

MARE – MARINE AND ENVIRONMENTAL SCIENCES CENTRE

REGULATION

Article 1

(Nature and location)

MARE - MARINE AND ENVIRONMENTAL SCIENCES CENTRE, hereinafter referred to as MARE, is a multidisciplinary unit of scientific research, technological development, and innovation in Marine Sciences and Technologies, integrating researchers from seven Regional Research Units (RRU), based in six Higher Education Institutions (University of Coimbra, Polytechnic of Leiria, University of Lisbon, ISPA - University Institute, NOVA University of Lisbon, University of Évora) and one in ARDITI - Regional Agency for the Development of Research, Technology, and Innovation (Autonomous Region of Madeira).

Article 2

(Objectives)

MARE is a unit with competency in the field of Marine Sciences and Technologies, and its main objectives are:

- a) To promote research excellence by integrating international science and technology networks;
- b) To promote knowledge of the functioning of marine, estuarine, and freshwater ecosystems, including neighbouring land areas;
- c) To contribute to the resolution of society's major challenges by promoting innovative thinking and science;
- d) To develop tools and scientific and technological knowledge, for the sustainable use of freshwater, estuarine and marine ecosystems, and natural resources (living and non-living, including energy), within the framework of regional, national, and international priorities;
- e) To develop scientific and technological knowledge to provide food and other living and non-living resources to society;
- f) To promote the good ecological status of oceans and seas, estuaries, and river basins;
- g) To promote decision support in the definition and implementation of planning and sustainable development strategies using the best available information;

- h) To promote advanced training, benefiting from international and national cooperation;
- i) To promote the transfer of knowledge and science to society, namely to entrepreneurs, contributing to the “Blue Economy”;
- j) To promote ocean literacy and contribute to a participatory "Blue Society".

Article 3

(Organization and composition)

1. MARE is composed by Regional Research Units (RRU), corresponding to the various territorial units where it is established. Each RRU shall have a Coordinator, who shall have a contractual relationship with the respective host institution of MARE.
2. The members of MARE may include individuals linked to research and technological development projects and activities in progress at MARE, namely, professors and researchers (PhDs and non-PhDs), fellows and master's and doctoral students, staff hired, requested, or seconded to MARE.
3. The integrated members of MARE are the PhDs and the researchers with the title of Specialist, who develop R&D activities in the scientific fields covered by MARE, present a relevant scientific *Curriculum vitae*, have a contractual link with a national institution and, having expressed their wish to join the MARE, are approved by the respective Scientific Council.
4. Associate collaborating members of MARE are all PhDs, and researchers with the title of Specialist, integrated in other national or foreign R&D units, who develop R&D activities in the scientific fields covered by MARE and, having expressed a desire to join MARE, are approved by the respective Scientific Council.
5. Collaborating members of MARE are all non-PhD members who develop R&D activities in the scientific fields covered by MARE, under the supervision of a Ph.D. member and, having expressed a desire to join MARE, are approved by the Scientific Council of RRU where they develop their work.
6. MARE members are organised into Research Domains (RD), which are led by the respective Coordinators. RDs are functional units of researchers who develop their activity in common environments (ecosystem approach). The members of MARE are divided into two RDs: (i) River Basins; (ii) Coastal Systems and Ocean. Each member belongs to only one RD.

7. The members of MARE are distributed by Thematic Research Lines Research (TRL), which correspond to research topics of a comprehensive nature considered strategic at the level of the objectives of MARE. Each MARE member may belong to only two TRLs, one primary and one secondary. The objective of the TRLs is to bring together researchers who develop their research in different ecosystems, but who have a certain scientific topic in common, thus promoting interdisciplinarity. The TRLs are led by the respective Coordinators.
8. MARE members may be associated with Research Groups (RG). The purpose of RGs is to group researchers who share the same professional interests. Each member belongs to only one RG.

Article 4

(Bodies)

The Bodies of MARE are:

- a) the Scientific Council;
- b) the Director;
- c) the Board of Directors;
- d) the Coordinating Committee;
- e) the Strategic Committee;
- f) the External Advisory Committee.

Article 5

(Composition and functioning of the Scientific Council)

1. The Scientific Council shall consist of:
 - a) the Director of MARE. He/she chairs the meetings of the Scientific Council and, in case of impediment, may be replaced by the Deputy directors or by one of the other members of the Board of Directors;
 - b) all integrated researchers with a Ph.D. degree who are members of MARE;
 - c) all non-PhD researchers with the title of Specialist who are members of MARE;
 - d) all PhDs and non-PhD researchers with the title of Specialist who have lost the status of integrated member of MARE due to a temporary interruption,

- never exceeding one year, of their contractual link with a national institution;
- e) one representative of the non-PhD researchers who are members of MARE for each RRU.
2. The researchers referred to in paragraph d) of the preceding number shall not have the right to vote.
 3. The representatives and their respective substitutes, referred to in paragraph e) of number 1., are elected by their peers, members of the MARE, for a period of 3 years.
 4. The Scientific Council meets, ordinarily, once a year and, extraordinarily, whenever convened by the Director of MARE or, on his/her own initiative, at the request of at least half of its members.

Article 6

(Powers/Competences of the Scientific Council)

The Scientific Council is responsible for:

- a) Discussing and approving proposals to amend MARE's Regulations;
- b) Electing or dismissing the Director and the Steering Committee of MARE;
- c) Discussing and approving the scientific research policy of MARE, namely, the annual activity report and the approval of the annual activity plan and its annual budget proposal;
- d) Approving the management planning of MARE's human and material resources;
- e) Approving the admission or exclusion of members of MARE, by proposal of the Board of Directors;
- f) Approving the composition of the External Advisory Committee;
- g) Approving the composition of the Strategic Committee;
- h) Formulating suggestions on initiatives to improve the activities of MARE;
- i) Approving the functional structure of MARE, in terms of Research Domains, Thematic Research Lines and Research Groups;

- j) Approving the inclusion or exclusion of the RRU of MARE.

Article 7

(Composition of the Board of Directors)

1. MARE's Board of Directors consists of:
 - a) The Director of MARE;
 - b) Three Deputy Directors;
 - c) Seven members.

2. The members of the Board of Directors must be integrated PhD members of MARE, and it is preferable that they represent the different institutions by which the members of MARE are distributed, as well as the main scientific areas of MARE.

Article 8

(Election and mandate of the Director)

1. The voting members of MARE are the members of the Scientific Council, apart from PhD researchers who have lost the status of integrated member of MARE due to a temporary interruption, never exceeding one year, of their contractual link with a national institution.

2. The Director of MARE is elected by the MARE Scientific Council, from among the members of this body with a PhD degree concluded more than 10 years ago.

3. For the election of the Director of MARE there must be candidatures (preferably with the proposed constitution of the Board of Directors) submitted to the Scientific Council before the electoral act. The applications must be accompanied by a strategic and/or action plan for their mandate.

4. In view of the absence of candidates for the position of Director, the Scientific Council shall vote among the eligible members for that position, in which case the responsibility for the constitution of the Board of Directors falls on the most voted

eligible member. In case he/she declines the position, the next member will be invited in order of the number of votes.

5. The Director shall appoint the remaining Board of Directors.
6. The Director shall have a three-year term of office.

Article 9

(Powers of the Board of Directors and the Director of MARE)

1. The Director of MARE is responsible for:
 - a) Convening MARE's election;
 - b) Convening the meetings of the Board of Directors, the Coordinating Committee, the Scientific Council and preside over these meetings;
 - c) Implementing the determinations and guidelines related to the organization and functioning of MARE, ensuring the fulfilment of the objectives of the proposed activity plans;
 - d) Representing MARE in the acts in which it intervenes;
 - e) Promoting the expansion and development of MARE's activities.
2. The Board of Directors shall:
 - a) Prepare and submit, for the approval of the Scientific Council and the competent entities, the activities plan and budget and the activities and accounts report, on an annual basis;
 - b) Prepare the meetings of the Scientific Council and execute its deliberations;
 - c) Ensure the management of MARE's human and material resources, in accordance with the activities plan;
 - d) Ensure the conservation and maintenance of the facilities and assets assigned to MARE;
 - e) Approve proposals for conventions, agreements, protocols, and contracts;
 - f) Propose the functional structure of MARE, regarding Research Domains, Thematic Research Lines, and Research Groups;
 - g) Propose the composition of the Strategic Committee;
 - h) Propose the composition of the External Advisory Committee

Article 10

(Composition and functioning of the Coordinating Committee)

1. The Coordinating Committee of MARE shall consist of:
 - a) MARE's Board of Directors;
 - b) Coordinators of the Research Domains;
 - c) Coordinators of the Thematic Research Lines;
 - d) Coordinators of the RRU of MARE.

2. The Coordinating Committee shall meet at the initiative of the Director of MARE, or at least one third of its members.

3. Each member shall have the right to one vote.

4. It is incumbent upon the Coordinating Committee:
 - a) To advise the Board of Directors in the conduct and management of the activities of MARE;
 - b) To coordinate the use of technical and logistical means;
 - c) To propose the admission or exclusion of members in MARE to the Board of Directors, which shall be submitted for deliberation by the Scientific Council;
 - d) To admit or exclude members of the Research Domains and the Thematic Research Lines, by means of a proposal of the respective Coordinators;
 - e) To plan the management of the human and material resources of MARE;
 - f) To approve the pluriannual work plans of the Research Domains and the Thematic Research Lines;
 - g) To assist the Board of Directors in the organization of specialisation courses, seminars, conferences, and other meetings and advanced scientific actions.

Article 11

(Composition and functioning of the Strategic Committee)

1. The MARE Strategic Committee shall consist of:
 - a) the MARE Board of Directors;
 - b) the Former Directors of MARE;
 - c) the integrated members with professional category of Professor, or Coordinating Researcher, or Principal Coordinating Professor;
 - d) the integrated members of MARE invited by the Director, based on the professional performance of recognized merit and/or the exceptional contribution to the prestige of MARE.

2. The Strategic Committee is an advisory body that meets on the initiative of the Director of MARE, and is responsible for:
 - a) Analysing the functioning of MARE and giving its opinion on all matters that are submitted to it by the Board of Directors or the Scientific Council;
 - b) Issuing an opinion on the strategic guidelines of the action plan presented by the Board of Directors.

Article 12

(Composition and functioning of the Regional Research Units)

1. The Coordinator and the Regional Scientific Council are the organs of the Regional Research Units (RRU)
 - a) the RRU shall be represented by its Coordinator;
 - b) The coordinator may appoint an assistant and/or an Executive Committee composed of members of the Regional Scientific Council, if he/she so wishes;
 - c) The Regional Scientific Council of the RRU is composed of all integrated doctoral members, all doctoral researchers who have lost the status of integrated member of MARE due to a temporary interruption, never exceeding one year, of their contractual link with a national institution, by all non-doctoral members with the title of Specialist and, by two elected representatives of the non-doctoral members of the RRU.

2. The responsibilities of the RRU Coordinator are:
 - a) To convene the electoral acts carried out in the RRU, by indication of the Director;
 - b) To convene the Regional Scientific Council of RRU;
 - c) To submit the admission or exclusion of collaborating members of MARE, who do not hold a doctoral degree, to the approval of the Regional Scientific Council;
 - d) To submit the creation or extinction of Research Groups to the approval of the Board of Directors;
 - e) To prepare the budget and manage the RRU;
 - f) To represent the RRU in the bodies of MARE;
 - g) To represent the RRU in the bodies of the respective host institution.

3. The Regional Scientific Council is responsible for:
 - a) Electing or dismissing the RRU Coordinator;
 - b) Discussing and approving the scientific research policy of the RRU, namely the annual activity report and accounts, and the approval of the annual activity plan and its budget;
 - c) Approving the management planning of RRU's human and material resources;
 - d) Approving the admission or exclusion of MARE collaborating members within the RRU;
 - e) Formulating suggestions on initiatives to improve the activities of the RRU;
 - f) Proposing the creation or extinction of Research Groups within the RRU.

Article 13

(Composition and functioning of the External Advisory Committee)

1. The External Advisory Committee is made up of national or foreign personalities of recognized merit in the research areas of MARE.

2. The External Advisory Committee shall meet on the initiative of the Director of MARE.

3. It is incumbent upon the External Advisory Committee:

- a) To analyze the functioning of MARE and to pronounce on all matters that are submitted to it by the Board of Directors or the Scientific Council;
- b) To issue an opinion on the plan and the annual activity report and the budget of MARE.

Article 14

(Amendment of the Regulation)

1. Any member of the Scientific Council may propose amendments to the MARE Regulation.
2. Amendments to the MARE Regulation shall be discussed in the Scientific Council and approved by a majority, provided that they represent more than one third of its members.

Article 15

(Election and mandate of the Coordinators of the Research Domains (RD), the Coordinators of the Thematic Research Lines (TRL) and the Regional Research Units Coordinators (RRU) of MARE)

1. The Coordinators of the Research Domains (RD) are elected by the members with a seat on the Scientific Council and the right to vote, and who belong to the respective RD.
2. The Coordinators of the Thematic Research Lines (TRL) are elected by the members with a seat on the Scientific Council and the right to vote, and who belong to the respective TRL.
3. The Coordinators of the RRU of MARE are elected by the integrated doctoral members, by the non-PhDs with the title of Specialist and by the respective representatives of the non-doctoral researchers, belonging to each RRU;

4. The RD Coordinators, the TRL Coordinators and the MARE RRU Coordinators shall have a three-year term, the term of office coinciding with that of the Board of Directors.

Article 16

(Omissions)

Any cases omitted in the present regulation shall be subject to deliberation by the MARE Scientific Council.

Évora, 22nd November, 2022