



Membership Guidelines

1 Overview

Membership in the EuroMarine Network is at organisation level and must be formalized through accession to the EuroMarine Consortium Agreement (of 1 June 2014). The EuroMarine Accession Document must be signed by an organisation with a legal personality, which may act on behalf of some of its departments, labs or other structures deprived of legal personality.

There are two main membership categories: 'full' (paying) or 'invited' (non-paying).

Organisations willing to become member must fill in an application form and the Accession Document. The EuroMarine General Assembly examines and approves membership applications based on the information provided in the form and in the accession document. This generally takes place early on in the year (Jan. or Feb.) during EuroMarine yearly General Assembly meetings.

2 Membership at single organisation vs consortium level

EuroMarine strongly encourages membership at single organisation level for two reasons: (a) its bottom-up ethos; and (b) the fact that, given the (low) flat minimum annual fee that currently applies to all kinds of organizations (small or large), it needs a large number of members to be viable and deploy activity programmes and services.

However, EuroMarine already counts some consortia among its 'historical' full or invited members. For some universities that cannot afford direct membership (and the small marine teams or individual marine scientists which often produce excellent marine science in such universities), consortium membership may represent a way to be represented in EuroMarine. Moreover, membership of some consortia that include other stakeholders than research organizations could be beneficial for EuroMarine. Lastly, consortia may play different roles in shaping marine research in different countries; and applying for membership through a consortium can represent a way to favour coordination and avoid duplication of efforts for research organizations in some countries.

Therefore, while EuroMarine generally favours individual membership of research organizations, it accepts consortium membership applications, for which the General Assembly will adopt a pragmatic, case-by-case approach, taking into account:

- the nature of the consortium, its possible role in shaping research at national level, and the value of its membership for EuroMarine (there should be a true value; memberships or cross-memberships aiming solely at increasing reputation or visibility shall be avoided)
- the role of the consortium in past Networks of Excellence or research projects
- its intended role in EuroMarine (adding on vs substituting membership of single research organizations)
- the level of the contribution (which can be scaled up on a voluntary basis) or the membership category (invited vs full).

3 Full vs Invited membership category

Full Members contribute to EuroMarine annual budgets, can vote and can receive funds after EuroMarine yearly competitive calls for proposals.

Invited Members do not contribute to the budget, can participate and take the floor in General Assembly meetings, but can neither vote nor receive funds after EuroMarine competitive calls (in which they can however participate).

There are two sub-categories of Invited Members: 'permanent' (time-unlimited) and 'transitional' (time-limited).

- *Time-limited invited membership*: The time limit typically is of two years. This time-period is seen as a transition towards full membership. This can serve either (a) as a trial period for organisations willing to get familiar with EuroMarine and/or needing to be convinced of the interest of contributing to EuroMarine; or (b) as a way to avoid immediate exclusion for organizations that would be unable to contribute a given year because of temporary budgetary difficulties or changes in their governance.
- *Time-unlimited invited membership*: This can serve either (a) for partner research organizations in developing countries or overseas (which, when benefitting from EU funding and if considered as entitled to vote, could anyway be requested to contribute as full members, at least during their funding period); or (b) for stakeholders (e.g. NGOs) joining as observers.

The list of invited members (both permanent and transitional) is submitted to the General Assembly for approval every year.

4 Annual Full Member contributions to the EuroMarine budget

The minimum annual contribution for Full Membership amounts to € 2,500, which provides one voting right.

Higher contributions are made on a voluntary basis. Contributions of € 10,000 or higher provide a second voting right. The highest contribution amounts to € 40,000.

Commitments are made and can be revised on a yearly basis.

Full Members have the option to make a financial commitment for multiple years (instead of annually). Such commitments may be in line with their financial planning practice and provide EuroMarine with some multiyear planning capability.

A sustained flow of contributions and some advance planning is essential to the consolidation and expansion of EuroMarine. Member Organisations are therefore invited: (a) to consider contributing at a higher level than the minimum; (b) to opt when possible for a multiyear commitment.

5 Contact and reference documents

The below documents are available online or upon request:

- [EuroMarine membership benefits](#)
- [EuroMarine scientific strategy](#)
- [EuroMarine Flyer \(2014 version; pdf for desktop printing, 5 Mb\)](#)
- [EuroMarine 2016 Accession Document](#)
- EuroMarine 1 June 2014 Consortium Agreement

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