



## SESSION DESCRIPTION

ID: T2

EKLIPSE– The European Science–Policy–Society Interface on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services

Hosts:

	Title	Name	Organisation	E-mail
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### Abstract:

EKLIPSE is an innovative, ethical and self-sustaining mechanism that supports evidence-informed decision-making on biodiversity and ecosystem services related issues. EKLIPSE regularly launches Calls for Requests where policy and other societal actors identify topics or evidence needs requiring in-depth analysis and a consolidated view from science and other knowledge holders.

Since its inception in 2016, EKLIPSE has opened 5 calls for requests, received 40 requests to provide trustworthy evidence, often on contentious policy-relevant issues. EKLIPSE has now processed 13 requests on a range of topics linked to biodiversity and ecosystem services, from a wide range of policy and societal actors such as the European Commission, IUCN, the French Ministry from the Environment, Buglife and many more. The outputs are a set of ethical, credible, transparent, timely and jointly developed evidence reports (and other targeted outputs), addressing specific topics in response to societal and policy needs. To reach this goal, EKLIPSE uses a proven and robust process that responds to the evidence needs of requesters by synthesizing the best available knowledge to facilitate actionable policy recommendations. The process of knowledge synthesis is a crucial element of any science policy interface. Knowledge synthesis refers to a set of methods used to review, collate and communicate the best available knowledge on a specific topic or question, including explicit scientific knowledge, but also indigenous and local knowledge, or tacit technical or opinion based knowledge held by stakeholders (Dick et al., 2017). EKLIPSE's Method Expert Group (MEG) has identified and described 21 different methods to synthesize the different types of knowledge needs requested.



On this basis, EKLIPSE identifies and tailors a set of methods for each specific request from policy makers and societal actors.

EKLIPSE has five main functions; 1) to answer key questions from policy and/or society by mobilising and synthesising the best available knowledge and experts, 2) to identify current and future emerging issues of policy makers and citizens related to biodiversity and ecosystem services, 3) to create a responsive and active network of experts and knowledge holders across Europe that get acknowledged for providing their knowledge, 4) to improve citizens engagement in SPI activities and finally 5) to link up with international SPIs such as IPBES, SBBSTTA-CBD. EKLIPSE has a strong focus on networking through building the Network of Networks and organising capacity building events and all EKLIPSE activities are built on a strong ethical infrastructure.

From August 2020 onwards, the EKLIPSE mechanism will be managed by the ALTER-Net Network, a network of 26 European research institutes who aims to enhance biodiversity and ecosystem services knowledge in Europe through high-level multi-disciplinary science integration.

#### Goals and objectives of the session:

The session aims to reflect on the institutional science-policy interface landscape, on the role of a European science-policy-society interface in the face of global changes, on both concepts and implementation examples of science-policy-society interactions. The session also aims at discussing challenges and opportunities and consequently to build the awareness among participants and invite them to play an active role in science-policy interfaces.

#### Planned output / Deliverables:

The main outcomes of the session are to build awareness of, create responsiveness among and learn from participants on science-policy-society interfaces. The aim is to encourage participants to share experiences of science-policy-society interfaces, in order to feed suggestions, ideas, approaches into EKLIPSE, but more broadly than that, to jointly reflect on what works and what needs to be improved in terms of these interfaces. A part of the session will focus on the discussion of the role of science-policy-society in achieving sustainability transformation. Key recommendations will be developed from the session, and shared with participants. The prospect of a publication will be discussed during the session together with the participants.

#### Voluntary contributions accepted:

Yes, I allow any abstract to be submitted to my session for review



Related to ESP Working Group/National Network:

Thematic working group: TWG 2 – Biodiversity & Ecosystem services