



## Creating a Network of Knowledge for biodiversity and ecosystem services in Europe

[www.biodiversityknowledge.eu](http://www.biodiversityknowledge.eu)

Dear colleague,

**BiodiversityKnowledge** is an innovative and ambitious European project whose objective is to develop a design for a scientific Network of Knowledge (NoK) on biodiversity and ecosystem services to better inform policy-makers and other societal actors.

This is the first broad e-message of BiodiversityKnowledge to its partners: every single expert on biodiversity and ecosystem services- you, your colleagues and your institutions.

You are receiving this message from BiodiversityKnowledge because we think you would like to be kept informed about this project, which is supported by the FP7 project KNEU.

Please feel free to forward this mail accordingly. Anyone can also join our Newsletter email list by sending an email to [newsletter-subscribe@biodiversityknowledge.eu](mailto:newsletter-subscribe@biodiversityknowledge.eu).

If you do not wish to receive further messages from us, just send an empty message to [newsletter-unsubscribe@biodiversityknowledge.eu](mailto:newsletter-unsubscribe@biodiversityknowledge.eu).

With the following lines, we want to briefly introduce you to our project, and invite you to get in touch with it via different means, including our first BiodiversityKnowledge conference, to be held in Brussels, 21<sup>st</sup>-23<sup>rd</sup> of May.

### Contents:

- Introducing the **BiodiversityKnowledge** project
- A **Network of Knowledge** (NoK) on biodiversity and ecosystem services
- Join us to discuss the approach at the BiodiversityKnowledge **conference on May 21<sup>st</sup>-23<sup>rd</sup> in Brussels**
- Other ways to get involved

## The BiodiversityKnowledge Project

**BiodiversityKnowledge** is an initiative by researchers and practitioners to help all societal actors in the field of biodiversity and ecosystem services to make better informed decisions. In this challenge, we invite you to develop with us an innovation called Network of Knowledge - an open networking approach to boost the knowledge flow between biodiversity knowledge holders and users in Europe.

To achieve this mission, we have developed a prototype network of knowledge which we now want to test and discuss with the knowledge community.

[Learn more about our [principles](#) and the [NoK prototype](#)]

## European Knowledge on biodiversity and ecosystem services

Knowledge on biodiversity and ecosystem services is well advanced in the European scientific community, as demonstrated by many excellent projects and their scientific impact. However, on the global as well as the European scale, there is a major gap between this knowledge and its use in policy-making and the society as a whole. Additional communication efforts must ensure that all relevant knowledge is accessible and that all existing biodiversity research communities and other knowledge holders are involved in a network structure that is linked to decision making bodies. The overall objective of the project is thus to develop a recommended design for a scientific biodiversity Network of Knowledge (**NoK**) to inform policy-makers and other societal actors. We call this NoK BiodiversityKnowledge. This network shall be open, transparent, flexible, equally accessible to all, independent, be scientifically- and evidence-based and have a robust structure.

On the policy side, the need for such knowledge networking efforts is clearly visible: On the international scale, the Intergovernmental science-policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services (IPBES) might be established soon, including the need for regional support hubs. On the European scale, the EU commission and the member states need to implement the EU Biodiversity Strategy 2020 and are currently discussing how to engage the scientific community.

The challenge of designing and implementing successful NoK on biodiversity and ecosystem services is multifaceted. The relevant knowledge is still quite scattered across disciplines, scales and different kinds and a high number of institutions and even individuals. A NoK will need to address the interest of knowledge holders to get acknowledged for their input, but also need to better communicate the need for their input into societal discussions. When providing knowledge to decision makers, it will need to be as explicit as possible about the knowledge sources, their quality and uncertainties, but also be as relevant as possible for the client's needs.

[\[FAQs on BiodiversityKnowledge\]](#)

## BiodiversityKnowledge Conference, Brussels, May 21st-23rd 2012

Do you want to know more about the BiodiversityKnowledge project and approach and contribute to overcome challenges with the experiences and expertise of your institution? Then join us as representative at the 1st BiodiversityKnowledge conference, which will be held in Brussels on the 21st to 23rd May 2012. This conference represents an ideal opportunity to get involved in the discussion and development of a European Network of Knowledge and its links to international processes, such as IPBES.

[\[More information and registration\]](#)

## Other ways to get involved

There are numerous ways on how you can get involved: just visit our website which will provide you with different options and entry points, including to comment on the prototype of the NoK, sending in news relevant for the community (e.g. from ongoing EU projects), and of course, asking all kinds of questions you would have on the project.

***Stay informed and get involved in making a difference – for biodiversity and ecosystem services research in Europe and beyond. -- [www.biodiversityknowledge.eu](http://www.biodiversityknowledge.eu)***