



What EuroMarine can do for its members

1 Background: EuroMarine and its objectives

EuroMarine is a European, marine science network launched in 2014. It represents the merger of the scientific communities of three former European Networks of Excellence: EUR-OCEANS, Marine Genomics Europe, and MarBEF. It was designed by the EuroMarine FP7 preparatory project (2011-13) as a bottom-up organization and meant to be a voice for the European marine scientific community. It is intended as a durable structure and was established as a consortium for an initial duration of 10 years. A Legal Entity will be established in 2015 as a support structure (under the strict control of the consortium). EuroMarine counts 66 member organisations¹ (MOs), 56 of which are 'full voting' members contributing to the 2015 budget.

The primary goals of EuroMarine are to support the identification and initial development of important emerging scientific topics or issues and associated methodologies in marine sciences, as well as to foster new services relevant to the marine scientific community.

EuroMarine will achieve these goals through internal competitive calls for proposals, funded from the EuroMarine budget. It is expected that support for these activities and their outcomes will help to leverage larger projects under European, national or joint research funding programmes.

EuroMarine also intends to advocate for marine science and to contribute improving the science-governance interface, providing expertise and transferring knowledge.

2 EuroMarine role in the European landscape

EuroMarine fulfills a niche in the marine scientific sector because of its broad coverage of disciplines and openness to emerging fields of work, its bottom-up inclusiveness, and its ability to dynamically assemble multidisciplinary teams of leading marine scientists from around Europe (and beyond in emergent and developing countries) to help tackle current and emerging issues and challenges in the marine domain.

Given the above, EuroMarine is a strong addition to the landscape, with its own distinct character but also strong complementarity to other networks and initiatives for which links are already established and future interactions will be sought.

EuroMarine funds scientific, training or mobility activities aimed at bringing together teams to share, collaborate and collectively push boundaries. It should be emphasised that EuroMarine does not directly fund research projects (it is not a funding agency).

Once the legal entity is established, EuroMarine may engage in projects or manage external funds on behalf of its whole membership if appropriate.

¹ 2015 membership, provisional (does not include 4 candidate members whose entry has not yet been formally approved by the General Assembly).

3 Benefits to members

EuroMarine has been created by its members in the belief that there is a real need and role for such a network. The initial buy-in by the member organisations is a testament to a common vision for the potential of such an entity.

The existence and work of EuroMarine will contribute to achieving several crucial goals of concern to the community:

- The visibility of the marine science community at Member State, European and international level
- Recognition of the important role marine science plays in society
- Ensure that Europe maintains its position as a global leader in Marine Science.

Within its mission, EuroMarine will provide further benefits to its members. Such benefits will grow as the network evolves and new services come online.

Benefits of membership will include:

- *Access to EuroMarine information resources and activities.* This places members ahead of the game: through foresight workshops or summer schools, members have an early access with respect to non members to new ideas and directions in marine sciences, which can stimulate individual scientists in member organizations to form or join networks, e.g. to construct proposals. This notably stands for transdisciplinary approaches embracing the areas of the former NoEs – from the ecosystem to the organism and molecular levels – and disciplines ranging from physics and biogeochemistry to biology and social sciences.
- *Access to a large multidisciplinary network, which can help members to build professional relationships and develop strategic collaborations*
- *Use of the EuroMarine Secretariat and EuroMarine communication tools to disseminate information to the community and showcase scientific achievements*
- *Eligibility for participation in exclusive EuroMarine events and working groups*
- *Eligibility to apply for EuroMarine funding*
- *Preferential access to new resources and services that EuroMarine will develop in the future based on member wishes (accessible through the new website to be developed in 2015).*

4 Contact and links

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