



# All-Atlantic Ocean Research and Innovation Alliance

## Frequently Asked Questions

### 1. What is the All-Atlantic Ocean Research and Innovation Alliance?

The All-Atlantic Ocean Research and Innovation Alliance (AAORIA) is the result of science diplomacy efforts involving countries from both sides of the Atlantic Ocean. It builds upon the success of two existing cooperative agreements - the Galway Statement on Atlantic Ocean Cooperation which was signed by the European Union, United States, and Canada in 2013; and the Belem Statement on Atlantic Ocean Research and Innovation Cooperation which was signed by the European Union, Brazil, and South Africa in 2017 as well as on a number of other bilateral and multilateral agreements. AAORIA aims to enhance marine research and innovation cooperation along and across the Atlantic Ocean.

### 2. Why do we need it?

The Atlantic Ocean is an invaluable resource that requires effective cooperation to ensure it is healthy and sustainable. The AAORIA intends to advance a shared vision of an Atlantic Ocean to enhance scientific cooperation that advances outcome-oriented ocean science and innovation.

### 3. How will it be realized?

AAORIA builds upon the success of the Galway Statement on Atlantic Ocean Cooperation and the Belem Statement on Atlantic Ocean Research and Innovation Cooperation, as well as on a number of other bilateral and multilateral agreements. AAORIA will help promote an “All Atlantic” community of common interest to advance ocean science cooperation across the Atlantic consistent with international law. Partners are not expected to participate in every activity.



AANCHOR is a Coordination & Support Action project aimed to support the implementation of the Belém Statement. It has received funding from the European Union’s Horizon 2020 research and innovation programme under grant agreement No. 818395



#### **4. What is the geographic scope of AAORIA activities?**

AAORIA activities can be conducted throughout the Atlantic Ocean consistent with international law.

#### **5. Will the Galway Statement Working Groups and AANChOR Joint Pilot Actions be continued under AAORIA?**

The Working Groups that were formed under the Galway Statement and the AANChOR Joint Pilot Actions are reflecting on how they will contribute to the new All-Atlantic context. New working groups and/or joint actions may be formed in the future to address priorities of mutual interest.

#### **6. Who can participate in AAORIA science activities?**

AAORIA is open to all governmental, non-governmental, and private organizations and institutions from nations throughout the Atlantic Ocean that are interested in cooperating on research and innovation activities in alignment with the shared vision of the Alliance, as described in the Declaration signed on July 14, 2022, in Washington. International organizations with interest in working in the Atlantic are also welcome to participate in AAORIA activities. Participants do not need to be signatories to the Declaration signed on July 14, 2022 in Washington, DC. in order to participate in AAORIA activities.

#### **7. Must an organization or institute be a signatory in order to participate in AAORIA activities?**

No. Participants do not need to be signatories to the Declaration signed on July 14, 2022 in Washington, DC. in order to participate in AAORIA activities. Any organization or institute from an Atlantic nation is welcome and encouraged to engage in and participate in joint science, research and innovation activities of the Alliance. International organizations with interest in working in the Atlantic are also welcome to participate in AAORIA activities. The original signatories of the AAORIA Declaration are committed to an open and transparent Alliance and equally committed to developing a process allowing for additional governmental institutions to join the Alliance in the near future.



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**8. Are there any obligations and financial implications for the AAORIA Declaration signatories or other participants?**

The AAORIA Declaration does not create legal rights or obligations under international law and has no financial implications.

**9. Will there be an operation structure for AAORIA?**

Working modalities for AAORIA will be developed that will provide clear guidance for AAORIA members and Alliance activities, including the addition of potential new members.



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