UN Decade of Ocean Science for Sustainable Development
Present and Future Ocean Challenges

Conscious of the great legacy of Mário Ruivo to the Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission of UNESCO (IOC-UNESCO) and more broadly to ocean science, sustainable development and young professionals, IOC-UNESCO, EuroOcean and Portugal proposed to create the Mário Ruivo Memorial Lecture, from hereon designated as Lecture. The Lecture will take place every two years, in the context of the IOC-UNESCO Assembly.

This initiative is a homage to Professor Mário Ruivo’s lifelong commitment to ocean science and sustainability of the Ocean, and his significant contributions to the work of IOC-UNESCO, most notably ocean knowledge, governance, capacity development, literacy, and international cooperation.

The representative of the winning project will present a Lecture on his project at the Assembly of the Governing Bodies of the IOC-UNESCO, EuroOcean will cover the costs (travel and accommodation) of the participation of the representative at the IOC-UNESCO Assembly Mário Ruivo Memorial Lecture dedicated event.

ARTICLE 1
PURPOSE

The present regulation establishes the rules of the Mário Ruivo Memorial Lecture. This initiative intends to stimulate and recognize outstanding projects of Early Career Ocean Professionals (ECOP) contributing to the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), particularly SDG 14, and to the vision and mission of the UN Decade of Ocean Science for Sustainable Development (the Ocean Decade).

ARTICLE 2
SUBMISSION OF APPLICATIONS

1 - Applications are submitted directly by the proponents to the organization of the Lecture.
2 - To facilitate the selection process, applications must be submitted in English, to pr@eurocean.org, along with the following elements relating to the project:
   a. An application form (abstract and justification of compliance with the eligibility criteria);
   b. Three-minute video with an overview of the project, addressing also the eligibility criteria;
   c. A third-party written recommendation;
   d. A project brief (see point 3 for specifications);
   e. A Curriculum Vitae (CV) of the ECOP PI or co-PI (up to two A4 pages) and of key members of the project’s team (short CVs).
3 - The project brief, up to 2,000 words, must be signed by the project coordinator and describe the following:
   a. The framework and objectives of the project including a clear description of its alignment with the vision and mission of the Ocean Decade, as well as its relevance to one or more of the Ocean Decade Challenges;
   b. The geographical location or scope - including a map of the study area, as appropriate;
   c. A description of the activities carried out highlighting the innovative character or added value of the project;
   d. The outputs achieved or foreseen to be achieved by the project (achievements, indicators, impacts);
   e. Foreseen follow-up actions including any planned or potential replication or scaling up.
4 - Applications must be submitted according to the Lecture edition specific schedule, that will be made public in due time.

ARTICLE 3
APPLICATION ELIGIBILITY

1 - Applications are open to Projects developed by and authored/led by an Early Career Ocean Professionals (ECOP), up to 40 years of age completed by the submission date, as the principal investigator (PI) or as a co-PI. All applications are self-nominations and there is no third-party nomination process.
2 - The projects mentioned above must be innovative, promote an integrated approach to the challenges faced by the Ocean, thus contributing to the vision and mission objectives of the UN Decade of Ocean Science for Sustainable Development, to the 2030 Agenda, and particularly SDG 14. Projects should be aligned with the IOC’s Programme and the Medium-Term Strategy, promote capacity development and international cooperation, and correspond to the Lecture excellence standards.

3 - Submissions can be recently completed projects or projects due to be completed during the year of the Lecture edition, with potential to be replicated or scaled up.

4 - Participants from all UN member states are eligible.

**ARTICLE 4**

**EVALUATION OF APPLICATIONS**

1 - Applications will be evaluated by a Selection Committee comprising up to 14 members appointed by the Steering Committee and including representatives of the IOC-UNESCO, EuroOcean, and the Portuguese Committee for the IOC-UNESCO, experts from the IOC-UNESCO electoral groups, and other relevant partners.

2 - Evaluation criteria will include the projects' transformative potential, transposable/replicable impact and focus on development needs, potential to contribute to the vision and mission of the Ocean Decade via one or more of the Ocean Decade Challenges, and, as appropriate, gender balance, social and cultural equity.

3 - The Selection Committee will make its recommendations on the three best candidate projects, for endorsement by the Steering Committee.

4 - The Steering Committee will designate the winning project.

5 - The winning project will be officially announced during the IOC-UNESCO Assembly.

6 - A representative of the winning project (1 person) shall attend the dedicated Lecture event, within the IOC-UNESCO Assembly, and present the Lecture.

**ARTICLE 5**

**PROJECT DISSEMINATION**

An ECOP representative of the winning project will be invited to present a 60 minute lecture at the dedicated event of the Assembly of the IOC-UNESCO. The representative is encouraged to use innovative forms of communication in the presentation.

Candidates will:

1 - Authorize the organization of the Lecture to use the materials submitted (article 2 paragraphs 2 and 3) for communication and dissemination purposes.

2 - If requested, support the Lecture communication and dissemination activities by providing, as possible, additional content (e.g. photos and/or video) about the project.

3 - Cooperate with IOC-UNESCO and EuroOcean on the public communication and promotion of the Mário Ruivo Memorial Lecture.

4 - Include a watermark of the initiative and logos associated in all communication pieces produced within the Mário Ruivo Memorial Lecture campaign.

5 - Permit the use of the project logo and any other project branding visuals in communication products and activities within the Mário Ruivo Memorial Lecture campaign.

6 - Support social media campaigns related to the Mário Ruivo Memorial Lecture by tagging, mentioning IOC-UNESCO and EuroOcean and Portugal, using specifically identified institutional and campaign hashtags according to the specific instructions.

**ARTICLE 6**

**FINAL PROVISIONS**

1 - In exceptional circumstances, the Mário Ruivo Memorial Lecture Steering Committee reserves itself the right not to nominate a winning project.

2 - The decisions of the Steering Committee are final and not subject to appeal.

3 - Any incomplete or incompatible application will not be considered.

4 - By submitting a proposal, candidates acknowledge their full acceptance of this regulation.

5 - Any cases not included in the present regulation shall be resolved by the Steering Committee.