

WORKING ARRANGEMENT ON COLLABORATION BETWEEN THE LIFEWATCH ERIC AND THE CONVENTION ON LONG-RANGE TRANSBOUNDARY AIR POLLUTION

EXCHANGE OF LETTERS

I Draft Letter from the Chief Executive Officer of the LifeWatch ERIC to the Chair of the Executive Body of the Convention on LRTAP

Dear Ms. Engleryd

On behalf of LifeWatch ERIC, during the fourth joint session of the Working Group on Effects (WGE) and the Steering Body to EMEP held in Geneva last September, I presented the characteristics of our distributed e-Infrastructure and the existing synergies with the activities carried out by the International Cooperative Programmes (ICPs) under the WGE. I outlined the possibilities of collaboration through joint projects that could be funded through the European Regional Development Fund (ERDF). In this regard, the collaboration of ICP centres and expert groups of the WGE in the forthcoming Spanish calls for actions co-financed by ERDF for activities related to LifeWatch ERIC, would be most welcome. The calls will contemplate actions linked to internationalization, where various ICPs can play an active role and obtain funding for the realization of activities linked to projects presented by both Spanish and international researchers. The planned activities should be based on the use of the state-of-art information and communication technologies (ICTs) such as virtual research environment (VRE), blockchain or sensor networks. I am happy to note that with support from Ms. Isaura Rabago - the Chair of WGE, the ICP centres have already begun to explore lines of work of common interest, as a preliminary step for the preparations for the forthcoming calls.

As a result of the contacts and subsequent discussions, I would like to propose that the Working Arrangement on Collaboration between LifeWatch ERIC and the Executive Body of the Convention on Long-range Transboundary Air Pollution be based on the following:

(a) The European Research Infrastructure Consortium ‘LifeWatch ERIC’¹ is a consortium of European Member States and supporting scientific networks operating a research distributed e-Infrastructure for biodiversity and ecosystem research. The mission of LifeWatch ERIC is to construct and operate a distributed information management and analytical e-Infrastructure based upon Europe-wide strategies implemented at the local level: individuals, research groups, institutions, countries. Its objective is to accelerate scientific progress and societal use of science by operating facilities for the integration, analysis and modelling of data, allowing users to build virtual collaborative environments for their specific modelling and analysis purposes;

(b) In the coming years, calls for actions are going to be issued in Spain for activities related to LifeWatch ERIC, to which research teams may submit their project proposals. In the first planned call for actions, the possibilities of collaboration would be based on the realization of joint projects that could be funded through the mobilization of European structural funds (ERDF) allocated to Spain. The call will contemplate an action linked to internationalization, and the

¹ See: Statutes of the e-Science and Technology European Infrastructure for Biodiversity and Ecosystem Research — European Research Infrastructure Consortium ‘LifeWatch ERIC’ (2017/C 89/01).

Convention centres and expert groups, in particular, International Cooperative Programme centres under the Working Group on Effects, could play an active role and obtain funding for the realization of activities linked to projects presented, being mainly based on the use of the state-of-art information and communication technology (ICT) tools;

(c) LifeWatch ERIC and the Executive Body of the Convention, with a view to facilitating the effective attainment of the objectives set forth in the respective constituent instruments of the two organisations, will act in close co-operation with each other with a focus on research on the degree and geographic extent of air pollution impacts on terrestrial and aquatic ecosystems and on long-term ecosystem monitoring and modelling;

(d) The Executive Body and the LifeWatch ERIC will keep each other informed concerning all programmes of work and projected activities in which there may be mutual interest and will exchange information and data concerning these and related fields;

(e) Information provided by the Executive Body to LifeWatch ERIC on the results of the work of the Convention centres and task forces and their methods used will not be distributed or disseminated by LifeWatch ERIC or in any other way made available by it to third parties without the prior written consent of the Executive Body. The application and utilization by LifeWatch ERIC of information from the Convention centres and task forces under the terms of this Working Arrangement will in no way engage the responsibility of the Executive Body;

(f) No expenses in connection with activities under this Working Arrangement will be incurred unless authorised by the governing bodies of the two organisations;

(g) This working arrangement will continue to have effect until 31 December 2023 unless terminated by either Party (Executive Body, LifeWatch ERIC) giving three months' notice in writing.

If the Working Arrangement set out above is acceptable to the Executive Body, I suggest that this letter and your reply be considered as the basis for the understanding between our two organisations regarding collaboration and that the Working Arrangement will come into effect on the date of your reply.

Yours sincerely,

Mr. Jesús Miguel Santamaría Ulecia
Interim CEO of LifeWatch ERIC

II. Draft Letter from the Chair of the Executive Body to the Convention on Long-Range Transboundary Air Pollution to the Chief Executive Officer of LifeWatch ERIC

Dear Mr. Santamaria,

I have the honour to refer to your letter of [date] regarding collaboration between the LifeWatch ERIC and the Executive Body of the Convention on Long-Range Transboundary Air Pollution which proposed that the Working Arrangement between LifeWatch ERIC and the Executive Body of the Convention be based on the following:

(a) The European Research Infrastructure Consortium 'LifeWatch ERIC' is a

consortium of European Member States and supporting scientific networks operating a research distributed e-Infrastructure for biodiversity and ecosystem research. The mission of LifeWatch ERIC is to construct and operate a distributed information management and analytical e-Infrastructure based upon Europe-wide strategies implemented at the local level: individuals, research groups, institutions, countries. Its objective is to accelerate scientific progress and societal use of science by operating facilities for the integration, analysis and modelling of data, allowing users to build virtual collaborative environments for their specific modelling and analysis purposes;

(b) In the coming years, calls for actions are going to be issued in Spain for activities related to LifeWatch ERIC, to which research teams may submit their project proposals. In the first planned call for actions, the possibilities of collaboration would be based on the realization of joint projects that could be funded through the mobilization of European structural funds (ERDF) allocated to Spain. The call will contemplate an action linked to internationalization, and the Convention centres and expert groups, in particular, International Cooperative Programme centres under the Working Group on Effects, could play an active role and obtain funding for the realization of activities linked to projects presented, being mainly based on the use of the state-of-art information and communication technology (ICT) tools;

(c) LifeWatch ERIC and the Executive Body of the Convention, with a view to facilitating the effective attainment of the objectives set forth in the respective constituent instruments of the two organisations, will act in close co-operation with each other with a focus on research on the degree and geographic extent of air pollution impacts on terrestrial and aquatic ecosystems and on long-term ecosystem monitoring and modelling;

(d) The Executive Body and the LifeWatch ERIC will keep each other informed concerning all programmes of work and projected activities in which there may be mutual interest and will exchange information and data concerning these and related fields;

(e) Information provided by the Executive Body to LifeWatch ERIC on the results of the work of the Convention centres and task forces and their methods used will not be distributed or disseminated by LifeWatch ERIC or in any other way made available by it to third parties without the prior written consent of the Executive Body. The application and utilization by LifeWatch ERIC of information from the Convention centres and task forces under the terms of this Working Arrangement will in no way engage the responsibility of the Executive Body;

(f) No expenses in connection with activities under this Working Arrangement will be incurred unless authorised by the governing bodies of the two organisations;

(g) This working arrangement will continue to have effect until 31 December 2023 unless terminated by either Party (Executive Body, LifeWatch ERIC) giving three months' notice in writing.

I have the honour to inform you that, in accordance with the decision of the Executive Body, the above Working Arrangement is acceptable to the Executive Body and to confirm that your letter and this reply will place on record the understanding of our two organisations regarding collaboration and that the Working Arrangement will come into effect on the date of this letter.

Yours sincerely,

Ms. Anna Engleryd

Chair of the Executive Body to the Long-range Transboundary Air Pollution Convention