

EMBRC HQ Update - N.09

15th December – 15th February 2018

Prepared by: *Arnaud Delimoges and Ilaria Nardello.*

Background: *The EIB requested the ED to regularly prepare an update on the work progress, with a monthly-bimonthly frequency. The present report covers the period 15th December-15th February.*

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

ERIC Application

- The Commission Inter-Services have concluded the translation of the EMBRC-ERIC related documents and launched the written procedure for the adoption of the decision of the establishment of EMBRC-ERIC, with publication due on the Official Journal, next 20th February. The official notification to Member States will follow within 24 hours. This means that (unless unforeseen circumstances) **EMBRC-ERIC will be formally established, as of the 21st February 2018.**
- The support letter from Spain to the establishment of the ERIC Status was received at the end of 2017, resulting in **Spain being included as a founding Member of EMBRC-ERIC.**
- The date for the **first General Assembly of EMBRC-ERIC**, in Paris, will be confirmed as soon as possible, initially depending on the availability of the highest National/regional representatives as well as EU authorities.

ESFRI Hearing

- **ESFRI Hearing.** After submitting a solicited “voluntary” report to ESFRI, in April 2017, some additional information were requested in October 2017, and a final two-hour Hearing proposed, to be held on 1st Feb 2018, in Brussels. Our presentation at the Hearing was very well received by the committee presiding the process, and produced a genuinely interested exchange, over the two hours allocated. A final ESFRI report is expected in June or July 2018, determining the status of EMBRC-ERIC on the ESFRI roadmap.

Towards the operational phase

- **EMBRC-ERIC RoOs & Policies:** after discussion at EIB 17th, the RoOs were amended in the interest of simplicity, comprehension and addressing a few bottlenecks emerged during the discussions. After a revision of the new draft by the Chair and Vice Chairs, the RoOs will be presented for discussion at the EIB 18th.
- **EMBRC-ERIC Policies** were considered less mature than the general text of the RoOs and will need the establishment of one or more WGs.
- In January, a series of meetings took place with an **accounting** cabinet (Expertens), with experience of two other ERICs. The EMBRC-ERIC accounting needs were discussed: accounting set-up; payroll, periodic financial reporting, HR contracts. The Accounting cabinet will also propose the name of an **external Auditor, to be formally appointed by the GA of EMBRC-ERIC.**

Administrative & Financial Reporting activity

- The EMBRC-ERIC **Expenditure Report 2017 will be presented at EIB 18th** (21-22 February 2018, in Lisbon). A new categorisation has been elaborated, based on discussions with other ERICs, with two accounting cabinet, and with the financial administration of Sorbonne University (SU). The expenditure reports for the years 2015, 2016 have also been retrofit based on this new categorisation, and will be shown comparatively.
- **EMBRC-ERIC Budget:** A discussion on the format of EMBRC-ERIC budget will take place at the next EIB (21-22 February 2018, in Lisbon).
- **EMBRC-ERIC Transfer of Assets:** An inventory of the EMBRC Assets held at SU, and the modalities for its transfer to EMBRC-ERIC will be presented to the EIB at the next meeting. It contains these elements:

- **Headquarters' office space:** A hosting agreement is under preparation for the rent of EMBRC-ERIC headquarters on UPMC campus. It will include office space, phone lines, mail services, internet and network support, parking space, access to meeting rooms, library and restaurant for the personnel. The rent/services prices will be included in the host premium contribution.
- **Headquarters' Inventory of physical assets,** such as furniture, computers, telephones, etc.:
- **Member's contributions:** all members' contributions already received by UPMC for 2016-2017, or not yet received but with a signed financial agreement between UPMC and a Member (a total amount of € 585 643) will be fully transferred to EMBRC-ERIC with a specific transfer agreement once the legal entity is created. The French Annual contribution is on a separate account and cannot be transferred (Plan d'Investissement d'Avenir) but this account will be available to EMBRC for expenses (€63k, annually).
- **Host premium monetary contribution:** It will be transferred annually by a subsidy agreement. Su now employs 3 people at the EMBRC Headquarter under this Host Premium contribution. They prospectively will remain with a SU contract until the expiration of their current contract. New contracts will be negotiated by EMBRC-ERIC.
- **Projects:**
 - The remaining overheads from the **PP2** project will be transferred through a transfer agreement.
 - In **Assemble+**, a separate budget for EMBRC Headquarters is defined, which will be allocated to EMBRC-ERIC when created.

State of the Union

- All the nine EMBRC-ERIC MoU signatories provided their support letter to the establishment of the ERIC.

HR Recruitment

- **Financial and Administration Officer (FAO):** The position is still open.
- **Administrative Assistant (AA):** The position is still open.

EU Projects

- EMBRC-ERIC will be a partner on the following project proposals:
 - **INFRAEOSC 04-2018** - Connecting ESFRI infrastructures through Cluster projects, BMS Cluster; coordinated by Elixir;

- **INFRASUPP-01-2018-2019** – Support to *Policy and international cooperation (b1)* - «ERIC network»; coordinated by BBMRI;
 - **INFRASUPP-01-2018-2019** – Support to *Policy and international cooperation (b2)* - « International visibility of European RI »; coordinated by INSTRUCT;
 - **INFRAIA-01-2018-2019: Integrating Activities for Advanced Communities:** « Micro4life »; coordinated by Institut Pasteur (FR).
 - **BG-08-2018-2019**, All Atlantic Ocean Research Alliance Flagship: «AtlantEco», coordinated by SZN
- **ASSEMBLEPlus**, the EU H2020 project coordinated by EMBRC/UPMC, has kicked-off in mid-October 2017, in Paris, involving **all EMBRC-ERIC partners**. The **1st Call for projects** at the end of 2017, resulting in more than **70 proposals**. Those proposals will be examined by an expert panel and the list of accepted projects will be published in March 2018.
 - **CORBEL**: Executive Board meeting, 29th January 2018

Policy engagement

- **Food Microbiome Forum**, Invited Experts, EU Commission, Brussels. G. Kotoulas in attendance, Dec 2017.
- **The European Union – Latin America and Caribbean (EU-LAC) Working Group on Research Infrastructures** will meet for the first time in Brussels, on the 14th March. EMBRC is invited.
- 20 February 2018, Invitation to **Circular Economy Stakeholder Conference**, taking place in Brussels, Directorate-General Internal Market, Industry, Entrepreneurship and SMEs Clean Technologies and Products Unit
- 22-23 March 2018, Invitation to **EU presidency's flagship conference "RIs beyond 2020 – sustainable and effective ecosystem for science and society** », organized by the Ministry of Education and Science of the Republic of Bulgaria
- **OECD Global Science Forum**, International Workshop on “Establishing a reference framework for assessing the **Socio-Economic Impact of Research Infrastructures (SEIRI)**”, 19-20 March 2018. EMBRC is invited to attend and will be one of the case studies presented.
- **EMBRIC – CPMR**: Blue Bioeconomy Meeting. The EMBRIC project invited EMBRC to a round table discussion on coupling the smart specialization strategies in the maritime regions with investment policies to promote

innovation in marine biotechnology. CPMR Headquarters, Brussels, 20 March 2018.

- **“Releasing the economic potential of marine biotechnology”**. The EMBRIC project has organised an event at the **European Parliament, in Brussels** to present this case to the **SEARICA Intergroup**.

Committee of the Nodes Meetings (CoN)

- **CoN Meeting IX**, 27-28 Feb 2017, Faro, Portugal

Upcoming EIB/GA Meetings

- **EIB Meeting**: 21-22 February, 2018, Lisbon
- **1st GA Meeting & EMBRC-ERIC Launch**: 15-30 April 2018 (precise date to be confirmed):
 - **2nd GA**: 17-18 July 2018
 - **3rd GA**: 20-21 November 2018

Other Events

- **Columbus**, 24 January 2018, Brussels, for the COLUMBUS H2020 project’s third and final Annual Blue Society Knowledge Transfer Conference. Florence Guillot in Attendance.
- **AssemblePlus**: 7-8 February 2018, SZN, Naples, Workshop on the Harmonization of Access Procedures.