



EuroMarine 2015 call for proposals

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 organisations (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 Overview of EuroMarine 2015 call – Selection procedure

In 2015 EuroMarine launches a single call for several categories of activities (to be carried out in 2015 or 2016). The budget that is presently secured and allocated to the call amounts to 100,000 €. (The EuroMarine Steering Committee might decide to increase it at a later point and within the limits of the overall budget.)

In order to maximize the number of MOs that will receive funds in 2015, EuroMarine limits its financial contribution to successful activities to a maximum of 7.5 k€. Proposers are asked to find co-funding.

Proposals will be reviewed by members of the EuroMarine Steering Committee (SC) and by volunteers from EuroMarine MOs. External reviewers will be solicited when necessary (i.e., in case the relevant expertise is lacking within EuroMarine). Three scores will be requested and used to rank proposals: (1) intrinsic scientific value; (2) value to EuroMarine (i.e., to which degree a proposal addresses EuroMarine priorities and favours the integration of the EuroMarine community; the number of MOs involved will notably be considered); and (3) budget solidity and appropriateness.

The SC will be in charge of the final selection and moderation (to ensure that multiple balances are struck, notably in terms of disciplines and topics). A feedback report will be provided to all proposers.

3 Eligible categories of activities

For the 2015 call, the eligible categories of activities are limited to:

- *Foresight Workshops* ('horizon scanning', FWS) – maximum funding: 7,500 €
FWS focus on emerging and important topics which fall within scientific themes or priorities identified by EuroMarine and which require European-wide coordination. They generally aim at establishing a scientific vision or a roadmap at the scale of a decade and may notably (but not exclusively) be used for future EuroMarine larger projects and/or proposals. FWS can also focus on review exercises of particular relevance to EuroMarine (e.g., science-governance interface and scenario construction).
- *EuroMarine Working Groups* (WG) for building EuroMarine (through science, e.g. early career events, delivery of science to policy) – maximum funding: 7,500 €
WG can be used to, e.g., align science plans and strategies, prepare future EuroMarine activities or services (addressing for instance education and training, communication and expertise, web-based services). Proposals aiming at building the EuroMarine community via targeted workshops/briefing events with well-defined outputs will also be considered
- *Capacity building and training* – maximum funding: 5,000 €
- *Other* (excluding conferences; excluding H2020 proposals preparation¹)- maximum funding: 7,500 €

All activities should have well-defined outcomes (e.g. synthesis paper, position paper, plans upstream of proposal).

4 Eligible topics

In line with EuroMarine bottom-up ethos, and in order to favour the emergence of new ideas and approaches, the call is widely open in terms of topics (which, however, single organisations could not tackle alone; avoiding any duplication with existing initiatives).

Any *topics* addressing one of the following three Challenges are eligible:

1. Understanding marine ecosystems for healthy oceans under global / climate change [basic science]
2. Building scenarios for marine socio-ecological systems under changing oceans [governance]
3. Marine science as a provider of new concepts for innovation and technology [novel ideas and innovation]

Such challenges are to be broadly construed (for instance, 'governance structures for a sustainable use of marine resources', or 'big data for marine science' could both be considered as belonging to Challenge 2).

As a network merging three former scientific communities, EuroMarine would notably welcome proposals tackling transdisciplinary approaches.

Proposers can consult the separate summary document on EuroMarine scientific strategy and priorities for details; this document provides a non-limitative list of already identified emerging fields and 'hot topics'. (Potential proposers can also consult the scientific strategy report of the preparatory EuroMarine project; see links at end of document.)

¹ The SC (following observations made during the first General Assembly meeting) considered that EuroMarine could not place itself in a position where it would inevitably (given its large membership basis) end up favouring a subset of its members against others in relation to EU calls. EuroMarine members are encouraged to apply to existing EU or national funding schemes specifically targeting the formation of consortia and the preparation of proposals.

Proposals not directly focusing on science but contributing to build EuroMarine will also be considered; these proposals fall under two categories:

- proposals aiming at the preparation of future EuroMarine services in the realm of: communication and/or provision of expertise; education and training; open access to research outputs; and registries and directories;
- proposals addressing key technical developments or methodological issues (e.g. in the realm of observation and remote sensing).

5 Other eligibility criteria

Proposals should involve *at least three Full (paying) Member Organisations of EuroMarine, from at least two different countries*. Proponents are welcome to also involve any relevant Invited Member Organisations (as preferential partners of EuroMarine activities). Proposals can involve organisations outside EuroMarine. However, scientists from EuroMarine organisations should be given a chance to apply to participate in the proposed activities (closed lists of participants / participation upon invitation only are not acceptable).

6 Guidance on costing - Use of EuroMarine funds

The EuroMarine budget is based on dues collected from EuroMarine Full Members. In general, funds that are awarded as a result of EuroMarine calls are transferred and then administered by one of the Full Members co-leading any successful proposals.

The EuroMarine Consortium Agreement prescribes that funding under the present call:

- *be spent only on direct costs* induced by the activity, *excluding costs related to permanent or statutory staff* of the Member Organisations or other personnel not specifically hired for the purpose of carrying out the activity;
- *be reimbursed* (as concerns remnants) *in case of under-spending*.

Member organisations leading the activity are otherwise free to use the funds as deemed most appropriate, along general budget lines that should however be clearly specified in the provisional budget included in the proposal. Funds directed to individuals participating in an activity should be used primarily to *secure the participation of EuroMarine scientists*, who should in general be given priority over other equivalent invitees or applicants, as far as EuroMarine funds are concerned. However, funds can also be used for key non-EuroMarine participants when deemed necessary for the success of the activity. The budget should show any in-kind contribution to the activity (e.g. free venue).

7 Constraints linked to funding by EuroMarine

Organisers should make sure that they *advertise their activity (and provide instructions to potential applicants) in a timely manner through the EuroMarine Secretariat, to ensure that all EuroMarine members are given a chance to participate*.

Activity leaders should be prepared: (a) *to present, and report on, EuroMarine-funded activities, their outcome* (e.g., publications) *and EuroMarine participation*, using specific templates or online forms (to be provided by the Secretariat); and (b) *to report on their activities before the EuroMarine General Assembly* during its yearly meetings. *Final financial and scientific reporting* (to the EuroMarine Secretariat) is required upon closure of the activity.

They should *make sure that the EuroMarine contribution is acknowledged and that the EuroMarine logo is used appropriately in any communication or scientific publication linked to their activity.*

Concerning the outcome of EuroMarine-funded activities: (a) *publications shall be Open Access* (paid or archived in ZENODO or other open access repositories); (b) the underlying *datasets shall be DOI-ed in Pangaea*; and (c) *code shall be published in Open Research Software journals.*

In the case of summer schools / training activities, EuroMarine recommends the inclusion of training (and may propose materials or trainers, e.g. relying on EU projects such as FOSTER or on existing academic materials) on Open Science (data, code, publications, societal impact) and/or Communication as 'soft', generic skills that will become of critical importance to career, research evaluation exercises, publication impact and societal impact.

8 Submission of proposals

To apply, please fill in the proposal template provided on the [call webpage](#) and return it to secretariat@euromarinenetwork.eu by the submission deadline (the reception of proposals will be acknowledged).

Applicants are requested to keep proposals brief (under the limits specified in the template).

9 Timeline

- call opens: 18 April 2015
- call closes: 30 June 2015
- call outcome: 20 October 2015
- activities should be carried out in 2015 or 2016

10 Contact

Please do not hesitate to contact the EuroMarine secretariat for information or assistance in the production of a proposal (e.g. to identify potential co-organizers or participants within EuroMarine).

E-mail: secretariat@euromarinenetwork.eu

Tel: +33 (0)4 99 57 32 44

11 Further information and references

- [EuroMarine 2015 call webpage \(http://www.euromarinenetwork.eu/call2015\)](http://www.euromarinenetwork.eu/call2015) (including: the text of this call; [instructions and a template to apply](#); and a [list of 2015 EuroMarine Members](#)): <http://www.euromarinenetwork.eu/call2015>
- [Brief document on EuroMarine scientific strategy](#)
- [Brief document on EuroMarine membership benefits](#)
- [EuroMarine website: http://www.euromarinenetwork.eu](http://www.euromarinenetwork.eu)
- [EuroMarine key documents page: http://www.euromarinenetwork.eu/keydocs/](#), notably containing links to:
 - [EuroMarine 2012 Research Strategy report](#)