

Memorandum of Understanding

Between

The Atlantic International Research Centre - AIR Centre

and

**E-Science European Infrastructure for Biodiversity and Ecosystem Research -
LifeWatch ERIC**

**for mutual recognition, strategic alliance and intention to establish sustainable collaboration
projects between participants in both networks.**

The ATLANTIC INTERNATIONAL RESEARCH CENTRE, hereinafter also referred to as the “**AIR
Centre**” and hereby represented by the Chair of its Executive Committee, António Sarmento,

and

LIFEWATCH ERIC, hereinafter also referred to as “**LifeWatch**” and hereby represented by
the CEO of this Infrastructure, Jesús Miguel Santamaría Ulecia.

The AIR Centre and LifeWatch shall be referred to herein as “the Signatories”,

Considering the development of the scientific agenda of the AIR Centre, as referred in the “Praia Declaration”, signed at the “3rd High-level Industry-Science-Government Dialogue on Atlantic Interactions”, held in Praia, Cape Verde, May 7-8, 2018, together with the “Florianopolis Declaration” the “2nd High-level Industry-Science-Government Dialogue on Atlantic Interactions”, held in Florianopolis, Brazil, November 20-21, 2017;

Considering that both the AIR Centre and LifeWatch have a common responsibility for playing their part in supporting the Atlantic countries to achieve the United Nations 2030 Sustainable Development Goals;

Considering that the signatories share common objectives with regard to advance science and technology for the preservation of marine and coastal ecosystems and for the benefit of all people living around the Atlantic Ocean, and wish to collaborate to further these common goals and objectives within their respective mandates and governing regulations and rules;

Have decided on the following:

Clause 1

The present Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) aims at establishing a synergetic relationship between AIR Centre and LifeWatch, with the objective to align activities wherever feasible, to optimize each organization's relevance and value to society by collaboration, enhancing mutual use of resources and minimizing potential overlaps or redundancy of actions.

Clause 2

In the context of the present MoU, the Signatories will take, among others, the following actions:

a) To identify areas of mutual scientific, technological and innovation interests that address both regional priorities and global challenges, bringing together the Signatories competences, experiences and networks to jointly co-create innovative research and development projects, to explore new funding opportunities and to stimulate knowledge-driven business ecosystems with emphasis in the following societal benefit areas, which are aligned with the UN Sustainable Development Goals, among others.

- Marine resources, biodiversity and ecosystems;
- Healthy and clean oceans;
- Systems integration from deep ocean to outer space;
- Mitigation and adaptation to climate change;
- Sustainable energy systems;
- Data science.

In particular, within AIR Centre, initiatives and projects of relevance for the activity areas of LifeWatch ERIC:

- A system of marine and coastal, atmospheric and freshwater observatories;
- Common access to a huge amount of interlinked, distributed data and knowledge bases and monitoring sites and observatories;
- Virtual Research Environments-VRE, as well the co-development of other complementary ICT-based tools (e.g., Big Data, Blockchain, Remote Sensing¹), to provide the required services and tools to support advanced scientific work in key biodiversity and ecosystem research topics;
- Decision-support applications demanded by environmental managers and other stakeholders to address issues on policies and strategies of governments as well as private companies;

b) To strengthen Signatories' knowledge-transfer and capacity-building capabilities through the mobility of researchers and exchanges of information, skills, resources and technical

¹ Particularly Copernicus, regional GEOSS and GEO MBON

expertise, and through national or global collaborative initiatives, involving governments, academia, businesses and civil society, to advance science, technology and innovation for the preservation of marine and coastal ecosystems and for the benefit of all people living around the Atlantic Ocean.

- c) To actively support and create the condition for the implementation of a set of projects and initiatives identified as the mutual interest in the support of the UN SDGs in the Atlantic region in the scope of the thematic areas:
- Shared access to data and knowledge resources through the use of the state-of-art of platforms and tools provided by shared facilities in relation with ICT and other emerging technologies. Among others:
 - Integration, interoperability of analytical and modelling tools
 - User needs methodologies and capacity building programs for researchers, decision makers and citizens (science) in general terms around the Atlantic Ocean
 - Access to marine observatories in the AIR Centre and LifeWatch ERIC networks
 - Initiatives to add value in the EU-Latin America and the Caribbean Cooperation on Research Infrastructures
 - Initiatives to add value in the Africa Cooperation on Research Infrastructures
 - Development of projects supported by international and/or national funding programs in thematic and integrated areas in the field of action of LifeWatch and AIR Centre.
- d) To stimulate the organization of joint workshops and other dissemination and user engagement activities, as well as to encourage mutual representation at dissemination events organized by the Signatories;
- e) To jointly disseminate scientific knowledge to the general public, policy makers and media;
- f) To develop coordinated actions to implement common methodologies, standards and indicators related with the AIR Centre's scientific agenda;
- g) To proactively engage citizens, coastal communities, policy makers and local businesses in the development of effective Earth observation services and products for decision making;
- h) Other forms of collaboration that contribute to the mission of AIR Centre and/or LifeWatch ERIC.

This Memorandum of Understanding will be made explicit through the development of shared projects and case studies in the geographical areas above mentioned starting on January 2019.

Clause 3

1. A Joint Commission for monitoring the implementation of the present MoU will be set up by mutual written agreement;
2. The Joint Commission will elaborate a more detailed action plan based on Clause 2, which shall be presented in the year 2019 seeking approval of the decision bodies from both Signatories.
3. Once an action plan is defined and approved, the Joint Commission shall meet at least twice per year, per remote conference or at location to be mutually agreed.

Clause 4

Each Party is responsible for taking necessary action to secure adequate financial and human resources to perform the projects or activities developed in collaboration.

Clause 5

The Signatories will collaborate respecting the principles of reciprocity, mutual benefit and results sharing.

Clause 6

The present MoU can be modified at any time, under mutual written agreement of the Signatories.

Clause 7

The content of this MoU does not generate any obligation in the context of International Public Law.

Clause 8

1. The present MoU shall come into effect on the date of its signature and will remain in force for a period of five (5) years. Thereafter, it will be renewable for further periods by mutual written consent of the Signatories.
2. The present MoU shall cease to have effect if one of the Signatories expresses this wish, notifying the other in written, and with a time span of 60 days before the cessation.

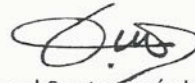
Signed in Spain, on 26th November 2018, in two originals, in English language.

SIGNED for and on behalf of the AIR Centre

SIGNED for and on behalf of LifeWatch- ERIC



António Sarmento
Chair of Executive Committee



Jesús Miguel Santamaría Ulecia
CEO of LifeWatch ERIC