

Membership criteria

The Board can decide to allow any national marine/oceanographic institute or national institute which engages in marine science; marine research funding agency, ministry or council; or consortium of universities and/or higher education institutes (a "Consortium") or any other entity as agreed by the Board as an EMB Member if the following criteria are fulfilled:

1. the applicant must have a registered office in a country that is a full member of the Council of Europe, hereafter the country of Origin;
2. the applicant must be able to prove that it conducts or substantially supports marine research (by financial or other means);
3. the applicant must have legal personality;
4. The maximum limit of five EMB Members per country has not been exceeded. The membership list per country can be consulted on the EMB website: <https://www.marineboard.eu/members>.

Additionally, University Consortia need to fulfil the following requirements:

- the Consortium needs to be composed out of at least three Universities or higher education institutes from the same country of origin involved in marine research which jointly represent a significant proportion of the higher education marine research effort of the country;
- the Consortium needs to file a joint application;
- the application of a Consortium counts as one EMB Member and the Consortium can designate only one delegate and one alternate;
- the application must contain a clear outline of the measures and procedures that are (or will be put) in place to ensure that the needs of the consortium members will be equally represented at Board-level;
- the application must include a commitment to pay the yearly membership contribution fee. As only one membership fee is required for the Consortium, its partners must organise payment distribution amongst themselves;
- A unique Consortium identity with a specific name and logo.

Membership Application procedure

There is a three-step application procedure before becoming an EMB Member.

Step 1: Send application letter to the EMB Secretariat

The application letter should include a short motivation on the reason for applying to become an EMB Member and a brief summary of the organisation or consortium to demonstrate its significance in the support for marine research on national or European level. The letter should be accompanied

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by the fully filled out application form (either for individual membership or for a Consortium) signed by an authorised representative of the applicant.

The letter can be sent to the EMB Secretariat either via email to info@marineboard.eu or via regular postage to:

European Marine Board IVZW

Jacobsenstraat 1
8400 Oostende
Belgium

It can be helpful (although not compulsory) for an applicant organization to include a letter of support from an existing European Marine Board Member organisation, either from inside or outside its country of origin.

Step 2: Review of the application by the Executive Committee (ExCom)

The application will be reviewed by the Executive Committee where the eligibility of the candidate-member will be assessed.

The candidate member will be notified of the ExCom decision within one month after the decision.

If the application is found to be eligible, the new membership application will be taken up as an agenda point in the following EMB Plenary meeting. The EMB Secretariat will invite the candidate member to the next Plenary meeting to present its membership application for approval by the Board.

If the application is found not eligible, the candidate member will receive a motivation of the application rejection.

Step 3: Approval by the Board

The candidate member, represented by the head (or an alternate) of the organisation, will be invited to the EMB Plenary meeting in order to present its candidacy with a short presentation. The Board then decides by vote either to approve or reject the application.

The candidate member will be informed of the Board's decision immediately after the vote taking.