2020 EU Biodiversity Strategy

Deadline for call: March 31st, 2019

Selection of experts: 3rd April 2019.

In 2015 the European Commission's Special Eurobarometer on "Attitudes of European towards Biodiversity" indicated that more than 80% of European citizens considered the various effects of biodiversity loss to be serious. However, less than one third of Europeans know what the word "biodiversity" means and even fewer are aware of concepts such as Natura 2000 which are at the center of European environmental conservation. Climate change, pollution and waste are seen as the most important environmental issues by Europeans (Eurobarometer 468), but do our policies reflect this and if so, are the links clear to citizens?

To develop and give recommendations that reflect societal and citizen's concerns and needs for the post2020 EU Biodiversity Strategy we are seeking experts with experience on participatory methods and environmental science communication. This expert working group (EWG) will frame the societal environmental concerns into the context of biodiversity loss and display the connections between the concerns and scientific knowledge. The EWG will work in parallel to a group that is gathering messages from scientists regarding the crucial issues that should be included in the new Biodiversity Strategy from a research point of view. By harmonizing the societal and scientific views we hope to build relevant, credible and legitimate recommendations for the European Commission. The overall process is described here:

http://www.eclipse-mechanism.eu/post2020_request

The tasks and timeline of this expert working group include (EWG)

- *April-May 2019*: Designing and running local workshops with citizens related to key messages collected from citizens. The workshop structure will be designed jointly, but each expert is expected to organise and run the workshop in their country for 5-30 people.
- *May-June 10th*: Brief reports on the workshops. The group will design a template of 1-2 pages to report on the workshops and write a synthesis jointly.
- *June 17-19th*: The summaries will be the basis for a workshop aimed at researchers at the Alter-NET and EKIPSE conference in Ghent, Belgium. The EWG will design and facilitate this workshop.
- *June-July*: Fusion of societal and scientific key messages into a brief survey that will be disseminated by a survey company and the results analysed by the EWG for...
- *September 22-24th*: R&I days in Brussels. Here EKLIPSE aims to have a stand where the importance of different methods for citizens participation in science and policy are displayed and discussed.
- *September 30th 2019*. A draft of scientific paper on the process and citizens' key messages.

Participation in this expert working group will require approximately 10% of your time – please find more information on expectations of and support to EKLIPSE Expert Working Groups on EKLIPSE website at:

http://www.eclipse-mechanism.eu/apps/Eclipse_data/website/Guidance_note-Expert_working_groups.pdf.

Please apply at google form: <https://bit.ly/2UxGSur>

EKLIPSE is developing a European Mechanism to answer requests from policy makers and other societal actors on issues related to biodiversity and ecosystem services.

EKLIPSE organizes and facilitates knowledge synthesis processes, horizon scanning and societal dialogue on topics that relate to or impact on biodiversity and ecosystem services by making the best knowledge available.

It invites experts to contribute their knowledge.

More information on the processes and the EKLIPSE project funded by the EU in H2020 is available at www.eclipse-mechanism.eu