

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

Save the date: 2nd BiodiversityKnowledge conference

Towards a future Network of Knowledge on biodiversity and ecosystem services in Europe

Dear Colleague,

The FP7 Coordination action BiodiversityKnowledge on “designing a network of knowledge on biodiversity and ecosystem services to inform decision-making in Europe” is organizing its **second international conference on September 24th to 26th in Berlin**.

The objective of this second conference is to discuss and finalize the recommended design of a future **Network of Knowledge (NoK)** on biodiversity and ecosystem services in Europe.

Considering the importance of this future Network of Knowledge, representatives of the biodiversity and ecosystem service knowledge community - from practitioners, researchers to policy makers - are warmly invited to actively participate in this conference and to contribute to the design process of a European Network of Knowledge during 2013.

Context and the steps taken so far:

Decision makers across the globe have agreed that there is a need for a better link between science and policy and have set up the Intergovernmental Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services (IPBES). After the first plenary in 2013, IPBES is now becoming operational step by step. Europe, as one of the main knowledge holders in the field, will need to ensure that its knowledge and perspectives are properly fed into the work of IPBES. Also, Europe needs similar support itself in order to implement its 2020 Biodiversity Strategy and the forthcoming 7th Environmental Action Programme. BiodiversityKnowledge will support the discussion on how to meet both challenges and how the community of knowledge holders may support this Network of Knowledge concept.

BiodiversityKnowledge developed over the last two years a [first prototype of a Network of Knowledge](#) to meet this aim. This prototype has been continuously revised via several consultation meetings with nearly 200 stakeholders, including the [1st BiodiversityKnowledge conference](#) in May, 2012.

The steps for 2013:

- In **early spring 2013**, we will release a revised concept paper for a Network of Knowledge on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services in Europe. This will include its major functions and proposals on how to put them into operation. A broad consultation process will then give you the opportunity to contribute with your experience to further develop and finalize the concept. The project itself will feed in additional lessons learned from three ongoing [demonstration cases](#) that currently test the prototype.
- In **summer 2013**, after integration of the lessons learned and the input from the consultations, a final concept paper will be proposed for further discussion at the conference.
- **After the conference**, we will finalize the concept and aim at jointly promoting its implementation, based on a broad endorsement from the community and its institutions.

We therefore **invite you all to note those dates in your diary** – the conference in September as well as the consultations before. We will soon send further information concerning the conference, but if you are already interested to interact and contribute with your ideas to the on-going design of the NoK, please do not hesitate to contact us or [visit our website](#).

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