

**FEASIBILITY STUDY FOR THE DESIGNATION OF THE
INTERNATIONAL CENTRE FOR INTERDISCIPLINARY RESEARCH
ON WATER SYSTEMS DYNAMICS (ICIReWaRD)
IN MONTPELLIER, FRANCE
AS A CATEGORY 2 CENTRE UNDER THE AUSPICES OF UNESCO**

FINAL REPORT

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I. EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

On 14 November 2018, the Government of France through the Ministry of Higher Education, Research and Innovation, submitted a proposal to the UNESCO Director-General for the establishment of an “International Centre for Interdisciplinary Research on Water systems Dynamics” (ICIReWaRD-Montpellier) as a category 2 centre under the auspices of UNESCO. The Director-General of UNESCO decided in February 2019 to mission a feasibility team in view of the creation of this category 2 centre in Montpellier.

A feasibility study was carried out from 13 to 15 March 2019 in Montpellier, France, and included meetings and site visits. The key conclusions pertinent to the guidelines for the establishment of new institutes and centres as included in document 37 C./18 Part 1 and Attachments are presented below.

1. The objectives and activities of ICIReWaRD have clear, strong, and demonstrable programmatic linkages with the two strategic objectives of UNESCO focusing on the role of science in sustainable development, which are SO4 “Strengthening science, technology and innovation systems and policies – nationally, regionally and globally”, and SO5 “Promoting international scientific cooperation on critical challenges to sustainable development”.
2. The Centre will contribute to the objectives of the relevant strategic phase of IHP VIII. Its work is in line with all IHP Themes. The Montpellier water science community has been engaged in partnerships and cooperation with IHP and many of its projects including the IHP-FRIEND Initiative since 1995.
3. ICIReWaRD’s work will contribute to the implementation of the UN 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and, more specifically, of SDG 6 “Ensuring availability and sustainable management of water and sanitation for all”. In addition, ICIReWaRD’s research agenda will strongly focus on the nexus between water and a variety of other SDGs related to water management and the risks posed by hydroclimatic variability and change like SDG 1, 2, 3, 11, 13, 14, 15, and 17.
4. ICIReWaRD will further develop its participation in various international research and education projects. It has already established strong links with several other UNESCO Centres (IHE Delft, CAZALAC, ICWRGC, IGRAC, ICHARM). It has a long-standing relationship with the UNESCO Chair in Water Economics and Transboundary Water Governance at the ANU in Canberra (Australia). It plans to build links with a number of other Centres with similar or complementary approaches, in particular the Centre for Water Law, Policy and Science (IHP-HELP, United Kingdom) and the International Centre for Integrated Water Resources Management (ICIWaRM, USA). Outside of UNESCO, ICIReWaRD can rely on a strong network with other public and private institutions.
5. ICIReWaRD would be UNESCO’s only water related Centre in France, and only the second one situated in the South of Europe, which would make it a great geographical asset for the UNESCO Water Family. Indeed, the Centre has a particular relationship with other institutions of the Mediterranean Basin and sub-Saharan Africa, an under-represented region amongst the network, and a priority for UNESCO. Due to its large scope of work in the field of water, ICIReWaRD could also become a unifying partner between other centres of the network.
6. ICIReWaRD has demonstrated capacity to improve water education, research and capacity development as an essential part of the UNESCO Water Family. It will contribute to strengthening capacity building in higher education by developing the professional and

interdisciplinary skills of engineers; PhD students and PhD holders in the Global North and South. It can offer a high-level and recognized training programme open to the international community and in particular to the South.

7. ICIReWaRD has a long-standing and structured partnerships with research teams both in the Global North and South and led various research projects thanks to its expertise. It has therefore an ability to build South-South or triangular North-South-South partnerships. The Centre would also greatly benefit from UNESCO IHP's recognition to further develop its visibility and international perspectives, as well as to concretise its already existing ties with the UNESCO Water Family's network, especially in the context of the global agenda for sustainable development.

8. The functions and thematic specialisations of ICIReWaRD clearly and justifiably fall within UNESCO's mandate and field of competence. The UNESCO category 2 centre status, with its network, proposes a unique form of international cooperation in the field of water, avoiding duplication with the mandate of another UN system agency.

9. There are ample evidences that ICIReWaRD has a great potential to continue to mobilise the resources required to perform its functions as a category 2 centre under the auspices of UNESCO and to be a strong partner for IHP. There is also commitment from the Government of France to secure the legal status of the centre and to ensure that its governance complies with the requirement of the revised strategy for category 2 centres as included in document 37 C/18 Part 1 and attachment.

10. The impact of the designation of ICIReWaRD as a category 2 centre under the auspices of UNESCO on the ability of the secretariat of IHP to continue effective coordination of the network of category 2 water-related centres is minimal. There will be no additional financial burdens on regular programmes and budgets resulting from such designation. The centre is poised to be an excellent addition to the network of existing water related centres.

II. INTRODUCTION

We are living in an era of unparalleled resources and technological advances but at the same time it is an era of insecurity and increased inequality (WEF, 2019). In the Global Risks Report 2019, extreme weather events, failure of climate-change mitigation and adaptation, natural disasters (of which a large number are water-related) and water crises account for four of the top ten risks in terms of likelihood and impact. Global changes such as population growth, rapid urbanisation, and pollution are making water one of the greatest risks to economic progress, poverty eradication and sustainable development with climate variability and change making water extremes worse (HLPW, 2018).

The "International Centre for Interdisciplinary Research on Water systems Dynamics" (ICIReWaRD-Montpellier) aims to build up cutting-edge scientific knowledge of the consequences of global change on water cycles. This will contribute towards increasing our understanding of the hydrological and social processes involved in the transfer, transformation and uses of water. It will also foster an interdisciplinary approach to address the complexity of these issues. Moreover, the aim is also to forge close ties between the worlds of research and teaching in order to produce leading experts in water-related issues.

On 14 November 2018, the Government of France through the Ministry of Higher Education, Research and Innovation, submitted a proposal to the UNESCO Director-General for the establishment ICIReWaRD-Montpellier as a category 2 centre under the auspices of UNESCO.

After consultation with the International Hydrological Programme (IHP) Bureau members in December 2018, who issued a favourable opinion, the IHP Secretariat organised a special consultation of the IHP Council by correspondence, to decide whether the proposal could be presented to the IHP Council. The majority of the members of Council endorsed the proposal in January 2019.

The Director-General of UNESCO decided in February 2019 to mission a feasibility team in view of the creation of the ICIReWaRD as a category 2 centre under the auspices of UNESCO.

III. THE FEASIBILITY STUDY

III.1 Objective

The main objective of this study is to inform the Director-General and the Governing Bodies of UNESCO on the feasibility of designation the ICIReWaRD as a category 2 centre.

The results of the study will also form the basis upon which the Director-General may wish to recommend to the Executive Board of UNESCO whether or not such establishment should be endorsed for presentation to the General Conference of UNESCO.

The purpose of this study is also to inform the Member States of UNESCO on the potential contributions of the proposed Centre to the Strategic Programme Objectives of UNESCO and the value added of the centre as an additional member of the network of water-related centres.

III.2 Study team

The review team consisted of one expert consultant from Tunisia, (Ms. Akiça Bahri), one UNESCO professional staff member from the IHP Secretariat, Chief of Eco-hydrology, Water Quality and Water Education Section (HYD/EQE) (Mr. Giuseppe Arduino), and a UNESCO consultant (Ms. Laicia Gagnier).

III.3 Scope of the study

The principles framework for feasibility studies is set forth in attachment 1 of document 37 C/18 Part I. These principles require that the study focuses on:

- Clear programmatic linkages between the activities of the centre and the Organisation's purposes as set forth in its Constitution and the strategic programme objectives and priorities, including the two global priorities of UNESCO as well as sectoral programme priorities as defined in relevant sections of the C/5 and C/4 documents.
- The scope of the activities of the proposed centre and the ability and capacity of the centre to meet its objectives.
- The global, regional, sub-regional or interregional relevance and impact (actual or potential) of the institute or centre, in particular the complementarities between its activities and those of other existing institutes or centres with similar focus (i.e., water-related management institutes and centres).

- Its expected contribution to strengthening the provision of policy advice and capacity-building in Member States, in this case for water security in Europe and North America, and also in the Mediterranean region and sub-Saharan Africa.
- The contribution and role to be provided by UNESCO in general and to IHP in particular; the eventual complementarity and redundancy of a proposed institute/centre with other category 2 entities or with other similar institutions created and operated by other United Nations system organisations.

III.4 Methods

The feasibility study was carried out from 13 to 15 March 2019 in Montpellier, France, and included meetings with the University staff, potential stakeholders and partners, as well as a visit to sites and platforms.

IV. BRIEF REVIEW OF THE PROPOSAL

According to the proposal submitted by the Government of France, the Centre ICIReWaRD's functions are to be a permanent and vibrant UNESCO centre of excellence in Montpellier, providing world-leading expertise, research and training on water governance, science and technologies for regions vulnerable to water issues due to rapid urbanisation, population pressure and the expected effects of climate change.

ICIReWaRD, located at the University of Montpellier, will be one of the biggest single-site water research and training centres in the world, with around 340 researchers, teachers, engineers and technicians and approximately 100 PhD students. The 16 research laboratories involved in ICIReWaRD cover a wide range of disciplines, including Science and Technology, Life and Environmental Sciences, and Humanities and Social Sciences. ICIReWaRD plans to strengthen and develop its important international network and to contribute to raising public awareness on sustainable water management by strengthening dialogue between science, business and the general public, including through citizen science.

ICIReWaRD's aims at developing the knowledge, expertise and tools needed to understand the management, use, conservation and fair distribution of water resources in a world of profound change and support the decision-making processes leading to the adoption of innovative, robust and fitting adaptation strategies. Its main goal focuses on the intersection between water and society within complex "socio-hydrosystems", and the fundamental dynamics underpinning them.

ICIReWaRD's objectives are to:

- Improve our understanding of the hydrological and social processes involved in water transfers and uses.
- Foster an interdisciplinary approach to address the complexity of the issues.
- Build strong links between the world of research and the world of education to train expert leaders in the field of water.

Therefore, ICIReWaRD plans to:

- Strengthen and develop international partnerships in order to establish strong and fruitful collaborations in research and training.

- Train (1) future professionals with the knowledge they need to tackle water issues in a world with ever greater numbers of both constraints and opportunities, and (2) scientists who are capable of laying the groundwork for future generations.
- Build research capabilities in the field of water sciences in the global south to reinforce emerging centres of excellence.
- Conduct world-class interdisciplinary research into global water issues in order to provide the greater understanding that will support governance while taking into account current situation with regard to changes.
- Organise world-class international workshops and summer schools to open up new avenues for research, widely disseminate researchers' results and recommendations, and train young scientists and future water experts.
- Welcome scientists from other UNESCO water centres or chairs to support the UNESCO Water Family.

ICIReWaRD will train students and perform research in the following fields:

- Understanding and modelling the transfer of water (and its content) and/or the consequences of different physical environments on the elementary processes involved in water transformation.
- Understanding and modelling river basins and aquifers at large spatial scales.
- Understanding the potential consequences of increased monitoring capacity and how do we build on these capacities to cope with new concerns and anticipate their consequences for the water cycle.
- Understanding the consequences of stakeholders' concept of water, related conflicts and socioeconomic changes, and the interdependence between water-related public policies and public health.
- Understanding which models and narratives allow the evaluation and governance of socio-hydrological systems.

The work carried out at ICIReWaRD will therefore be essentially organised into five Work Packages:

1. Characterisation of elementary processes to underscore the vulnerability of the system to anthropogenic pressure.
2. Large-scale hydrosystem processes to assess changes in the availability and quality of water resources caused by climate change.
3. New approaches to gather measurements and information for the characterisation of socio-hydrosystems.
4. Social dynamics and trade-offs between land use and water management policies; innovative tools and indicators to contribute to decision-making and public policy.
5. Socio-hydrological dynamics.

The designation of ICIReWaRD as a category 2 Centre under the auspices of UNESCO will allow the Centre to bring its major contributions to higher education, research and capacity development by offering a unique combination of applied, scientific and participatory research in water engineering combined with natural sciences, social sciences and management and governance.

Given the scientific community it brings together, ICIReWaRD will make a strong multi-disciplinary and interdisciplinary contribution to addressing the critical challenges that are emerging in the area of water resources and hydrological risks.

In addition to the above listed research fields, it could also be interesting to address the problem of water management in cities and towns and how sustainability could be achieved in the urban water sector by transitioning to water sensitive cities.

V. CONSIDERATION OF THE FEASIBILITY OF THE PROPOSED CENTRE

V.1 *Relations between the activities of the Centre and Organisation's purposes and the strategic programme priorities of IHP (IHP-VIII)*

UNESCO's Medium Term Strategy, which was adopted by the General Conference (37 C/Res.1) defined the overarching objectives of the organisation during the period (2014-2021) as: (1) Peace and (2) Equitable and Sustainable Development. Within these two overarching objectives, the General Conference has identified two strategic objectives focusing on the role of science in sustainable development, which are:

- SO4: Strengthening science, technology and innovation systems and policies – nationally, regionally and globally; and
- SO5: Promoting international scientific cooperation on critical challenges to sustainable development.

The proposal of the regional centre that is analysed is considered consistent with these two strategic objectives, and proposes to implement them at the regional level. This is clear from its objectives and functions, as well as from the interviews carried out during the mission.

More generally, the work of the ICIReWaRD research teams represents a contribution towards achieving the objectives set out in the 6 Themes composing Phase VIII of the IHP (Water Security: Responses to Local, Regional, and Global Challenges), namely: Water-related Disasters and Hydrological Changes; Groundwater in a Changing Environment; Addressing Water Scarcity and Quality; Water and Human Settlements of the Future; Ecohydrology, Engineering Harmony for a Sustainable World; and Water Education, Key to Water Security.

The ICIReWaRD teams' multidisciplinary capabilities and interdisciplinary approaches will allow them to make a significant contribution towards achieving all IHP Themes. Indeed, ICIReWaRD will focus on several of the issues that the IHP describes in its Phase VIII Strategic Plan as "crosscutting":

- combined sustainable management of surface water and groundwater as part of an IWRM based on holistic and environmentally sound approaches as well as social and cultural traditions;
- suitability of the use of integrated management for transboundary water resources in order to prevent and/or overcome any potential international conflict related to water;
- evaluation of the impact of key global change drivers on water resources availability and quality and population vulnerability;
- drafting a framework for water governance based on cross-sectoral approaches involving all stakeholders; and
- supporting efforts in relation to water education, training and capacity building.

ICIReWaRD will focus a large part of its work on the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) established as part of the UN 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, and specifically on the SDG 6 "Ensuring availability and sustainable management of water and sanitation for all". However, as a promoter of multi- and interdisciplinary approaches, ICIReWaRD will also be able to make a very considerable contribution towards a number

of other SDGs related to water management and the risks posed by hydroclimatic variability, like SDG 1, 2, 3, 11, 13, 14, 15, and 17.

- SDG 1: End poverty in all its forms everywhere.
- SDG 2: End hunger, achieve food security and improved nutrition and promote sustainable agriculture.
- SDG 3: Ensure healthy lives and promote well-being for all at all ages.
- SDG 11: Make cities and human settlements inclusive, safe, resilient and sustainable.
- SDG 13: Take urgent action to combat climate change and its impacts.
- SDG 14: Conserve and sustainably use the oceans, seas and marine resources for sustainable development.
- SDG 15: Protect, restore and promote sustainable use of terrestrial ecosystems, sustainably manage forests, combat desertification, and halt and reverse land degradation and halt biodiversity loss.
- SDG 17: Strengthen the means of implementation and revitalise the Global Partnership for Sustainable Development.

ICIReWaRD's objectives and activities have clear, strong, and demonstrable programmatic linkages with two of the fourth medium term strategic objectives of UNESCO focusing on the role of science in sustainable development: SO4 and SO5. The proposed Category 2 Centre's activities have also the potential for significant contributions to the implementation of the strategic objectives of IHP-VIII. In addition to SDG 6, ICIReWaRD can focus a large part of its work towards a number of SDGs, such as SDG 1, 2, 3, 11, 13, 14, 15, and 17.

V.2 Ability and capacity of the centre to meet its objectives

Commitment and support from political and technical authorities

This project of Category 2 Centre is supported by the National Commission of France to UNESCO, the French IHP National Committee, and the Ministry of Higher Education, Research and Innovation. Its creation within the University of Montpellier, a French public research university established in 1289, and one of the oldest universities in the world, is ensuring the solidity and sustainability of the project.

In 2015, and through the Montpellier Institute for Water and Environment (IM2E), which is the main backer of the ICIReWaRD project and whose research units and team members will be transferred over to ICIReWaRD, around €6 million have been secured through a proposal submitted to the Government-Region Planning Contract (*Contrat de plan État-région*, hereafter CPER) scheme to fund high-tech scientific equipment and facilities (analytical devices, technology centres and demonstration equipment).

In addition, €15.2 million have also been made available to build the HydroPolis science and technology park, a site combining teaching, research and business. Hydropolis, which will bring together scientists, students and businesses on this innovative campus to address the challenges the society is facing, is the only site of this kind in France. It will also accommodate first-class technology platforms that will be used for the work carried out by ICIReWaRD's teams of researchers.

ICIReWaRD has strong support from political and technical authorities and will bring value to the UNESCO Water Family. It will have the required conditions to provide high-quality education, research and capacity development produced by a multidisciplinary team of competent and highly qualified professionals with a wide range of expertise.

V.3 Relevance and impact of the Centre and complementarities with existing centres

The Centre would be UNESCO's only water related Centre in France, and only the second one situated in the South of Europe, which would make it a great geographical asset for the UNESCO Water Family. Due to its large scope of work in the field of water, ICIReWaRD could also become a unifying partner between other centres of the network.

It will further develop its participation in various international research and education projects. The Montpellier community already contributed, as said, to programmes such as IHP-FRIEND, and this is reflected in the strong links it has established with several other UNESCO Centres:

- IHE Delft Institute for Water Education (IHE Delft, The Netherlands),
- Regional Water Centre for Arid and Semi-arid Zones of Latin America and the Caribbean (CAZALAC, Chile),
- International Centre on Water Resources and Global Change (ICWRGC, Germany),
- International Groundwater Resources Assessment Centre (IGRAC, The Netherlands),
- International Centre for Water Hazard and Risk Management (ICHARM, Japan).

A special long-standing relationship with the Australia National University in Canberra (Australia) also led to a close connection with the UNESCO Chair in Water Economics and Transboundary Water Governance. Outside of UNESCO, the Montpellier Centre can rely on a consolidated, strong network with other public and private institutions.

ICIReWaRD has the potential to bring its significant contributions to the UNESCO Water Family. The centre will complement the existing network of water-related centres without posing any risk of duplication.

V.4 Potential contributions to strengthening the provision of policy advice capacity-building in member states and North/south cooperation

As explained above, the Centre would be UNESCO's only water related Centre in France, and the second one situated in the South of Europe, which would make it a great geographical asset for the UNESCO Water Family. Indeed, the Centre has a particular relationship with other institutions of the Mediterranean Basin and sub-Saharan Africa, an under-represented region amongst the network, and a priority for UNESCO.

The Centre has the capability to strengthen the provision of policy advice capacity building in Member States and North/South and South/South cooperation and the ability to build South-South or triangular North-South-South partnerships. Moreover, the wide geographic scope of the Centre is contributing to UNESCO's global priority Africa.

V.5 Contribution of UNESCO and by UNESCO-IHP

UNESCO-IHP can act, through its network, as a bridge to other UNESCO programmes and initiatives and to international partners including NGOs concerned with water resources and global change. UNESCO contributions may also include the joint formulation of project proposals for extra budgetary support, and the provision of IHP publications.

Part of UNESCO's contributions will be to convey Member States priorities to the Centre as well as the regional component of the work plan for the secretariat.

The modalities of UNESCO's contributions to the Centre will be outlined in the draft agreement for the designation of the centre.

ICIReWaRD has the desire, as expressed in the proposal and during the mission, to continue the existing collaborations within the UNESCO Water Family, and to develop new ones in the future.

V.6 Likely impact of the engagement with the proposed Centre on the capacity of the IHP Secretariat to undertake effective coordination of this and other category 2 institutes/centres

Category 2 water-related Institutes and Centres extend the reach of IHP activities and provide support for the implementation of the programme's activities. A network of 37 centres now exists, and the continued interest from Member States in proposing new water-related institutes and centres also indicates the likelihood of further growth of the network in the future. The secretariat of IHP will be engaged in coordinating the technical and administrative aspects of engagement with ICIReWaRD. The impact of the designating ICIReWaRD on the secretariat's ability to coordinate the network is minimal and the benefits of its establishment outweighs the minimal risk associated with its establishment. In terms of financial impacts on the secretariat, there will be no additional cost to regular programmes and budget of UNESCO because of the establishment of the Centre.

The designation of ICIReWaRD as a category 2 centre under the auspices of UNESCO has no measurable impact on the ability of the IHP secretariat to continue to effectively coordinate the network of category 2 water-related centres. This designation does not entail additional financial burden on regular programmes and budgets.

V.7 Financial sustainability of the Centre

The governing institutions of ICIReWaRD's member Research Units provide the money for the salaries of the researchers and teacher-researchers who devote a portion of their time to ICIReWaRD's work. This represents an annual total of 1,635 man-months and nearly EUR 11 million in annual salaries.

Table 1. Investment by governing institutions which benefits ICIReWaRD

	Man-months/year	Total costs in €/year
Researchers and teachers	918	€7,333,941
Engineers and technicians	210	€605,122
PhD students	507	€3,006,970
Total per year	1,635	€10,946,033

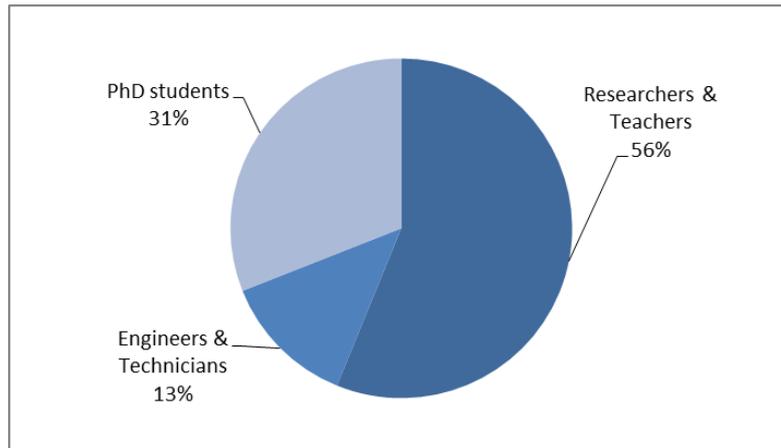


Figure 1. Proportion of total man-months by job type

ICIReWaRD's operating budget will be funded by its member Research Units' governing institutions. The ICIReWaRD and its member Research Units will receive their operating budget by responding to calls for proposals, as is currently the case with the funding provided by the Key Initiative WATERS in the framework of the MUSE project, which includes the University of Montpellier and its partners. This funding, which comes to a total of €600,000 for 2018/2019, could be renewed in the coming years. ICIReWaRD teams will also apply for funding from the EU and its various programmes, as well as from French initiatives, such as those offered by the Agence Nationale de la Recherche, and other sources of funding.

There are ample evidences that ICIReWaRD has a great potential to continue to mobilise the resources required to perform its functions as a category 2 centre under the auspices of UNESCO and to be a strong partner for IHP.

V.8 Governing structure and legal status of the Centre

Governing Board

ICIReWaRD's governance structure aims to achieve at once efficiency, excellence and a shared strategy. It is therefore based on a number of councils with specific roles and an Executive Board through which the Management Team will execute the decisions made and strategic directions adopted. The Executive Board will work with those involved in ICIReWaRD's research project (the coordinators of the Work Packages) and those in charge of water-related training programmes at Montpellier (Figure 2).

The Governing Board will be composed of the Director of the ICIReWaRD centre, the Director of the MUSE project (Montpellier University of Excellence), four representatives of the MUSE Board, one UNESCO representative, two UNESCO member states representatives (one of them being a member of the IHP Council), one representative of the FNCU (the French National Commission for UNESCO), one representative of MESRI (the French Ministry for Higher Education, Research and Innovation), one representative of the SIMEV UNESCO Chair and three representatives from civil society (Pôle Aqua-Valley, the Agence de l'Eau RMC and the Region of Occitanie). The Governing Board is responsible for strategic direction and ICIReWaRD's overall strategy. It also names ICIReWaRD's Director, who will be chosen among the members of the research units at Montpellier. The Governing Board will meet once a year.

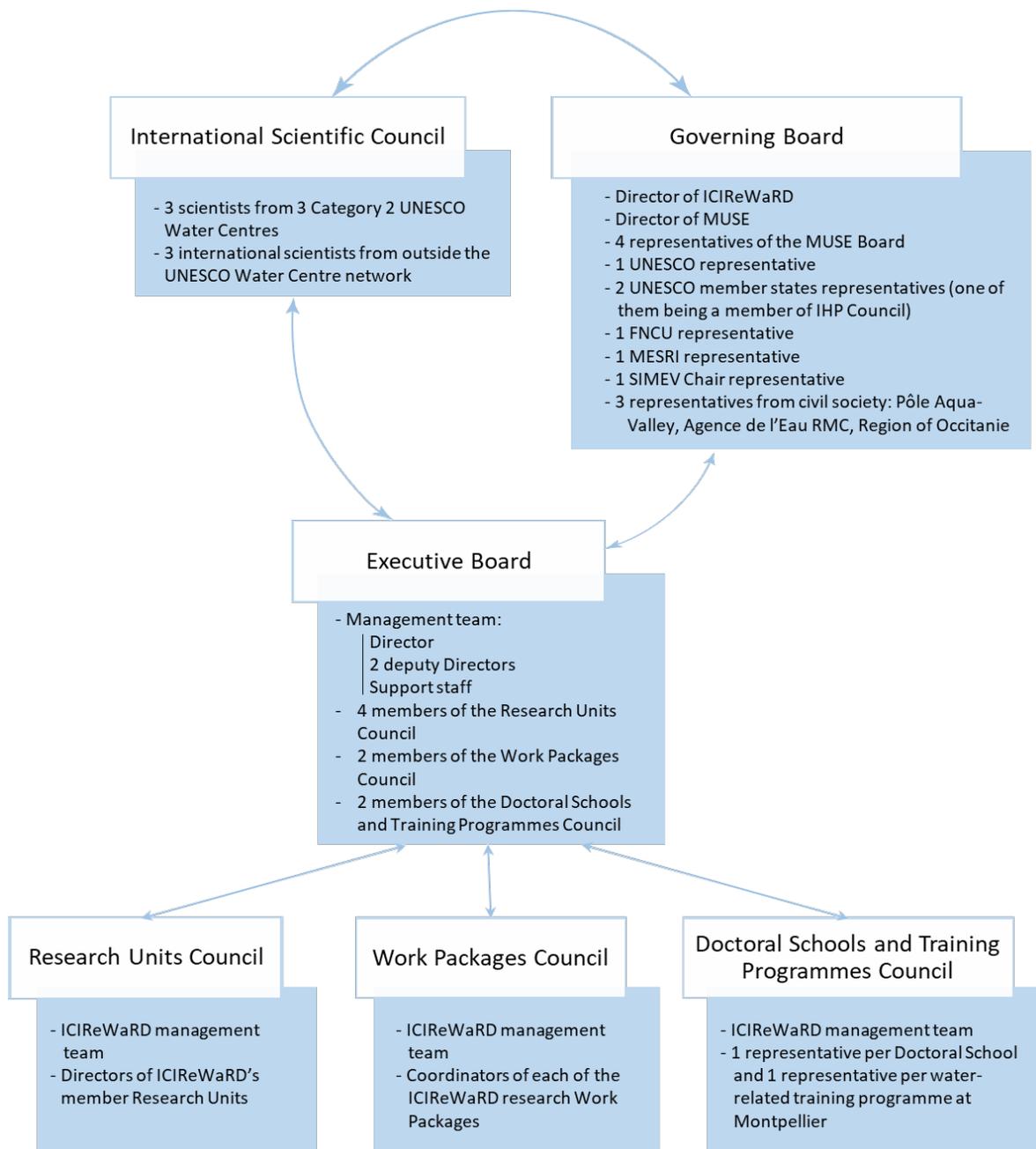


Figure 2. ICIReWaRD's governance structure

ICIReWaRD's governance structure will also include:

- An International Scientific Council which will provide ICIReWaRD with external expertise and which will include representatives of the international centres forming part of UNESCO's network of Water Centres in order to increase cooperation and collaboration. The Council will meet every two years.
- An Executive Board responsible for overseeing the implementation of the proposed actions which will meet at least once a month.
- A Management Team responsible for the day-to-day running of the activities.
- A Research Units Council representing ICIReWaRD's member Research Units tasked with ensuring that the work carried out in relation to ICIReWaRD complies with the scientific project of its member Units. The Council will hold a minimum of two meetings per year.

- A Council on Doctoral Schools and Training Programmes concerned with the training in water-related subjects offered at Montpellier. The Council will ensure that the work carried out in relation to ICIReWaRD is on line with the pedagogical strategies of the institutions offering training at the Montpellier campus. The Council will have a minimum of two meetings per year.

Legal Status

The Centre will be independent from UNESCO. ICIReWaRD will be an integral part of the University of Montpellier. As such, it carries out its work in full accordance with the French law, regulations and policy. In particular, ICIReWaRD will be able to conclude contracts through the University and its legal representatives.

Constitutive Act

The Constitutive Act of the Centre shall have the following provisions accurately specifying the following:

1. Legal status granted to the Centre within the national legal system;
2. Its structure and organisational form;
3. Inclusion of UNESCO representation in the governing board of the Centre;
4. Form of participation, where appropriate.

The Study Team participated in a meeting with the legal team of the University of Montpellier, related with the draft Agreement between France, UNESCO, and the University.

The governance structure of ICIReWaRD is well set up and well organised. There is commitment from the French Government to secure the legal status of the Centre and to ensure that its governance complies with the requirement of the revised strategy for category 2 centres and institutes as included in document 37 C/18 Part 1 and attachment.

VI. CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

The study has determined that there is a clear programmatic link between the activities, objectives and functions of ICIReWaRD in relation to UNESCO's global priorities. The study has confirmed the relevance of the scope of activities of the proposed Centre and its envisaged ability to achieve its objectives, the relevance and potential impact of the centre at both regional and sub-regional levels, the complementation with other centres and ICIReWaRD' unique coverage. At the same time, the contribution that the Centre is expected to make to strengthen the provision of political orientations in order to attain water security and capacity building in the countries of the Mediterranean and African regions has been highlighted.

Based on the above findings, the mission team concludes that the designation of ICIReWaRD as a category 2 Centre under the auspices of UNESCO is in line with the revised strategy for category 2 institutes and centres in terms of the centre's potential to contribute to UNESCO's strategic goals, including those of the International Hydrological Programme. The risks associated with such designation are minimal and the Centre is poised to be an excellent addition to the network of existing water related centres, as well as to the UNESCO Water Family in general.

ANNEX I. Programme of the meeting

Programme
UNESCO Category 2 Feasibility Study
Montpellier, France
14 March 2019

- 9:00 – Opening
- 9:15 – Welcome and introduction of the day: **Eric Servat**
- 9:20 – Presentation of the Category 2 UNESCO centres: **Giuseppe Arduino**
- 9:35 – Presentations IM2E/KIM WATERS (structures at the origin and at the initiative of the submission of the application)
 - 9:35 – MUSE (Montpellier UniverSity of Excellence) Context of the UNESCO centre project: **Eric Servat**
 - 9:50 – Project UNESCO Centre ICIReWaRD-Montpellier: **Eric Servat**
 - 10:30 – Presentation of some laboratories on which the project is based: G-EAU, HydroSciences Montpellier (HSM), LISAH, GM – (Presentation by the laboratory directorates):
 - **Olivier Barreteau** - G-EAU laboratory
 - **Gil Mahé** - HSM laboratory
 - **Jérôme Molénat** - LISAH laboratory
 - **Benoit Iledefonse** - GM laboratory
 - 11:25 – Coffee break
 - 11:45 – Presentation of some specific research projects by the project leaders
 - 12:30 – Lunch
 - 14:00 – Presentation of the training potential (Master, Engineering schools and mainly Doctorate):
 - **Eric Servat**
 - **Patrick Sentis**
 - **Valérie Borrell**
 - 14:30 – Presentation of the HydroPolis project (which will host the executive offices of the UNESCO centre): **E. Servat** and **P. Garin**
- 15:00 – Visit of sites and platforms: 15:00 MSE, 15:30 Campus Pharmacie, 16:15 SupAgro, 17:00 Lavalette
- 18:00 – Review of the day