

Minutes from the participatory exercise – Part I on the request:

“How do changes in the diversity and abundance of pollinators in Europe relate to the different factors like use of pesticide, landscape attributes, parasites and other factors?”

September, 24th 14:20-15:20

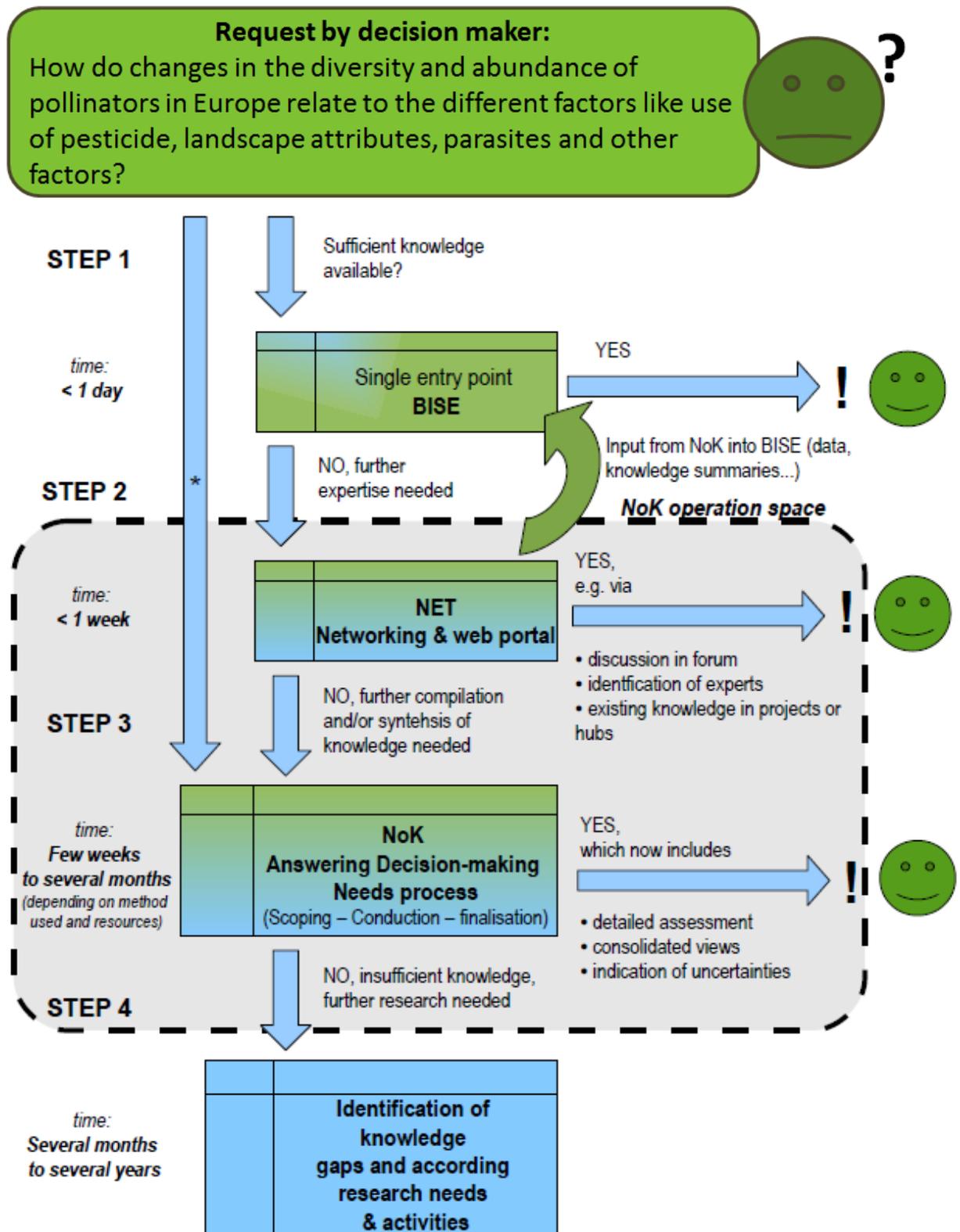
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Requester: Fabian Huttner

The aim of the exercise was to make the participants understand the NoK approach (and its challenges) through an example of a potential request. The stepwise approach of the NoK is outlined in the flowchart below and was explained to the participants before the exercise. The results of this participatory exercise were not meant to completely cover the work needed by the KCB to address the request, but it was meant to give all participants a joint understanding of how the NoK is supposed to operate and which challenges it faces.

Getting a grip on the NoK processes is indeed not so easy, as it mixes needs from decision-making, knowledge from science and other knowledge holders, and procedural knowledge and requires a complex process to balance credibility, relevance and legitimacy.

The stepwise approach for tackling a request in the Network of Knowledge (NoK)



Example of request:

How do changes in the diversity and abundance of pollinators in Europe relate to the different factors like use of pesticide, landscape attributes, parasites and other factors?

General:

- **clear** and **transparent** process (for an example on how to do that see Step 3 solutions)
- Make it a requirement to produce a **user-friendly output** of all requests (something Fabians grandpa would get); here the communication experts are important. Maybe a cooperation with (science) journalists are possible to ensure a good understanding and translating the whole thing into understandable for the broad public and making it accessible to a wider range of people, not just someone who checks the webpage

	Who has to act?	What is needed?	Problems faced?	Solutions
Step 1	Secretariat	1 st quick assessment → short document with gaps in Knowledge	Secretariat does not have the knowledge required (to answer or identify gaps)	Postpone the process to Step 2
Step 2	Requester (maybe several ones who have similar questions) KCB Secretariat	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - List of priorities in the Questions (requesters and KCB, related to the availability of resources) - What kind of output does the requester want? - Links between different potential requesters with similar questions - Discussion over resources 	Still not sufficient expertise (even with Secretariat and KCB)	KCB to pro-actively ask experts to help refine the Question

<p>Step 3</p>	<p>Expert Group Secretariat KCB (including requester) Advisory Board (consisting e.g. of members of the industry, etc. to give their help and advice but are excluded from the “decision-making”, this will help a transparent and clear process c.f. solutions but makes sure, that the report is not taken over by personal interests)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Identify the right experts - Getting the private sector involved as experts / practitioners; also chemical industry - Plan research activities within the group and define responsibilities 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Difficulties in getting experts (from different disciplines) working together → difficulty of getting a <u>balanced</u> expert group - Experts with different language / expertise - Personal agenda could get in the way (e.g. agro-chemical industry) - Experts don't want to / can't get involved - Lack of / poor data access - No agreement on which experts should be involved 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - KCB has the last word in the <u>balanced</u> expert group - Pay research assistants to attract prominent names (assistant does the research and the big shot just gets over it and adds his name) → discuss with the KCB - More incentives for experts to get involved (not just money!) - Contractual obligations for research projects that they need to participate to the NoK - Clear and transparent process by putting all live information / process / request / people who have been informed to help / work (e.g. agro-chemical industry, environmental NGOs, beekeepers, etc.) (-> make a section on the website and just briefly put notes about what is actually happening, e.g. chemical industry contacted to join the work in the advisory board, no response yet / don't want to join → maybe publish their decline on the webpage; this way ensures that every one can follow the step and see who is involved (best is to put even the names of the people and maybe a quick link to in which other projects they are engaged) - Assign clear responsibilities within the expert group <ul style="list-style-type: none"> o Advisors
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<p>Step 3</p>				<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Knowledge holders ○ Core group of experts (who do the actual research / work) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Branding of the NoK as an important player, to create incentives for scientists so they <u>want</u> to contribute (also because they see on the website who else is involved... colleagues / “competitioner”) - One researcher to collect traditional knowledge
<p>Step 4</p>	<p>Secretariat Advisory board Expert group KCB GBIF / EUBON / Lifewatch</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Identifying research gaps - GBIF / EUBON / Lifewatch 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Difficulties / no consensus on research gaps - See problems in step 3 - Communication uncertainty / research gaps to public - Lack of resources for long-term activities - Lack of time if the requester needs to make a quick decision 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - refine datasets or go to another dataset - Time, resources and hard work!!