

## EMBRC HQ Update - N.05

*15th March – 15<sup>th</sup> May 2017*

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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 final application for **EMBRC-ERIC status was submitted** by France on the 10th of May to the European Commission. The application, so far, gathers 5 signing countries (FR, UK, GR, IT, PT). Other countries should join shortly.  
The European Commission will examine our application. An answer from the EC is expected in late summer.

### ESFRI Report

- EMBRC underwent a monitoring exercise by ESFRI, and submitted its status **report, on the 28th of April**. The ambition is to retain EMBRC within the ESFRI roadmap, and establish it as a landmark (instead of a « project »). Thanks to all contributors: W. Koistra, I. Cancio, A. Villanureva, L. Salvuadon, I. Nardello. The report was duly accompanied by:
  - Business Plan, update 2017, (Nardello et al., Apr. 2017)
  - Data Management Plan, v.1.0 (K. Deneudt et al, April 2017);
  - Refurbished Website (v 2.0)

## Communication

- **New Website**

From January to April 2017, in collaboration with Vliz, a completely new website has been developed. A **fully functional access portal** has been integrated to the website, with intelligent filtering. The possibility to describe a project in general terms to facilitate the engagement of the user still is being developed. The new version of the website **is online since the 24<sup>th</sup> of April**. The official launch will be in June 2017.

- **Other communication material**

In collaboration with a communication agency, the headquarters are developing **a suite of coordinated communication materials** (Business Plan, Brochures, Leaflets, Posters, Presentations, etc.) intended to give greater impact to EMBRC's participation to high-level events. All material will be distributed to the partners as soon as ready.

## Events

- **Past events:**

- **Bluemed** - A basin of research and innovation for sustainable growth, (18-19 April 2017, Malta), held under the auspices of the Maltese Presidency of the Council of the European Union.
- **EGI-INDIGO** workshop on community application support (10th May 2017, Catania). Representation of EMBRC by K. Deneudt (Vliz). The EMBRC needs related to the virtual analysis platform and E-infrastructure were presented at the EGI conference (Catania, Italy, 9-12 May) by Klaas and Erwan (remote participation).
- **9<sup>th</sup> Meeting of Group of Senior Officials (GSO) on Global Research Infrastructures (GRI)** (15-16 May 2017, Naples). EMBRC was warmly greeted as a RI with global reach potential and our presentation highly commended by the ESFRI Chair and next chair of the GSO, Prof. Giorgio Rossi.
- **Pilot Blue Cloud** Workshop I (March 2017, European Commission, Brussels). EMBRC representation by K. Deneudt (Chair of the EMBRC WG on E-Infrastructure – WGEI). Objective of the meeting: EC aims to deliver a European Open Science Cloud (EOSC) by 2020. There will be several thematic clouds. One of these will be the Pilot Blue Cloud. The objective of the workshop is to move forward in defining the nature and building blocks of the Pilot. Participation: Klaas Deneudt (WGEI chair) presented EMBRC and its data and e-infrastructure related initiatives. Several other relevant initiatives and RI's were invited to present their current work, views and requirements related to a Blue Cloud:

EOSC-Pilot, EMODnet, AtlantOS, Copernicus, SeaDataCloud, ODIP2, EuroGOOS, BlueBridge, EVER-EST, TARA, KDM. Expected outcome: Following essential building blocks were mentioned: a) infrastructures and projects collecting ocean and maritime observations and research data (the fuel of the Pilot Blue Cloud); b) projects and infrastructures working on data harmonization and data sharing (ensuring that the data included is FAIR); c) High Performance Computing (HPC) and data storage capabilities (the engine of the cloud); and finally d) specific Blue Cloud projects working towards the development of Virtual research Environments (VREs) and raising user awareness of the innovation potential of a Pilot Blue Cloud.

*EMBRC is mainly seen as one of the RI's connecting to the Blue Cloud. EMBRC will stay involved in future meetings in order to push towards shaping a Blue Cloud that responds to the EMBRC e-infrastructure requirements. A follow up meeting is scheduled in June 2017.*

- **Upcoming events:**

- Second **Pilot Blue Cloud** Workshop (13 June, European Commission, Brussels). EMBRC representation by K. Deneudt (Vliz).
- **G7** Future of Seas and Oceans Workshop (14-15 June 2017, Naples). I. Nardello presenting.
- "**How EU BMS RIs boost innovation by open access**" organized by CORBEL project, WP8, in Brussels on the 20<sup>th</sup> of June. I. Nardello presenting.
- 13-14 July in Lisbon « **Blue Enlightenment** » organized by EC for the FP9. I. Nardello presenting.

## **Towards the operational phase**

- **Rules of Operation** (RoOs): the document will be updated from the version submitted, in light of the EIB requests to tighten the EIB procedures. It will be circulated again to the EIB, in June, to gather feedback.
- **EMBRC-ERIC policies :**
  - **Data Management Plan** (DMP) : available (v1.0), and to be further developed during Assemblé+;
  - **Access policy** : to be drafted;

- **IPR policy:** O. Uzun produced the first draft is available and a small WG established, with the expert advisors of the UK and IL delegations, to provide comments. A second version will be circulated to the CoN working with O. Ozun.
- External Expert advice: the **procurement of external service for the ERIC operational phase** is still in process, subject to UPMC approval.
- EMBRC-ERIC **transfer of assets:** conversation has begun with UPMC, which will provide a proposition on the transfer of assets (including HR contracts), at the end of May.
- WGEI: **E-infrastructure Strategy Report**  
Finalized version ready on Dropbox. To be sent to CoN asap.

## HR Recruitment

- **Scientific and Technical Communication Officer** (interviews held on May 11th, but no candidate was successful)
- **Administrative Assistant and Personal Assistant** (one candidate was offered the position and she accepted, to start asap)
- **Financial Management Officer** : interviews postponed until later ; A. Cabraja acting as Assistant Financial Manager.
- **Legal Officer:** this position is due as part of the Host Premium in-kind contribution. A legal officer was supposed to be proposed by the CNRS, in order to ensure the coordination of the legal activities of EMBRC. The CNRS has now provided a budget to UPMC instead of a person dedicated to EMBRC activities. The Headquarters will investigate on how to use this funding (recruitment of a legal officer or funding of a legal counsel).

## EU Project

- New : INTERREG project : European Marine Biological Resource Centre Biobank (EBB). The 36 months EBB project started on the 1<sup>st</sup> of May 2017 and is coordinated by UVIGO. The project will provide significant inputs for the common operation of the distributed marine biobanking facilities of the EMBRC.
- ASSEMBLE Plus: The project will start on the 1st October 2017. A Financial Project Manager (50% FTE) will be hired by UPMC to curate the financial part of the project. A 100% FTE Scientific and Technical project manager, with also the role of Access Officer, will be hired under the responsibility of EMBRC.
- IMBRSea: with around 90 students starting the programme in September 2017, the programme is going to be the largest and most international Master programme in the field of marine sciences and marine biological resources, but also the largest programme within Erasmus Mundus.

### Next EIB Meeting

- The **next session of the EIB** (EIB XVI) will take place in late Summer. A Doodle has been recently launched.