# Concept note: 4th pan-European stakeholders consultation for IPBES (PESC-4)

**Date and place:** 12-14 June 2017, Vácrátót, Hungary

**Duration:** 2 full days

## Objectives of PESC-4

1. **Promote stakeholders’ engagement in IPBES work**

* by building capacities to provide inputs to IPBES deliverables *(e.g. discussions between IPBES authors and stakeholders enabling learning from each other’s expectations and requirements; information on the process to submit proposals for the 2nd work programme)*
* by sharing experiences on how to coordinate national biodiversity work to promote it in the context of IPBES *(e.g. workshop with French-speaking African countries on governance led by FRB in September 2016 could provide useful perspectives for Eastern Europe and Central Asian countries’ participation to IPBES; network of European platforms engaging in IPBES)*

1. **Strengthen collaboration on biodiversity research at the pan-European level, including central Asia**

* by providing room for discussion, meeting and networking between all stakeholders
* by presenting and fostering research initiatives aiming to fill gaps identified in the scenarios and models and the pollination assessment
* by promoting the engagement of ILK and social science experts in IPBES work

**3. Contribute to the preparation of IPBES products through in-kind support**

- by sending consolidated comments in IPBES template for the 2nd review of the ECA assessment

- by providing guidance to enhance stakeholders’ engagement in IPBES *(e.g. based on the survey on stakeholder needs)*

- AOB arising from IPBES-5

## Expected outputs

* Comments on the 2nd draft of the ECA assessment, to be submitted to IPBES as a stakeholders’ review during the open review (1 May-26 June)
* Roadmap for setting up a national coordination for IPBES (key stakeholders to be involved, communication plan…) in willing countries

**Target audience**

Knowledge holders from Pan-Europe (spanning Western and Eastern Europe as well as Central Asia, i.e. parts of the UN-regions WEOG, EEG, Asia-Pacific)

These knowledge holders may be affiliated to governmental and administrative bodies of IPBES member states or non-member states, IPBES subsidiary bodies, scientific institutions, non-governmental organisations, other civil-society organisations, or the business-sector, dealing with issues related to biodiversity and ecosystem services.

Enhanced efforts will be dedicated to the participation of social science and ILK experts, and of biodiversity practitioners.

Focal points of Eastern Europe and Central Asian countries will also be specifically targeted as relevant participants to achieve PESC-4 objectives.

One of the following two options could be chosen to ensure a representative audience at PESC-4:

* About 20 participants of each of the three main groups: decision-makers/academics/stakeholders (NGOs, private sector, ILK holders…)
* About 30 participants from governments and academics as they are already communities fairly well involved in IPBES, and about 30 participants who are other stakeholders as it is more difficult to engage those in IPBES work.

**Background information on the key topics**

**Capacity building**

Capacity building is one of the 4 core functions of IPBES and is therefore dedicated special attention in its work programme for 2014-2018. A task force on capacity building, consisting of experts from around the world and supported by the technical support unit (TSU) provided by Norway (Norwegian Environment Agency), has developed in 2016 the [IPBES rolling plan for capacity building](http://www.ipbes.net/sites/default/files/downloads/pdf/ipbes_5-3-advance.pdf#page=7). The plan aims to address the priority capacity building needs agreed in plenary (see doc [IPBES/3/18](http://www.ipbes.net/sites/default/files/downloads/Decision_IPBES_3_1_EN_0.pdf#page=8)), related to scientific capacity to conduct assessments on one hand, and decision-makers capacity to use the assessment on the other hand. Several actions of the rolling plan for capacity building are implemented by the IPBES Secretariat on IPBES trust fund, such as the fellowship programme and expert training, but many activities rely on the take over by partners interested in IPBES work.

PESC-4 is contributing to the general implementation of the plan, especially to Strategy 3: strengthening national and regional capacities and the promotion of national and regional platforms and networks on biodiversity and ecosystem services.

**Stakeholders’ engagement**

IPBES is a participatory initiative at the interface of science, policy and society. It therefore reaches to a large panel of stakeholders, from local governments to research institutes to NGOs to businesses, among others. There are several entry points for stakeholders to engage in IPBES, such as (i) nominating experts when IPBES is forming an expert group (as agreed in the procedure for the preparation of Platform deliverables, 80% of experts are nominated by Governments and 20% of experts are nominated by stakeholders); (ii) send inputs and suggestions for IPBES programme of work; (iii) provide comments on IPBES products as an independent expert in the first review round or as a stakeholder institution in the second round, to be addressed by the expert group in charge of the product; and (iv) disseminate and use IPBES findings in one’s everyday activities.

However, several challenges remain for a meaningful participation of stakeholders in IPBES, such as constraints related to time availability, language or format of work. IPBES launched a first survey to identify stakeholders’ needs, whose results will be presented at IPBES-5 with some solutions developed to address those needs.

**IPBES regional assessment for Europe and Central Asia**

The regional assessment for Europe and Central Asia (ECA assessment) was launched in 2015. A first draft was open for expert review in summer 2016, before the authors and review editors address the comments and prepare a second order draft. One of the key issues in the first draft examined by PESC-3 was the geographical imbalance between EU countries and the rest of the region, including Eastern Europe and Central Asia. Participants were able to point to useful sources and publications to try and address this lack of information on biodiversity and ecosystem services in these regions. The second order draft and the first draft of the summary for policymakers (SPM) will be open for review from 1 May to 26 June 2017. PESC-4 will look at this second draft and at the SPM and provide comments as an input to the review process.

**Development of IPBES 2nd programme of work**

The sixth plenary session of IPBES is expected to review a first proposal for the process for the development of IPBES second work programme. It could be expected that the call for requests is launched after IPBES-6, with a certain timeframe to provide inputs and suggestions. Stakeholders would benefit from an overview of the expected process, to be clear about how they will be able to contribute to the process.

**Draft programme**

#### Day 1

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| **Time** | **Session** | **Presenter** |
| 13.00-13.30 | Registration |  |
| 13.30-14.00 | Welcome | MTA |
| 14.00-15.00 | Newcomer session: IPBES functions, objectives, work programme, structures and ‘landscape’ (TSUs, Task Forces, MEP etc.); links to other relevant processes (CBD/SBSTTA, SDGs) | IPBES Secretariat |
| 15.00-15.30 | Coffee break |  |
| 15.30-16.15 | Introduction to the ECA assessment, the outcome of the first review process and what is expected from the 2nd review | Assessment co-chairs |
| 16.15-16.30 | Organization of work at PESC-4 for 2nd review  *Participants will be asked to bring their own paper copy if they want to use this format; organizers will be able to provide a digital copy only. Participants will be expected to have read the chapter(s) they want to work so that the groups can focus on discussions of issues.* | Organisers |
| 16.30-17.00 | Break-out into groups – Short introduction by the chapter CLAs of the chapter, its structure and potential pending issues. One specific group for SPM. | CLAs |
| 17.00-18.00 | Break-out groups |  |

#### Day 2

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| **Time** | **Session** | **Presenter** |
| 09.00-09.30 | Proceedings for Day 2 | Organisers |
| 09.30-11.00 | Break-out groups |  |
| 11.00-11.30 | Coffee break |  |
| 11.30-12.00 | Presentation on IPBES work on stakeholders’ engagement | Laurence Perianin |
| 12.00-13.00 | Discussion with participants on their needs, and guidance for IPBES work on stakeholders’ engagement, based on the existing material or material under development |  |
| 13.00-14.30 | Lunch |  |
| 14.30-16.00 | End of break-out groups. Comments to be inserted in the review template. |  |
| 16.00-16.30 | Coffee break |  |
| 16.30-17.00 | Procedure for the submission of proposals for the 2nd work programme | IPBES Secretariat |
| 17.00-17.30 | Main conclusions from the review exercise and close |  |
| 19.00-21.00 | Joint dinner? |  |

#### Day 3

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| **Time** | **Session** | **Presenter** |
| 09.00-09.30 | Recap of Day 1 & 2 and proceedings for Day 3 | Organisers |
| 09.30-10.15 | Work on national coordination for IPBES  (20 min presentation + 25 min discussion) | Morocco? (NB: English-speaking) |
| 10.15-11.00 | Outcome of the first BES-net trialogue in Eastern Europe | TBD |
| 11.00-11.30 | Coffee break |  |
| 11.30-12.00 | Integrating local knowledge in IPBES assessments | Katja Heubach (GIZ) |
| 12.00-12.30 | Knowledge gaps and research opportunities for the pan-European region | KID task force |
| 12.30-12.45 | AOB and wrap-up |  |
| 12.45-13.00 | Close and goodbye |  |

**Logistics**

* Online registration system to be put up by FRB, by the 6th of March for advertising at IPBES stakeholders days
* 60 participants expected (+ Hungarian participants). 25-30 participants from Eastern Europe and Central Asia countries could benefit from travel support if we raise 18000€.
* Meeting room: in-kind from Hungary
* Catering:
* coffee breaks and lunch in kind from Hungary
* 1 dinner on 12 June (buffet-like on the venue)
* 1 dinner on 13 June (restaurant)
* Names of hotels near the venue: *coming soon*