

Terms of Reference: International Engagement Hub on the Ecological Aspects of Deep-Sea Mining

Context:

With the support of Belgium, Germany, Italy, the Netherlands, Norway, Poland, Romania and the UK, JPI Oceans launched a [joint call for proposals](#) at the end of 2023. The aim: to further advance scientific knowledge in support of policy making on deep-sea mining, while facilitating the analysis of related ethical implications and societal consequences. As a result of this process the MiningImpact3 project was selected and will start its activities in July 2025.

1. Purpose

The International Engagement Hub (hereafter called the “Hub”) will collaborate closely with the selected project, serving as a platform for dialogue, collaboration, and knowledge exchange among diverse stakeholders concerned with the ecological aspects of deep-sea mining. Its primary purpose is to support meaningful engagement between scientists, policymakers, civil society organizations, and other international stakeholders in order to provide comprehensive science-based information on the ecological implications arising from deep-sea mining for the decision-making process.

2. Objectives

- 2.1. To create a forum for exchanging and discussing the latest scientific findings on the ecological aspects of deep-sea mining with diverse stakeholder groups from different countries and sectors.
- 2.2. To maximise the impact of the research outcomes.
- 2.3. To support the integration of scientific knowledge into international and national policymaking related to deep-sea mining.

3. Governance Structure

The Hub will have a two-tiered governance structure:

- 3.1. Governing Council (GC)
- 3.2. Advisory Board (AB)

3.1 Governing Council (GC)

Composition:

- Representatives from FUNDING PARTNERS involved in the JPI Oceans call on the ecological aspects of deep-sea mining
- Project Coordinator of the funded project under the call (ex-officio, non-voting)
- Supported by a JPI Oceans Secretariat representative

Responsibilities:

- Provide high-level steering and oversight
- Modify and update the governance rules and procedures
- Interact with JPI Oceans Secretariat and Management Board

3.2 International Advisory Board (AB)

Composition:

- Representatives from civil society organisations
- Policy experts and policymakers (incl. ministries, authorities, international organizations (OSPAR, UN-BBNJ, EU-MSFD etc.)
- companies related to deep-sea mining (e.g., contractors, equipment suppliers (incl. environmental monitoring), metal consumers, investors, insurances)
- Scientists (from all relevant disciplines) from third countries

Selected and appointed by the GC

Responsibilities:

- Provide expert advice on potential policy relevance of research findings by the selected project
- Offer perspectives from policymaking space, civil society, and international scientific community etc. on the ecological aspects of deep-sea mining
- Assist in identifying key stakeholders and opportunities for engagement
- Support the dissemination of the selected project's findings to relevant policy and stakeholder networks

Independence:

- The Advisory Board shall function solely in an advisory capacity and shall not direct or manage project operations
- Members must sign a declaration of independence confirming they will provide objective advice
- AB members shall not participate in the direct implementation of research activities within the funded project
- AB members shall not have decision-making authority over project methodology or scientific conclusions

4. Activities

4.1. GC Meetings:

- Frequency: At least annually

4.2. AB Meetings:

- Frequency: At least annually

4.3. Joint GC-AB Meeting:

- Frequency: Preferably at mid-term of the funded project
- Participants: All GC and AB members as well as project coordinator
- Purpose: Review Hub progress, align strategies, and plan for future activities and potential continuation beyond the project period

5. Resource Allocation

5.1. Relevant participants of the funded project are expected to participate in the relevant meetings and have included the relevant costs in their proposal budgets.

5.2. Funding partners and JPI Oceans Secretariat may voluntarily provide logistical support for the meetings, subject to request and availability of funds.

6. Amendments

These Terms of Reference may be amended by the Governing Council.