

PROCEDURE FOR NEW COUNTRIES TO JOIN THE 4MS-INITIATIVE BY SIGNING THE DOI STARTING IN 2017

General Requirements

- The candidate country will adopt the Declaration of Intent (DoI) (https://www.umweltbundesamt.de/sites/default/files/medien/419/dokumente/4ms_declaratio_n_of_intent_signed.pdf) and Rules of Procedure for joining the 4MS-Initiative.
- Candidate countries do not need to be currently using the 4MS Common Approach. However, by joining the 4MS-Initiative and signing the DoI, the country will agree to work towards adopting the Common Approach and to actively participate in the continuing development of the Common Approach.

Steps to Joining the 4MS-Initiative

- The candidate country will be asked to describe their national system and to fill-in the overview (excel-sheet). The candidate country may also be invited to observe meetings of the Joint Management Committee (JMC) and to present their current legislation and approval requirements to the JMC.
- Prior to making a formal application to join the 4MS-Initiative the candidate will be invited to have a meeting with one of the member countries representatives to obtain more information about the 4MS's work, the DoI and the Rules of Procedures.
- The candidate country will apply by letter to the chair of the 4MS (with a copy to the other 4MS members) with a statement of their willingness to adopt the DoI and Rules of Procedures. It is important that the candidate for membership endorses the key elements of the Common Approach, is committed to adopting the existing Common Approach requirements and participates in the realization of the outstanding Common Approach items.
- The JMC will review the letter and supporting information to confirm it complies with the requirements for membership.
- The JMC members will inform the signatory in their sponsor organizations and ensure confirmation of cooperation between current member countries and the candidate country. Informing signatories of any change is a matter for each member country to carry out in line with their own policies.
- After approval by the JMC the 4MS chair will inform the candidate country about the outcome and, if successful, invite the candidate to sign the DoI.
- The 4MS website will be updated to show the candidate country's date of signing the DoI.
- The DoI has no legal status. It is a means to formally secure, at a higher level, voluntary cooperation.

Steps to stop the cooperation

- Withdraw from the DoI will be done by a formal letter of the signatory to the member countries.