

## EMBRC HQ Update - N.01

*25th May – 20th July 2016*

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Prepared by: *Ilaria Nardello, EMBRC-ERIC Executive Director*

Background: *The EIB requested the ED to regularly prepare an update on the work progress, with a monthly-bimonthly frequency.*

Scope: *to Update the EIB on progress of main items of the work activity at the Headquarters.*

### ERIC application

The Commission's review of the EMBRC step one application took place on 21st of June 2016. Informal feedback on **TSD** and **Statutes** was very positive with documents being referred to as "**very mature**". The formal review is expected imminently.

### Towards the EMBRC-ERIC Operational Phase

While waiting for the official feedback on Step One submission, we have started the preparation of relevant elements of the operational phase of EMBRC-ERIC, also in collaboration with our legal consultant (Oskar Uzun), business consultant (Matthieu Merciecca) and Eric Team:

- **Rules of Operation (RoOs)**
  - First Draft (V1.0) of EMBRC-ERIC RoOs received and reviewed;
  - Revised Draft (v.2.0) expected on Aug 05<sup>th</sup>.

- **Business Model**

- Visit to Roscoff to explore the business model of SBR, including discussion with heads of the administration and local access officer; met and interviewed one of the enterprises referring to SBR for services;
- Meeting in Paris on July 12<sup>th</sup>-13<sup>th</sup> to progress the EMBRC-ERIC business model, including aspects of governance and policies;
- A new meeting is scheduled for July 21<sup>st</sup> -22<sup>nd</sup>, in Paris, to finalise a work plan for the coming months;

## EMBRC Development

- **E-Infrastructure**

- **WG E-Infrastructure** - Kicked-off on 4-5 July 2016, with a two-day meeting, at EMBRC HQ; the first day was reserved for EMBRC internal discussion and day two for consultation with external experts. The meeting agenda is available in Appendix 1;
- **Access Portal** - Refinement of the EMBRC Access Portal conceptual flow in light of the current business model development, through discussions with VLIZ, who are in charge of delivering this component, through EMBRC\_PP2;

## Recruitment/Personnel

- **Project Management Officer**

Position advertised; 21 applications received, from various countries; 7 shortlisted.  
Evaluation panel: W.Kooistra (SZN), A.Villanueva (VIGO), A.Oystein (UPMC), I.Nardello (EMBRC). Interviews: 19-20 July.

- **EU Project Officer**

The in kind-contribution of 0.5FTE EU-Project Officer, through the Host Premium, is on hold until UPMC formally redefines the mission of A. Desclos to fulfil the tasks envisaged for this role.

- **Legal Consultant**

Collaboration with consultant Oscar Uzun initiated. The work will be initially limited to RoOs and revision of statutes, as well as open to non-exclusively adopting Oskar's services for the preparation of specific documents, such as consultancy agreements, terms of reference for legal consulting needs, SLAs, policy advice, etc.

## EU relations

- **EU Lobbying**

BMS RI Strategy Group – Meetings with EC & ERC, Brussels, 7th July, 2016. A debrief is available below, in Appendix 2.

## Projects

- **EMBRIC**

The EMBRIC Scientific Manager has been appointed. The EMBRC ED welcomes the regular interactions established with her, as well as with the RISIS social sciences group. A more formal engagement of the ED as well as other RIs Directors into an Executive Board or Steering Committee appears necessary to secure the potential of the project to deliver on its ambitions. The formal engagement of the RIs Directors in a governance body will be addressed at the EMBRIC GA, in Naples, 12<sup>th</sup>-13<sup>th</sup> September 2016.

- **Corbel**

The ED is now fully integrated in the Corbel Executive Board and is actively contributing to its strategy and actions. This board is an example of how an executive board can function to deliver on the potential of a large project by engaging the RIs' executive level to discuss strategic approaches and impact actions.

- **PP2**

The EMBRC\_PP2 project is about to conclude with important deliverables such as a template for a user contract and a fully operational access system, among others. Communication between ED and WP leaders is on-going to adapt those outputs to suit the developing EMBRC-ERIC business model.

- **ENVRI Plus**

Representatives from MBA have kept abreast of the development of this project, in which EMBRC is playing a marginal role. Nonetheless, this project represents an important opportunity for EMBRC to be involved in the Environment area of competence of the ESFRI RIs. Capacity permitting, the ED shall try to be more directly involved in the project over the coming months.

## State of the Union

- **Members**

- EMBRC-ES GA: Upon invitation, visit to U.Vigo, Marine Station of Toralla, to celebrate the realization of the EMBRC Spanish Node, at the presence of their

General Assembly. The event was attended by a representative of the Spanish *Ministry of Economy and Competitiveness* (MINECO) and was very well covered by the media.

- EMBRC-NO: revision of UiB's proposition to partners to prepare a new application for the national roadmap of research infrastructures;
- EMBRC-GR: invited to visit the Greek Node of EMBRC to support their application for the national roadmap of research infrastructures. The visit of the Executive Director to the Governor of Crete received press attention.

- **Potential New Members**

- Ireland: Meeting with Irish representatives to discuss the potential re-engagement of Ireland with EMBRC; feedback was positive with further request of information, on statutes and fees; the ED profiled the event in early 2017 as a possibility to formalize their interest;
- Sweden: The Sven Loven Centre reported having failed their application for the national roadmap of research infrastructures. Upon invitation by their national Research Council, they are planning presenting their case and exploring new options. The ED shall provide all the necessary information, as requested, by the end of July 2016;
- Finland: brief meeting during one of the PP2 events, in which the ED profiled the event in early 2017 as a possibility to formalize their interest;

## Other relations

- GOOS Bio-ECO: Request to have one rep on GOOS Bio-ECO; received the interest of D. Paterson
- GEDE: I. Nardello and K. Deneudt joined the Group of European Data Experts, created by RDA upon the request by Robert-Jan Smits (EC) to come up with stepwise refined recommendations on data issues: <https://rd-alliance.org/groups/gede-group-european-data-experts-rda>

## Appendix 1

### EMBRC e-infrastructure Working Group – Expert meeting

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July 5<sup>th</sup>, 2016 - EMBRC Paris Headquarters, 4 Place Jussieu, Paris.

#### ***05h July 2016 Agenda: Consultation of invited experts***

9:30	<i>Coffee</i>
10:00	Welcome & introduction Introduction on the aims of the meeting and working group Presentation by experts (+ questions) <b>Jesus Marco de Lucas: European e-infrastructure landscape - ICT infrastructures serving scientific communities</b> <b>Simon Claus: Marine biodiversity data systems and services - an EMODnet perspective</b>
12:30	<i>Lunch</i>
13:00	Presentation by experts + questions (Ctd'ed) <b>Renzo Kottman: European marine genomics data infrastructure - a MPI-MM perspective</b> <b>Petra Ten Hoopen: European marine genomics data infrastructure - an ELIXIR perspective</b> <b>Christos Arvanitides: Marine biodiversity data systems and services - a Lifewatch perspective</b>
15:00	<i>Coffee break</i>
15:20	Discussion and Wrap-up
17:00	<i>End of meeting</i>

## Appendix 2

### BMS RI Strategy Group – EU Lobbying Exercise

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July 7<sup>th</sup>, 2016 – Brussels, Belgium

#### List of BMS RI participants

- Euro-BioImaging: Jan Ellenberg (as Chair of BMS Strategy Board)
- BBMRI: Anne CambonThomsen
- EMBRC: Ilaria Nardello
- ELIXIR: Andrew Smith
- EUOPENSREEN: Philip Gribbon
- ECRIN: Jacques Demotes
- INFRAFRONTIER: Michael Raess
- ISBE: Jutta Steinkötter

#### List of actions

- Send final copy of the slides to each EC/IMI rep (Andy)
- Send copy of the FAQ on Data Protection Regulation to Ruxandra's unit (Anne)
- Prepare info on the concrete service offerings of the RIs (CORBEL WP2)
- Follow up on suggestions by the Commission

#### Summary messages from the meetings

1. EC: Ruxandra Draghia-Akli (Director, Health Directorate)
  - "I want you to use FC funds and take out a large loan from the EIB."
2. ERC: Anna Lonnroth (HoU, Life Sciences, ERC-EA)

The ERC responded very supportive to use the extra ERC budget for access, and they are happy to promote via ERC national contact points and grantee networks. They see BMS group as win-win to attract more new member state projects and return to Europe projects. They are very open to help and work together, therefore we should follow up quickly on the following suggestions:

- To raise awareness on RIs with the ERC and its community base, by addressing:
  - Scientific Council of ERC – President or Vice chair of LifeScience (Prof. Mart Saarma, Vice President ERC)
  - Scientific Officers
  - Network of National Contact Points (on the ERC website)
  - Invite the ERC reps. to events
  - ERC networks for bottom up initiatives
  - Map the ERC grantees to use our RIs (they may come for a second grant, or pass the info through the ERC grantee network)
  - Global network of Heads of Research Agencies
- To lobby with the Scientific Council of ERC and explore:
  - Grants for technology co-developments between RIs and ERC grantees;
  - How using RIs enhances research quality and vice versa how excellent researchers enhance the reputation of RIs
  - Access to excellent RIs from abroad NSF/NIH agreement of young fellows
  - Utilise the ERC networks for bottom up initiatives

### 3. EC: Philippe Froissard (Deputy HoN, Research Infrastructure Unit)

- Happy to support interaction with thematic areas.
- Happy to promote cross references in all calls.
- They can't do transnational access, because the member states don't give them the mandate and budget for that...
- Next H2020 work programme due October 2016
- Open Science, Open Innovation, Open to the World ("the trio")
- Explicit political context: support for Cloud, ESFRI, ERIC and open access charter

- EAG report on RI scoping: life cycle, global leadership, cloud usage, innovation, training staff, access, mixed funding for operation, develop an open market for users, increase visibility, long-term sustainability based on excellence.
- Gaps for EC RI funding: prep. phase of 2018 projects, 2020 roadmap update, ESFRI clusters to cloud, networking national facilities ("100 networks, 20000 users"), ESFRI contribution to Open Innovation (industry users, ERIC spinoffs [which could take out EIB loans]).
- Comp Council mandated ESFRI with Landmark review, pilot will happen in 2018
- Cluster approach to dialogue with ESFRI (Gabriella Pastoris as SWG chair).
- Want to discuss with Member States the need to allow national research funds to cross borders, as long as it is within ERICs that they are members of.
- Promised to reinforce the need to mention ESFRI RIs in ERC calls with the ERC EA
- Asked to be informed of BMS strategy group meeting dates and suggested to also inform the ESFRI SWG chair Gabriella Pastori. As in the past I outlined that we are happy to invite them if the agenda calls for it, but that we would like to see some reciprocation.

4. EC: Vanessa Campo Ruiz Policy Officer, Marine, F.4 Marine Resources & Barend Verachtert (Acting Head of Unit, AgriFood chain, DG Research & Innovation)

- DATA are all that matters. And Applications/Innovation.
- When the Commission think RIs, they think research, not applications. This turns them off for including the RIs into the Research programmes.
- They were largely impressed by Elixir as a container and curator and collector of information but they appeared completely disinterested by the specific contents

5. EC: Pierre Meulien (Director, Innovative Medicines Initiative (IMI))