

Formal session

Agenda Item F3: Members approval

Document F3.6: Cyprus Marine and Maritime Institut (CMMI)

The formal application from the Cyprus Marine and Maritime Institute (CMMI).

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Larnaca, Cyprus
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To: Dr Inga Lips
Secretary General
European Global Ocean Observing System - EuroGOOS AISBL
Rue Vautier 29, B-1000 Brussels, Belgium
www.eurogoos.eu
inga.lips@eurogoos.eu

Cyprus Marine and Maritime Institute (CMMI) to join EuroGOOS

Dear Secretary General, Dr Lips,

CMMI is a Centre of Excellence for marine and maritime research, innovation, and technology development, established in April 2019 and with its headquarters in the city of Larnaca, Cyprus. CMMI has received funding from the European Union's Horizon 2020 Research and Innovation Programme and matching funding from the Cyprus Government. The Institute's vision is to drive sustainable Blue Growth by building on the needs of industrial and societal blue economy stakeholders. CMMI has ten Research and Innovation Centres that are involved in marine technology, marine robotics, maritime digitalisation, marine observation, marine and coastal ecosystems, the maritime human element, marine cultural heritage, marine and maritime policies and regional cooperation, and underwater and seabed technologies.

Following the visit from Ms. Dina Eparkhina, Senior Policy and Communications Officer at EuroGOOS in January 2023 and the constructive meetings that took place during her visit, it became apparent that CMMI would both benefit from its participation in the Association but could also contribute through its current activities.

We are confident that CMMI can significantly and positively contribute to the ongoing success of the EuroGOOS association to benefit society, science, and innovation through its "Marine Observation Centre" and its "Maritime Human Element Centre". More specifically

- The **Marine Observation Centre (MOC)** aims to establish with other local stakeholders a National Infrastructure [called the **Cyprus Marine Observation Network – CYMON**] of smart buoys, gliders, underwater stations and platforms, UUVs and USVs, and other data acquisition

CMMI – Cyprus Marine & Maritime Institute

VAT No. 10396180Z

T: +357 24506100

W: www.cmmi.blue

A: CMMI House, Vasileos Pavlou Square, 6023, Larnaca Cyprus

systems, that will monitor and collect in a reliable, permanent, and consistent way, real-time marine data. The Network will cover the sea areas of the Republic of Cyprus and the data will be available to a wide community, including stakeholders with national responsibilities. MOC is currently deploying its own buoys and systems under a self-funded research infrastructure called “**Proteus**” - driven by CMMI’s R&I Mission “**to build a knowledge system of our sea**” - which will act as the nucleus of CYMON.

- The **Maritime Human Element Centre (MHEC)** is involved in various research and innovation activities related to the human element in the marine and maritime sectors, aiming at promoting career opportunities and the upskilling and reskilling of people in the blue economy, as well as addressing challenges faced by those at sea. MHEC is also leading CMMI’s “**Our Sea**” program aiming “**to connect the civil society and local communities with the Sea around us**”.

CMMI collaborates in research projects, proposals and through MoUs with more than 100 Cyprus-based organisations in the Marine and Maritime Sector. Among them are Public Organisations (with signed MoUs) such as the Shipping Deputy Ministry and Ministry of Agriculture, Rural Development and the Environment through the Department of Fisheries and Marine Research and the Geological Survey Department. In addition, there are collaborations with local academic public and private Universities including the Oceanographic Centre of the University of Cyprus, other Research Centres, businesses and NGOs.

CMMI will also be valuable to the EuroGOOS goals, MonGOOS capacity, most Working Groups and Task Teams covering the Eastern Mediterranean which currently is not represented in EuroGOOS.

CMMI would benefit through EuroGOOS by expanding its network of partners and collaborators, by having access to all the events and being present and visible in the wider community.

With this letter we would like to express the Cyprus Marine and Maritime Institute’s (CMMI) formal interest to join the EuroGOOS Association. We look forward to hearing back from you and remain at your disposal for any further information and/or clarifications.

Yours sincerely,



Zacharias Siokouros
Chief Executive Officer