

# Articles of Association for the Maritime Research Alliance

The articles were ratified by the MRA steering committee at the steering committee meeting on the 19 December 2023

The articles enter into force immediately (from the 19.12.2023)

## **1. Purpose**

Maritime Research Alliance is a non-profit network organization that works to strengthen, promote, and raise awareness of maritime-focused research and educational collaboration in Denmark.

## **2. Registered office**

MRA is administratively affiliated with an administrative member institution but serves and is available to all participating MRA institutions.

The administrative institution provides the necessary technical administrative support for MRA's operations, including HR support, IT support, record-keeping, financial management, and ad hoc assistance.

## **3. Members**

The members are universities and other public institutions in Denmark with a research obligation that conducts maritime research.

## **4. Steering Committee**

The Steering Committee is MRA's decision-making body. The Steering Committee is composed of active researchers or research coordinators from the participating institutions. The Steering Committee is non-hierarchical, without a chairman and vice-chairman, and thus supporting a collaborative decision-making process in MRA.

Each participating institution appoints one representative and one deputy representative to the Steering Committee. It is up to each institution to decide how these members are appointed. There is no limit to how long a Steering Committee member can serve on the committee.

It is expected that representatives and deputies act as intermediaries between the Steering Committee and the member institution they represent. Furthermore, it is expected that representatives and deputies jointly allocate at least 90 hours annually to the management and development of the MRA. These hours are covered by the member institutions.

The Steering Committee meets physically four times per year. Additional Steering Group meetings can be organized when required but these meetings are primarily conducted virtually.

At the Steering Committee meetings, each institution can be represented by one representative. In special cases, both the representative and deputy from the same institution can attend.

The Steering Committee operates on a consensus culture. If consensus cannot be reached, decisions are made by a simple majority vote among the member institutions of MRA. Exceptions to this rule include changes to the Articles of Association, admission of new members, appointment of administrative institution, and appointment of employees to the MRA secretariat, for which a 2/3 majority is required.

Each participating institution has one vote. Institutions not represented at a vote can cast their vote by proxy or express their vote in writing before the meeting (via email to the rest of the steering group).

## **5. The MRA secretariat**

The daily operations and project development in MRA are handled by the MRA Secretariat. The employees of the secretariat are formally employed by the managing institution but are appointed by the steering committee.

The MRA secretariat is responsible for handling daily operational tasks as outlined by the steering committee. If a task has significant strategic or economic consequences, the steering group must be consulted.

The employees of the secretariat do not have voting rights.

## **6. Establishment of formalized collaborations**

MRA can facilitate collaborations between MRA institutions and other actors.

For specific projects under a formalized collaboration agreement, there must be an explicit agreement between the involved institutions regarding the economic and legal aspects.

## **7. Finance**

MRA's finances, including expenses for the secretariat and activities within the purpose of the organization, are managed by the administrative member institution.

## **8. Exclusion**

If a steering committee member fails to fulfill the obligations outlined in article 4 (Steering Committee) of this document, the steering committee can ask the individual to vacate the seat in the steering committee. The decision to vacate the seat of a steering committee member requires a unanimous decision by the remaining member institutions.

## **9. Dissolution**

It is not possible to vote on the dissolution of the MRA. If a member institution no longer wishes to participate in MRA, it can withdraw. The dissolution of MRA occurs when there are no more member institutions.

If MRA is dissolved, any remaining funds will be reimbursed to the institution(s) or organization(s) that originally provided the funds to MRA.