

EMBRC HQ Update - N.06

15th May – 15th July 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.*

Towards the ERIC

- The Commission informed us that the EMBRC-ERIC was approved and the news shall be published on the Official Journal of the **European Union** (OJ) in September 2017
- Within 40 days from the publication, the 1st General Assembly of EMBRC-ERIC shall meet with a few key points on the agenda, such as the approval of the EMBRC-ERIC **Rules of Operations** (RoOs).
- An advanced draft of the RoOs has been circulated to the EIB in early July for feedback by the end of the same month. A further revised draft shall be circulated at the end of August for discussion at an informal EIB meeting, on Sept 18th. This should allow the presentation and approval of an acceptable document at the first EMBRC-ERIC GA (17th Oct, Paris).
- It should be noted that the RoOs are supposed to also contain all the EMBRC-ERIC policies. While some of those are quite advanced, they will be circulated separately as they reach an adequate level of maturity, also through specific expert consultation (internal and/or external)
- It should also be noted that some of the policies may require a longer time for preparation than the date of the first GA. All efforts will be made to be fully operational by the end of

the year. A working group may be established to discuss the thorniest questions, on IPR, Data, and Access policies.

Towards the operational phase

- **Service Level Agreements (SLAs):** Oskar Uzun will provide a questionnaire (by the 30th of July) to be circulated to the EIB;
- **EMBRC-ERIC transfer of assets:** A first discussion was held at the beginning of July to discuss project assets and create a shared list of items to work on. The process still needs to be drafted the transfer of the Projects to EMBRC-ERIC. The transfer of other assets (HR, Convention de reversement) will be carried out during the meeting with UPMC.
- **WGEI: E-infrastructure Strategy Report:** The WGEI Report will, after the CoN feedback, be prepared for circulation to the EIB. The costs of the various options are still underdeveloped and will need further time to be developed.
- **Procurement Policy:** to be circulated by the 26th of July 2017
- **HR policy:** to be circulated by the 26th of July 2017
- **Access and Data policy:** Oskar Uzun will propose a new breakdown of the data-related matters between the RoOs, IPR policy and Data Policy. The Data policy must be kept as short and telling as possible available (v1.0), and shall be further developed during Assemble+;
- **IPR policy:** the V4 of the IPR Policy will be available by the 1st of September 2017.

ESFRI Report

- The ESFRI report was submitted on the 28th of April 2017. We received no feedback yet.

State of the Union

- The University of Bergen (Norway), leading the application which would position EMBRC-NO on the Norwegian National Roadmap for Research Infrastructures, received the news of a positive evaluation of their proposal. While we wait for further details, we are delighted to announce that this outcome secures the participation of Norway in EMBRC-ERIC. Congratulations to our Norwegian Colleagues for this success!
- On June 13th, The State of Israel signed its declaration to recognize the ERIC status for EMBRC-ERIC.

HR Recruitments

- **Scientific and Technical Communication Officer:** a few rounds of interviews were held and the outcome shall be decided by the end of July.
- **Administrative Assistant and Personal Assistant:** Alexandra Cabraja has accepted a new position, in UPMC, and shall be substituted by Brunella Lhuillier, who joined the Secretariat on July 3rd.
- **Financial Management Officer:** interviews were held on July 6th. There seems to be a need to increase the seniority of this post specifications. A decision will be made by the end of July.
- **Legal Officer:** We clarified and agreed with UPMC/CNRS that the financial resources which would provide a 0.5FTE Legal Officer will instead be utilised to maintain the capacity of Lucie Salvaudon, at 80%, of which (grosso modo): 30% dedicated to the EIB as EIB secretary, and the other 50% assisting the ED in the preparation of reports for the Commission and ESFRI, responding to surveys by other projects and initiatives, and other relevant tasks. The legal counsel capacity will instead remain with Oskar Ozun and paid through Core Funding.

Communication

- **Communication materials**

In collaboration with a communication agency, the Secretariat is developing some high-impact communication materials. As they become available, a sample of the paper versions of those documents will be sent, to the EMBRC representatives and a few other selected EU/ESFRI officials. The print-ready electronic version of the documents will also be made available, including printing specs, on the shared Dropbox folder “Communication”:

- <https://www.dropbox.com/sh/ka53x1a0wx29rt5/AADb7latLLglDhwgrxtcrZ3Ba?dl=0>

Events

- **Past events**

- 9th Meeting of Group of Senior Officials (GSO) on Global Research Infrastructures (GRI), 15-16 May 2017, Naples, where INardello presented the global reach potential of EMBRC-ERIC; The talk was extremely well received, with compliments from the next GSO Chair and ESFRI chair Prof. Giorgio Rossi, which publicly stated that the potential of EMBRC to reach globally was undoubted.
- Second **Pilot Blue Cloud** Workshop (13th June, European Commission, Brussels). EMBRC representation by K. Deneudt (Vliz).

- **G7 « Future of Seas and Oceans Workshop »** (14-15 June 2017, Naples, under the auspices of the Italian G7 Presidency, EMBRC was invited to contribute to the session “Marine ecosystems in the genomic era: setting up next generation multidisciplinary and integrated marine observatories ». The consensus was to prepare a roadmap for a fully multidisciplinary approach to the study of marine ecosystems, necessary to assess ongoing ocean changes and their impact on economies, and to develop appropriate, coordinated policies to ensure the sustainable use of the oceans and seas. A summary proposal is being prepared under the coordination of SZN to be presented at the forthcoming G7 event in Turin at the end of September.
- **“How EU BMS RIs boost innovation by open access”** organized by CORBEL project, WP8 (20th of June, Brussels). The presentations explored the models of the various Biological and Medical Sciences Research Infrastructures (BMS RIs) to stimulate innovation, and how they deal with open access to their key assets, such as resources, technologies, data and knowledge. I. Nardello presented EMBRC and the EMBRIC model.
- **« A new Era of Blue Enlightenment»** organized by the EC (12-14 July, Lisbon). This event will launch of the South Atlantic Flagship Initiative of Research Cooperation between the European Union, Brazil and South Africa, aiming to better understand and protect marine ecosystems and the link between oceans and climate (Belém Statement, 13th of July 2017). I. Nardello was part of a panel discussing: «Atlantic Ecosystems under Pressure».

- **Upcoming events**

- **Oceans meeting**, « the ocean and human health », 7-8 September, Lisbon.
- **EMBRIC General Assembly**, 11-14 September, Faro.
- **CORBEL General Assembly**, 25-26 October.

- **Committee of the Nodes Meetings (CoN)**

On the 27-28th of June, the CoN VI meeting was held in Heraklion, Greece. Discussions took place on the Policy documents, the WGEI Report, the EMBRC Scientific Strategy, Assemble+, and Communication.

The next sessions of the Committee of the Nodes Meetings are planned as follows:

- 20th-21st September, Naples
- 13th -14th December, Vigo
- 28th-1st March 2018, Place to be confirmed.

EU Projects

- **EMBRIC** : The EMBRC Executive Director joined the EMBRIC Advisory Board. The 1st Transnational Access Call was closed at the end of April. Twelve applications were received, all requesting access to EMBRC and another RI. The EMBRIC Training call has funded its first training program on the [Cortext platform](#). The project participated at the [7th European Algal Industry Summit](#) and held several workshops which can be found at www.embric.eu. The EMBRIC project was satisfactorily evaluated at the mid-term review.
- **Assemble+** : The Kick-off Meeting of Assemble+ will take place on the 19th-20th of October 2017 in Paris. About 50 people will be attending the KoM.
- **IMBRSea** : The support by EMBRC-ERIC to some IMBRSea actions (organization of SummerSchool, funding of students' missions to EMBRC stations) was evoked during the CoN VI Meeting (27-28th June 2017). IMBRSea will provide the EIB with detailed action plan and associated costs, for discussion during the next EIB.
- **European Marine Biological Resource Centre Biobank (EBB)**: Cordinated by UVIGO (A. Villanueva), with an INTERREG award of €1.5M, the EBB project will provide significant inputs for the for the common operation of the distributed marine biobanking facilities of the EMBRC. It will kick off in October.

Next EIB Meetings

- **September 18th, 2017** : Informal EIB meeting in Paris with the purpose of discussing the draft Rules of Operations and prepare the final version before the General Assembly
- **October 17th, 2017** : General Assembly of EMBRC-ERIC #1
- **November 16th-17th, 2017** : General Assembly of EMBRC-ERIC #2