

EMBRC HQ Update - N.10

15th February – 15th April 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 February-15th April 2018.*

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

ERIC Status

- On the 20th of February 2018, The European Commission adopted the Implementing Decision to establish the European Marine Biological Resource Centre, as the 18th European Research Infrastructure Consortium, with the name of “EMBRC-ERIC”.
- The Publication of the Decision is on the EU Official Journal (OJ L 51, 23.2.2018, p. 17–22). The Official documents can be downloaded from these links:
 - I) Commission Implementing Decision (EU) 2018/272 of 20 February 2018 on setting up the European Marine Biological Resource Centre (EMBRC-ERIC)
 - [<http://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/?uri=CELEX:32018D0272>]
 - II) Statutes of the European Marine Biological Resource Centre — European Research Infrastructure Consortium (EMBRC-ERIC)
 - [<https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/?uri=CELEX%3A32018Y0223%2801%29>]

The **founding Members of EMBRC-ERIC** are: The Kingdom of Belgium, the French Republic, the Hellenic Republic, the State of Israel, the Italian Republic, the Kingdom of Norway, the Portuguese Republic, the Kingdom of Spain and the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland.

- The **first General Assembly of EMBRC-ERIC** will take place on the 3rd of May 2018, in Paris.
- The EMBRC-ERIC **launch event** and the handing over of the commemoration plate by the EU Commission has been postponed. In order to avoid losing the momentum, the Commission suggests a date in the second half of June, to be verified with the GA delegates during the 1st GA meeting.

ESFRI Report

- **ESFRI Report.** Following the ESFR Hearing, that took place on the 1st Feb 2018, in Brussels, 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:** A Working Group will be established to compete the RoOs, including all related policies. It will be chaired by Ilaria Nardello, the Executive Director, and will include Melinda Matthews as the EMBRC-ERIC legal officer, a limited number of EMBRC representatives from either EIB or CoN, and one external expert consultant.
- An accounting cabinet (Expertens) was chosen after exploring the accounting needs of EMBRC-ERIC with various practices: accounting setup; periodic financial reporting ; payroll, HR contracts, collective labour schemes. 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

- EMBRC-ERIC **expenditure report 2015-2017** will be presented during the first GA (3rd May, in Paris).
- The EMBRC-ERIC **Budget 2018** will be presented during the first GA (3rd May, in Paris).

- The EMBRC-ERIC **Workplan** 2018 will be presented during the first GA (3rd May, in Paris).

HR Recruitment

The HR employed by SU in the Secretariat will see their contract expire soon. The EMBRC-ERIC will then call for a number of positions to employ HR directly through the new legal entity instead of SU. A newly recruited Financial and Administration Officer (FAO) will join the Secretariat on the 2nd of May. This contract will be with SU for one year, therefore there may not be a need to advertise this position again in 2018.

Calls for all open positions will be published in the late spring, including:

- Executive Director
- Project Manager
- Administrative Assistant
- Access Officer
- Communication Officer (if Granted by the EIB/GA)

EU Projects

- During the CoN IX 27-28 February 2018, a full day was dedicated to the evaluation of the coming H2020 funding opportunities. EMBRC-ERIC is 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.
- A **Working Group** has gathered in Paris on the 16th and 17th of April, to start drafting the **INFRADEV III** proposal. This is a call for individual Research Infrastructures to respond, and therefore it is a crucial opportunity for EMBRC-ERIC.

Policy engagement

- **The European Union – Latin America and Caribbean (EU-LAC) Working Group on Research Infrastructures** met for the first time in Brussels, on the 14th March. EMBRC_ERIC was one of only three ESFRI RIs invited to the talks. Requests of further information have been received by the working group members and bilateral conversations with Colombia and Argentinian have ensued already.
- 20 February 2018, Ilaria Nardello was invited to **Circular Economy Stakeholder Conference**, taking place in Brussels, Directorate-General Internal Market, Industry, Entrepreneurship and SMEs Clean Technologies and Products Unit.
- **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 was invited to attend and will be one of the case studies presented.
- **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. Antonio Villanueva was in Attendance on behalf of EMBRC.
- **“Releasing the economic potential of marine biotechnology”**. The EMBRIC project has organised an event at the **European Parliament**, in Brussels on the 20th-21st of February, to present this case to the **SEARICA Intergroup**. Antonio Villanueva was in Attendance on behalf of EMBRC.

Committee of the Nodes Meetings (CoN)

- **CoN Meeting IX**, 27-28 Feb 2018, Faro, Portugal
- **CoN Meeting X**, 21-22 May 2018, Piran, Slovenia

Upcoming EIB/GA Meetings

- **19th EIB Meeting**: 2nd May 2018, Paris
- **1st GA Meeting**: 3rd May 2018

Other events

- **II ERIC Forum Meeting**, Oxford, 19th-20th April. Ilaria Nardello in attendance.