MARINE ATLANTIC REGIONS NETWORK CHARTER

Key Objective Statement

The overall aim of the Marine Atlantic Regions Network (hereafter referred to as the Network) is to establish formal co-operative links between marine socio-economic research institutions and other bodies operating in the European Atlantic coastal zone. The Network will promote transnational entrepreneurial and innovation networks and will enhance competitiveness and innovation capacities in maritime economy niches of excellence.

Article 1 – The Network

The principal objectives of this Network are to examine the economic utility of the marine environment derived from the productivity of associated marine ecosystems and to build research capacity at the EU level in the collection and analysis of marine socio-economic data and its application in models, forecasts, indicators and scenario development. The long term objective of the Network is to garner an international reputation for excellence in the field of marine socio-economic analysis in the Atlantic Area, and to be established in such a manner as to be in the lead position to create new collaborations and knowledge transfer.

Specific goals of the Network include:

It is anticipated that the established Network will lead to a number of beneficial outcomes for all network members including the reduction of operational costs and delays for those who use marine economic data in the Atlantic region by establishing a network that has the capacity to analyse such data in a timely and cost effective manner; and increased competition and innovation amongst users and re-users of marine economic data by providing wider access to quality-checked, rapidly available coherent marine socio-economic data through the cooperative actions of the European Atlantic Marine Socio-Economic Network.

In particular the Network aims to facilitate:
- The sharing of information & best practice in relation to the gathering & use of marine socio-economic data, thus enhancing the performance of the participating Institute/Research Groups;
- Access to information perhaps not readily available through other channels;
- Establishment of a Network web portal where the activities of the network are highlighted and where outputs from this and other active projects will be presented. This portal contains a description on all partner institutions and their research and a facility for new institution to join or apply to be considered – see ARTICLE 2 Membership below.
- Continued co-operative links between marine socio-economic research units operating in the European Atlantic Region, allowing them to explore funding opportunities (e.g. FP7, LIFE, INTERREG-IV Atlantic Area) that could support relevant marine economic and social research initiatives by the network.

Article 2 – Membership

The Network has an open membership policy where individuals and institutions with interest in the Atlantic region are encouraged to join the network; e.g. marine socio-economic research and policy organisations in European Atlantic countries.

The founding members of the Network are drawn from partners in the original MARNET project and include the members detailed below:

- Border Midland and Western Regional Assembly, Ireland
- CIIMAR - Centro Interdisciplinar de Investigacao Marinha e Ambiental, Portugal
- Fundacion AZTI - AZTI Fundazioa (AZTI Tecnalia), Spain
- University of the Basque Country (UPV/EHU), Spain
- IFREMER - Institut français de recherche pour l'exploitation de la mer, France
- National University of Ireland, Galway, Ireland
- Regional Council of Bretagne, France
- University of Stirling, United Kingdom

Joining the Network

Potential Network members are asked to submit a short brief to the MARNET Secretary outlining the nature of their research institution and a statement of interest in joining the Network. The Chairperson will then discuss this brief with the committee and the potential Network member will be informed of the outcome..

Leaving the Network

Any member of the Network may terminate its membership at anytime. However any institution that chooses to end its membership must nevertheless honour all of the commitments that it has agreed to undertake.

Article 3 – Chairperson and Secretary

1. The Network shall elect a Chairperson by majority vote of committee members.
2. The Chairperson shall designate a Secretary coming from the same institution.
3. The terms of office for the both posts will be for two calendar years and must be renewed by vote at the end of each term.
4. The Chairperson and the Secretary are not remunerated.

Role of the Chair

The Chairperson will be assisted by a Secretary and will be responsible for:

- Managing and representing the Network
- Forming temporary or sub-committees on special topics if required
- Suggesting and bringing to vote any proper action in order to meet the aims of the Network
- Preparing an annual briefing to be distributed among the committee members

Role of the Secretary

The Secretary will be responsible for:

- Correspondence to and from the Network (for example between potential members and the Chairperson and committee)

- Maintaining an accurate membership list and up-to-date web presence
- Compiling and distributing agenda and minutes for Network meetings
- Sending invitations and practical information to all members of the Network to Network meetings
- The administration and the execution of the policies of the Network under the supervision if the Chairperson

Article 4 – Regular Network Meetings

All administrative and executive concerns of the Network and its affairs shall be addressed in General Meetings of the Network members, subject to the provision of these articles:

1. A General Meeting of the Network will be held at least once a year.
2. One of the Network institutions shall be chosen at each General Meeting to host the next General Meeting. The hosting institution will be the primary provider of resources for the overall organisation of the General Meeting.
3. Each institution shall designate at least one representative to express its views, and to deal directly with the Chairman of Network business between meetings.
4. While each institution may designate several representatives and several representatives may attend a General Meeting, only one may cast the vote for his/her institution.

Article 5 – Accessing and Acknowledging Network Data

Data sharing policies will only be sustainable if researchers commit to conducting appropriate research, protecting the confidentiality of managed access data sets, carefully communicating research results, respecting rights to first publication and sharing, in turn, resulting data and analysis with the research community.

Where members are sourcing data from the Network, they should not publish or otherwise disseminate the information without appropriate acknowledgment. Network members agree to recognise and promote their relationship with the Network. Therefore, all Network related materials including programme websites, publications and presentations should contain the following acknowledgement:

[name of your programme] is a charter member of the Marine Atlantic Regions Network

Also, all the Network related materials should display the Network logotype when appropriate. The logotype is available in the four languages of the initial programme – English, French, Portuguese and Spanish – and can be obtained from the Members section of the Network website.

Article 6 – Dissolution and Liquidation of the Network

1. Decisions concerning the dissolution of the Network shall require approval by a majority of two-thirds of the committee members.
2. Committee members of the Network will be notified of proposals to dissolve the Network three months prior to the date at which the action is to be taken upon the question.