

**PROTOCOLE D'ACCORD ENTRE L'ORGANISATION HYDROGRAPHIQUE
INTERNATIONALE ET LA COMMISSION INTERNATIONALE SCIENTIFIQUE
POUR L'EXPLORATION DE LA MEDITERRANEE**



MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING

between

THE INTERNATIONAL HYDROGRAPHIC ORGANIZATION (IHO)

and

THE MEDITERRANEAN SCIENCE COMMISSION (CIESM)

The International Hydrographic Organization and the Mediterranean Science Commission (CIESM), being aware of the benefits of close-co-operation in activities of common interest to both Organizations and their Member States, agree to this Memorandum of Understanding (MoU).

Parties

The International Hydrographic Organization (IHO), established in 1921, is an intergovernmental organization which ensures the maintenance of relevant international standards and guidelines and the global coordination of the provision of hydrographic and nautical charting services, and engages all coastal and interested States to advance maritime safety and sustainable use of the marine environment. The IHO has several committees and working groups to deal with particular technical and policy topics. The IHO has also encouraged the establishment of Regional Hydrographic Commissions (RHCs) to provide focus on regional issues. The Mediterranean and Black Sea Hydrographic Commission (MBSHC) provides a regional focus on the IHO objectives in the Mediterranean and Black Sea perimeter.

The Mediterranean Science Commission (CIESM), established in 1919, is an intergovernmental organization which promotes and encourages research within the Mediterranean and Black Sea perimeter through a network of several thousand marine researchers, applying the latest scientific tools to better understand, monitor and protect the marine ecosystems of the region. Structured in committees and various taskforces, CIESM runs expert workshops, collaborative programs and regular congresses, delivering authoritative, independent advice to national and international agencies.

Purpose

The purpose of this MoU is to provide a framework for active liaison and cooperation between the Parties in order to:

- (i) strengthen scientific and technical cooperation among both Parties, with a view to develop synergies in their research and monitoring of marine waters, starting with tracking hydrological change, high-resolution seabed mapping, using ships of opportunity for scientific surveys, applications for the blue economy;
- (ii) exchange relevant experience on issues of mutual interest, including capacity building and training, as well as knowledge transfer for third parties;
- (iii) cooperate towards the provision of technical advice so as to rapidly inform the development of marine policy in relevant international bodies and conventions.

Scope of activities

The Parties will consult each other on matters of common interest to both with a view to ensuring maximum coordination of their respective work and activities.

The Secretary-General of IHO and the Director General of CIESM will exchange information and keep each other informed of projected meetings, activities and programmes of work in fields of common interest. Accordingly, when either Party proposes to initiate a programme or activity on a subject in which the other has or may have a substantial interest, consultation will be initiated between the two with a view to harmonizing their efforts as far as possible.

CIESM will, at the request of IHO, consider providing assistance to IHO with respect to matters within the scope of activities of IHO; and IHO will, at the request of CIESM, consider providing assistance to CIESM in matters falling within the scope of activities of CIESM. Where assistance which is required by either Party under the terms of this MoU involves substantial expenditure, consultations will take place with a view to determining the most equitable manner for meeting such expenditure.

Representatives of IHO may attend as observers, and actively participate without the right to vote, in the scientific sessions of the CIESM Congress and participate in CIESM workshops at which subjects of specific interest to IHO are being discussed.

Representatives of CIESM may attend as observers, and actively participate without the right to vote, in the sessions of the IHO Assembly and participate in meetings of IHO subsidiary bodies at which subjects of specific interest to CIESM are being discussed.

Financial Commitment

It is understood that neither organization can commit the other to any expenditure, save that from administering this MoU, without the specific written consent of both organizations.

Confidentiality

The Parties undertake to preserve the confidentiality of any document, information or other material communicated to them in confidence, disclosure of which could harm the other Party, unless required by law or court order.

Legal status

This MoU does not create a legal obligation between the two organizations which will maintain their mutual independence. It is further agreed that nothing in this MoU shall bind any of the Member States of IHO jointly or severally. Similarly, this MoU shall not bind any of the Member States of CIESM jointly or severally.

Entry into force, review and termination

This MoU shall come into operation on the date of the last signature.

This MoU shall be reviewed every four years by the two Parties for extension, amendment or termination.

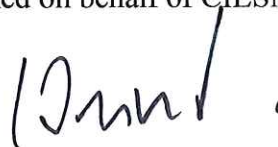
Signed on behalf of IHO:



Robert Ward
IHO Secretary-General

Date *24 March 2017*

Signed on behalf of CIESM:



Frédéric Briand
CIESM Director General

Date *24 March 2017*