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24/2/2023

TO:
Natalia Nikolaeva,
Member Engagement Coordinator,
The UArctic International Secretariat,
University of Lapland, Rovaniemi, Finland

RE: APPLICATION BY HALPIN RESEARCH CENTRE FOR UARCTIC NETWORK MEMBERSHIP

Dear Natalia

I am writing in my capacity as Head of Halpin Research Centre, based at the National Maritime College of Ireland, Ringskiddy, Co. Cork, Ireland. I would hereby like to express Halpin's interest in joining the UArctic Network, please.

Halpin Research Centre has a long track record of relevant research in maritime matters, with a particular interest in the area of Arctic Safety & Security, including most recently two Arctic projects, namely AI-ARC https://ai-arc.eu/ and ARCSAR https://arcsar.eu/. These are both Horizon2020 projects involving 20+ partners from countries across the Arctic, North Atlantic and High North, including Canada, USA, Iceland, Norway, Sweden, Finland, the Faroe Islands, and the UK.

Our partners in these projects include universities with significant Arctic research interests, such as: Laurea University of Applied Sciences, Helsinki, Finland; Nord University, Bodo, Norway; University of Portsmouth, England; Memorial University, St. Johns, Newfoundland, Canada; and Fraunhofer IOSB, Kaslruhe, Germany. The projects also include Coast Guards and SAR Authorities from across the ANA region, such as: the Norwegian Coast Guard; the Norwegian Coastal Administration; JRCC-Northern Norway; the Icelandic Coast Guard & JRCC-Iceland; the Irish Navy; the UK Marine & Coastal Agency; the Swedish Coast Guard; the US Coast Guard; and the Canadian Coast Guard.

AI-ARC is a project that aims to develop a Virtual Control Room for improved situational awareness among both civilian and SAR-practitioner users, supported by near-real-time maritime data (e.g. AIS data), and providing services for safe navigation, detection of suspicious activities, protection of subsea critical infrastructure, and support of SAR operations. We are work Package and Task Leaders, leading the production of deliverables such as the impending report 'Wider Arctic Safety and Security Cooperation – Review of Crisis Coordination and Response Arrangements in the European Arctic and High North'. We are currently leading the initial planning for a live SAR demonstration exercise with the Iceland Coast Guard, scheduled for Reykjavik in October 2023.

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ARCSAR has created the first Arctic Stakeholder Network for academia, industry and SAR practitioners, with over 100 members to date. The project's Innovation Arena is a forum for exploring ideas for new technologies and collaboration possibilities. The project's actions have included Table-Top Exercises among SAR-EPPR practitioners, universities and industry players; as well as a major SAR mass rescue live exercise at Svalbard in October 2022 - LIVEX22. We are Work Package Leaders for Communication and Dissemination, and as such, we have managed the processes to capture live video footage from that exercise, and to produce the finished versions of the dissemination materials. The 1-minute trailer for the LIVEX22 Documentary can be seen at https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=w1HImxf-Rhk . Finally, we are currently working as Task Leaders on the impending report 'Priorities, best practices, and action plan for security and standardisation regarding common platforms or interfaces among capabilities for practitioners and other actors in the Arctic and North-Atlantic region'.

Halpin is a founder member of NARI, the Network of Arctic Researchers of Ireland. In that capacity we were invited by Ireland's Department of Foreign Affairs to represent Ireland at the Arctic Circle Assembly in Reykjavik in October 2022, where I personally addressed a session as part of a group of Irish researchers with interests in the Arctic, discussing both AI-ARC and ARCSAR, as our 2 current relevant projects.

There are other examples of our past work on Arctic-related projects, if you would like to have more information. However, I hope the above description illustrates the relevance of our work, and justifies our membership of the UArctic Network.

I confirm that our institution, the National Maritime College of Ireland, fully supports our application for membership of UArctic. In witness of this, the signatories below are myself, as Head of Halpin Research Centre; and Mr. Cormac Gebruers, as Head of the National Maritime College of Ireland.

I trust this is to your satisfaction, and I hope our application meets with a favourable response.

With kind regards,

Signatures:

Name:	Kevin Fitzgibbon	Name:	Cormac Gebruers
Signature:		Signature:	
Capacity:	Head of Halpin Research Centre	Capacity:	Head of National Maritime College of Ireland
Date:	24/2/2023	Date:	24/2/2023

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2023 UARCTIC MEMBERSHIP APPLICANT - PROFILE

Applicant: Halpin Research Centre

Country: Ireland

Membership Category: Non-Arctic

Membership Type: Other Institution

Profile Description:

HALPIN is the research & innovation pillar of the National Maritime College of Ireland (NMCI) which is a constituent college of the Munster Technological University (MTU) and a partnership with the Irish Naval Service (INS).

Halpin was created in 2012 as the formal research entity for NMCI. At HALPIN, we undertake maritime research, with the aim of promoting the development of a vibrant and dynamic maritime sector, capable of realising its full potential in contributing to sustainable economic, social and environmental development for the benefit of all. The HALPIN team work closely with other research and innovation teams in MTU, as well as with an extensive network of Irish, European & international partners.

Our dedicated team of researchers offer backgrounds in seafaring, technological innovation, training and human factors, oceanography, business, policy and strategic planning. We pride ourselves on the strength of our relationships with our local and international stakeholders, and our ability to bring a broad range of skills, experience and expertise to our partnerships, so as to ensure impact in all our research projects and collaborations.

Halpin has experience of delivering over 30 EU funded projects and collaborating with over 200 research, innovation, industry and public-sector partners in Ireland, Europe and around the world. HALPIN has secured over €4.9 million in competitive research funding from Irish, European, and international sources and from both public and private entities.

Strategic/Thematic Focus Areas:

Halpin operates under four main research themes namely: Maritime Safety and Security, Maritime Training and Upskilling, Environmental Monitoring, and Port Operations.

1) Maritime Safety and Security
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2) Maritime Training and upskilling
Past and current projects relate to improving cross-recognition of seafaerer's qualifications; (see for example, Skillsea https://www.skillsea.eu/) designing innovative courses; developing innovative teaching tools; and upskilling for the offshore wind industry.

3) Environmental Monitoring
We undertake environmental monitoring projects to ensure the maritime environment is managed in a sustainable manner. We engage in projects that promote the circular economy by reusing materials and develop cost-effective solutions. eg. Circular Seas https://circularseas.com/

4) Port Operations

Our projects focus on developing innovative solutions and fostering best maritime procedures and practices at port
Current activity includes collaboration with Ireland's offshore wind energy industry network in operational planning.