



# Knowledge Hub Sea Level Rise Governance Structure





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The Joint Programming Initiatives Connecting Climate Knowledge for Europe (JPI Climate) and Healthy and Productive Seas and Oceans (JPI Oceans) are coordinating platforms open to all EU Member States and Associated Countries.



**Vision:** Actively inform and enable the transition to a low emission, climate resilient economy, society and environment that is aligned with Europe's long-term climate policy objectives.

**Mission:** Provide new knowledge and inform climate action using our strategic mechanism of connecting research funders, performers and users.

More information: [www.jpi-climate.eu](http://www.jpi-climate.eu)

**Vision:** Enabling the transformation to a sustainable blue economy whilst fostering the health and productivity of seas and oceans.

**Mission:** Facilitating the efficient provision of expert knowledge and innovative solutions to enable informed policy delivery and economic development ensuring sustainably healthy and productive seas and oceans.

More information: [www.jpi-oceans.eu](http://www.jpi-oceans.eu)



## The Knowledge Hub on Sea Level Rise (KH SLR) is a joint effort by JPI Climate & JPI Oceans, focusing on regional to local sea level changes in Europe and the needs and involvement of policy making and coastal planning.

Even the low-end values of sea level rise predictions are expected to affect the livelihoods of residents of the ever-growing coastal populations worldwide, which may eventually lead to forced resettlement. Besides the most evident phenomenon of permanent inundation of low-elevation areas, other pressing issues arise. Coastal flooding and erosion, saltwater intrusion into groundwater and agricultural soils, and an increased inland penetration of tropical storm surges are some of the highlighted hazards. Further monitoring of current sea level rise and its drivers, developing model projections and supporting coastal defense strategies are thus of great importance.

The KH SLR is a joint effort by JPI Climate & JPI Oceans, with support from the Royal Netherlands Meteorological Institute (KNMI), Deltares Netherlands, and CNRM Météo-France. It focuses on regional to local sea level changes in Europe, and aims to support the development and implementation of related policies at local, national and European level by providing a networking platform to promote exchange, synthesis, integration and generation of knowledge on regional and global, historic and future sea level rise. The platform will facilitate the interaction between research and policy professionals with different disciplinary backgrounds and expertise by assessing and communicating recent scientific and socio-economic developments at an aggregation level, adjusted to ongoing themes and debates in policy and public arenas.

By addressing scientific knowledge gaps and exchanging information between the involved disciplines (e.g. ocean and climate sciences, as well as social sciences) the KH SLR can enable policy makers to make well-informed decisions regarding protective and adaptive measures. Providing more frequent, detailed and regional-scaled assessments of sea level change might facilitate national policy-making. A cooperative and interdisciplinary approach is envisaged

to transfer knowledge and expertise among European member states in order to come up with solutions to this global challenge and its regional to local specifics.

The long-term ambition of the Knowledge Hub on Sea Level Rise is to provide periodic assessments of knowledge on sea level rise drivers, impacts and policy options for each of the major ocean basins around Europe. The ambition is to provide easy access to usable knowledge on regional-local sea level change in Europe, regularly updated as a series of periodic assessments. It will complement existing global and European assessments by providing additional geographical and contextual detail, tailored to regional, national and European policy development and implementation.

The Boards of JPI Climate and JPI Oceans approved the Terms of Reference late 2019, kickstarting the preparatory phase where structures are formally established and activities are implemented. Meetings with interested funding organizations and ministries were held in April and June 2020, consolidating support from several JPI Climate and JPI Oceans Member States. In November 2020, the Boards approved the Roadmap for the first phase of implementation of the KH SLR, leading to a large expert scoping conference to be held in early 2022, and the Governance Structure of the KH SLR (p.7), including a Governing Council formed by National Contact Points for both JPIs (Annex I), a Management Committee of experts, and targeted Task Groups. The Governance Structure was revised following feedback received at the first and second meetings of the Governing Council, respectively in January and February 2021.



# Governance Structure of the KH SLR

2021-2023

The first version of this document was a follow-up on the outcomes of the funders meeting "Next steps to establish JPI Climate - JPI Oceans Knowledge Hub on Sea Level Rise" held via teleconference on 26 June 2020. Embarking on the implementation phase of the Knowledge Hub in 2021 required setting up a governance structure, which was approved by the respective JPI Boards in Autumn 2020. The KH SLR preparation group, acting as ad interim Management Committee, therefore requested the nomination of National Contact Points (NCPs) by the JPI Climate and JPI Oceans Boards, with the objective of formalizing the organizational structure of the Knowledge Hub by the end of the year and initiate preparatory activities to work towards the implementation of the KH goals and products. The present document includes various amendments following the feedback received at the first meeting of the Governing Council on 11 January 2021.



## Governance Structure

The KH SLR is established with - and needs the continued support of - at least four countries committing to provide direct or indirect funding. Commitment must be expressed at the regular JPI Board meetings and reflected in written form in the JPI Board meeting reports. Members who commit to provide direct or indirect funding (in addition to experts) for the work of the KH shall be termed "Full members"; other members will be termed "Associate Members". Within the governing bodies, decisions are made by consensus by all members (Full and Associates). In the absence of consensus, decisions are taken by Full members, either by consensus or through the votes of Full Members (each person having one vote).

The governance structure of the KH SLR consists of a Governing Council (GC) formed by selected National Contact Points (NCPs), a Management Committee (MC) and dedicated Task Groups (TGs) (see detailed description below). The structure of

the Knowledge Hub is conceived to allow efficient operation and flexible adjustment of activities. The number of individuals in the MC and TGs is therefore limited, but members are selected for their ability to closely interact with a larger group of experts and organizations, in order to ensure a solid coverage of the relevant topical fields, countries and expertise levels. Membership of the organizational bodies (MC and TGs) of the Knowledge Hub represent a wide range of scientific disciplines, broad regional coverage, a proper gender balance and a mixture of career stages. Selected members should be prepared to attend and engage in regular meetings. The specific role and selection procedure for each position is outlined below.

### National Contact Points (NCPs)

National Contact Points (NCPs) are nominated by participating member and associated countries of JPI Climate and JPI Oceans, having expressed an interest



to be Full or Associate members of the KH. Each of the JPI Climate and JPI Oceans Boards should select one NCP (and preferably one alternate/replacement) per member country. NCPs need to ensure a strong link with the JPI Boards. NCPs are appointed as GC members for the initial 3-year phase, foreseen for 2021-2023.

### Governing Council (GC)

The Governing Council carries out high-level steering and oversight. It is composed of National Contact Points (NCPs), and chaired by the JPI Secretariats. The MC co-chairs attend the GC meetings, with no right to vote.

The GC nominates and appoints the 2 MC co-Chairs (see below); approve MC experts proposed by the MC co-Chairs; approve the KH work programme; review the financial status of the KH, its operation and development plan; provide strategic guidance on ongoing and future activities of the KH; admit new partners and observers to the KH; oversee the MC activities and work; modify and/or update the set of rules and procedures related to the Governing Structure; interact with the Secretariats and Boards of JPI Climate and JPI Oceans.

GC decisions seek the consensus of all members. In absence of consensus, majority vote applies, with each Full member country holding one vote. The GC meets at least annually - more often whenever major decisions are required.

The GC is responsible for nominating and appointing the MC co-Chairs and for approving members to the MC, proposed by the MC co-Chairs, and experts to the Task Groups, nominated by the MC members. For the selection procedure of MC co-Chairs, the GC nominates 2 candidates, to be proposed for approval by the JPI Boards every three years. As soon as the candidates receive the JPI Boards' formal approval, the GC formally appoints the 2 MC co-Chairs. In case the JPI Boards do not approve of the nomination, the GC council must formulate a new nomination of candidates. Before the formal establishment of the GC, and thus only applying to the first term (in 2020), the two MC co-Chairs were appointed by the 2 JPI Boards in consultation with the interim Management Committee. This decision was ratified by the official GC in January 2021.

### Management Committee (MC)

The Management Committee of the KH SLR will be responsible for running the KH SLR, and for carrying out the approved Work Programme, including the provision of agreed deliverables and activities.

The MC will have the following tasks: elaborate the Work Programme to be presented to and approved by the GC; initiate, monitor and report on the activities of the Knowledge Hub; manage the KH SLR network (researchers and stakeholders); manage financial and legal administration and reporting; fund-raise for targeted activities, including periodic meetings, communication and outreach activities and the preparation and dissemination of periodic assessments; engage with existing bodies and activities that are advancing the work complementary to the objectives of the KH.

The MC is composed of two MC co-Chairs and MC members, supported by logistic and administrative staff. The MC members should have a broad scientific and local policy overview of the topic of SLR, as well as a good standing in European (and global) scientific networks. Most activities and generation of deliverables are performed by the MC in collaboration with the designated Task Groups which they coordinate. All MC experts act as Coordinators of the Task Groups outlined below (ideally, two co-leaders per TG).

MC co-Chairs are formally appointed for periods of 3 years, with the possibility for one renewal of this term. Other MC members are appointed for unlimited periods. MC members are proposed by the co-Chairs and approved by the GC. The GC will consider the composition of the MC at their regular meetings, in consultation with the MC co-Chairs.

### Task Groups (TGs)

Different TGs are coordinated by MC members (ideally two co-leaders per TG) and populated by experts from various disciplines relating to SLR drivers and impacts. The TG themes and scopes are to be identified by the MC. TGs could be formed, for instance, by:



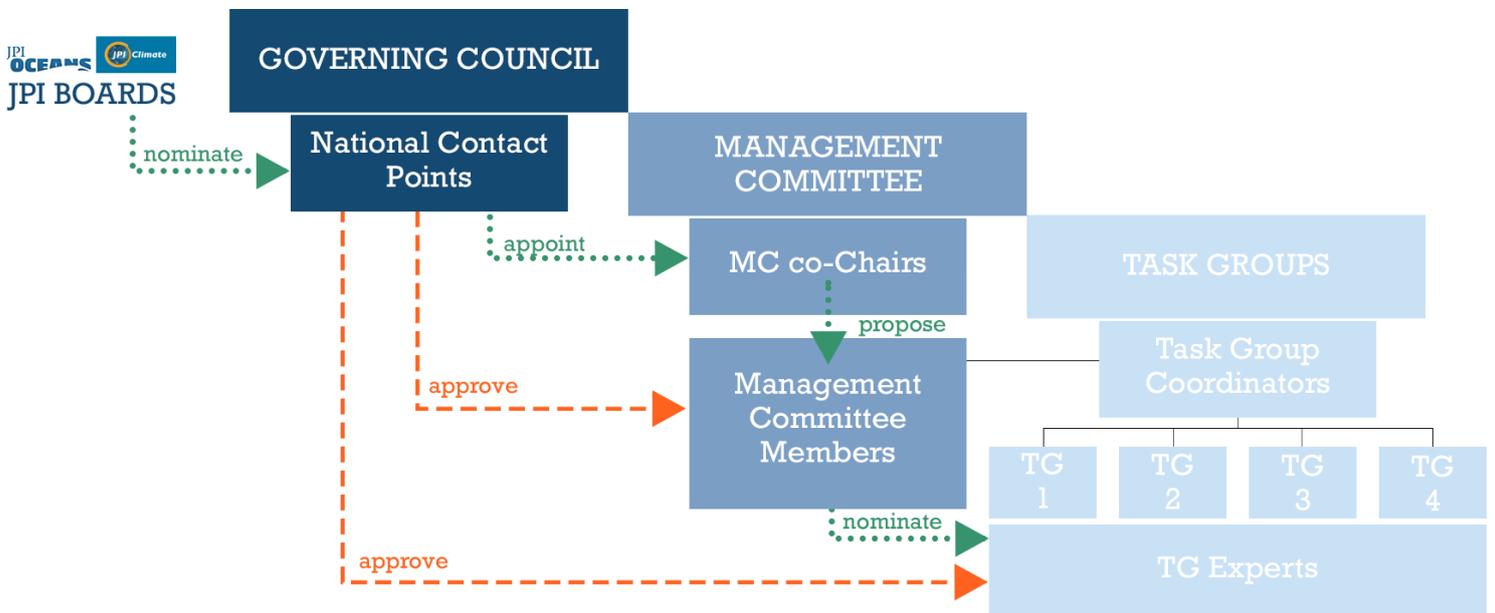
1. **Co-design TG:** Organizing, planning and co-designing with stakeholders the scoping workshops 2021 and conference 2022. The group will also work towards an initial post-conference assessment report.
2. **Policy TG:** Providing a strong science-policy interface dimension to the TGs. Carrying out policy analysis and demand analysis. Working towards an inventory of SLR-relevant adaptation policy measures.
3. **Science TG:** Consisting of scientific experts on SLR that work towards an inventory of scientific literature and methods. Carrying out state of the art and gap analysis.
4. **Outreach TG:** Covering aspects of communication, outreach and output. Proposing the main output products of the KH.

Experts in the Task Groups are identified by the MC co-Chairs and members/TG coordinators, and

approved by the GC. The GC may also put forward recommendations to the MC co-Chairs for TG expert nominations from their respective countries and/or networks. The MC co-Chairs assign MC members to the TGs, to act as TG Coordinators (2 per TG). This ensures close cooperation between Task Groups.

The MC oversees and ensures a balanced composition of the TGs. If applicable, also non-academic experts (e.g., stakeholders from public or private organizations) can join the TG group. Membership should in principle be diverse and open to all experts from nations that actively support the KH SLR. Memberships from non-supporting countries can be considered to broaden expertise level and international support.

The TG size must be adjusted to the task but should ideally include no more than 10 experts per TG. Membership duration can vary from activity-oriented to multi-year memberships, with approval from the GC.



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