

EMBRC HQ Update - N.12

15th June – 15th September 2018

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Background: *The EIB requested the ED to regularly prepare an update on the work progress, with a monthly-bimonthly frequency. The present report exceptionally covers the period 15th June-15th September 2018, due to the summer break.*

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

ERIC Status - Towards the operational phase

- The **EMBRC-ERIC launch event** and the handing over of the commemoration plate by the EU Commission took place on Tuesday the 19th of June in Paris and gathered about 40 high level representatives at Governmental, Commission, University and Operators levels. The launch event was followed by the 2nd GA meeting on Wednesday the 20th of June. More information on: <http://www.embrc.eu/newsroom/embrc-eric-launched>
- The **second General Assembly of EMBRC-ERIC** took place on the 20th of June in Paris. A working group for the preparation of the EMBRC-ERIC Rules of Operations was established.
- The General assembly approved on the 10th of September by written resolution an **updated Annex 1 of the EMBRC-ERIC Statutes**, which includes the full list of EMBRC-ERIC Member's representative entities, entities representing the nodes, and all operators. This update is currently under approval by the European Commission.
- EMBRC_HQ recently **finalised administrative issues**.
 - EMBRC-ERIC now has a **Bank account**;

- **Insurance contracts** are being evaluated (Civil Responsibility and Liability, Offices, Travels, complementary Health Insurance);
- The **Accounting cabinet** was selected: Cabinet Expertens. It is the same Cabinet as ECRIN's;
- The **Legal Cabinet** was selected: Cabinet Victoire.
- **A framework agreement has been agreed** with Sorbonne Université **for the Transfer of Assets** to EMBRC-ERIC. As part of this agreement, the transfer of all the membership contributions received by UPMC/Sorbonne Université for the period 2016-2017 has been agreed and is under signature.
- **Establishment of the EMBRC WG on RoOs&Policies:** the goal of the Working Group on the EMBRC-ERIC Rules of Operations is to propose a consolidated and agreed draft of the Rules of Operations for comments and approval of the General Assembly. The first Working Group meeting will take place on 25th of September. The objectives of this meeting are to address comments received on the Rules of Operations and refine the policies of EMBRC-ERIC.

ESFRI Report

- **ESFRI Report.** Upon conclusion of a one-year process of updating its Roadmap, ESFRI promoted EMBRC-ERIC as a Landmark in the ESFRI Portfolio of world-class Research Infrastructures, for EU research excellence and competitiveness. The Launch of the “2018 ESFRI Roadmap on Research Infrastructures in Europe” took place in Vienna on the 11th of September, where EMBRC-ERIC was presented as a Landmark infrastructure. The overall ESFRI evaluation of EMBRC-ERIC concluded that EMBRC is an excellent research infrastructure, ranking from high to very high in all evaluation criteria.

HR Recruitment

- EMBRC-ERIC called for a number of **positions to be filled at the Paris Headquarters**. The number and quality of applications was more than satisfactory. The interview process is concluded for two posts, and in progress for the other posts. All posts are expected to be filled by the year end. The list of positions called for:

- Executive Director (deadline 31st of July)
- Project Manager
- Administrative Assistant
- Access Officer
- Communication Officer

Policy engagement

- **EU-LAC: EMBRC-ERIC selected to host a visit of “Latin American and Caribbean” delegations.** Detailed formal news to follow shortly.
- **South-Atlantic Cooperation:** EMBRC-ERIC was invited to attend the second high-level stakeholder conference in Salvador, Bahia, Brazil, 23rd-24th July. The aim to further operationalise the Belem Statement for South Atlantic Research and Innovation Cooperation. EMBRC-ERIC was represented by Marco Borra (SZN).
- EMBRC-ERIC participated **2018 CTLS Congress**, which took place in Ghent from 1st-4th of July 2018. Core Technologies for Life Sciences (CTLS) is a non-profit association that aims to bring together scientists, technical and administrative staff working in or in close association with shared resource laboratories, such as core facilities (CFs), and research infrastructures.
- **ESFRI Launch of the ESFRI Roadmap 2018 event, 11th September:** Ilaria Nardello was invited to the launch of the new ESFRI Roadmap 2018 on Large Scale Research Infrastructures. ESFRI Chair Giorgio Rossi will present the 2018 ESFRI Roadmap. The event mainly consisted of a discussion around the prospects and important challenges presented by this Roadmap update. The ESFRI Roadmap 2018 program is available at: <http://www.esfri.eu/agenda-launch-2018-esfri-roadmap>
- **4th International Conference on Research Infrastructures (ICRI), 12th-14th of September, Vienna.** International event focussing on international cooperation between research infrastructures, with participants from more 50 countries. Ilaria Nardello invited to **address the plenary audience on day one**. The event was organised

by the Austrian Federal Ministry of Education, Science and Research, with funding from the European Union.

- EMBRIC-ERIC was represented at the “**Meet the Regions meeting**” took place on the 17th of September in Heraklion, Crete. The meeting promotes the creation of an innovative ecosystem for the Blue Economy in collaboration with the Regions.

EU Funding

See **Annex one** for a full prospect of our engagement in EU funding during the first semester of 2018.

Ongoing EU project activity and initiatives

- See **Annex one** for a full prospect of our engagement in EU funding during the first semester of 2018.
- The **EMBRIC USP evaluations** took place on the 15th of June.
- **BG-08-2018-2019**, All Atlantic Ocean Research Alliance Flagship: «**AtlantEco**», coordinated by SZN was submitted in September 2018.
- **CORBEL Executive Board** took place on the 3rd of September (over Teleconference)
- **EMBRIC GA** the meeting will take place from the 18th to the 20th September.
- **INFRADEV III** proposal writing, 3rd meeting, will take place on the 9th October, Galway, Ireland.
- **The General Assembly of Assemble Plus H2020** project will take place on the 10-12th October, Galway, Ireland

Governance Meetings

- **CoN Meeting XI**, 8th October 2018, Galway, Ireland
- **3rd General Assembly**, 20th-21st of November (location to be defined)

Other events

- EMBRIC-ERIC will be represented during the **53rd European Marine Biology Symposium (EMBR 53)**, 17th-21th September 2018. It will be organized in Ostend by the Flanders Marine Institute (VLIZ) and LifeWatch and aims at linking the history, the present and the future of (European) marine biology.

- Ilaria Nardello will participate to the **2018 BioMarine Business Convention**, 2nd-4th October in Cascais, Portugal.

TEXT TO BE UPDATED

Annex I

Involvement of EMBRC-ERIC in H2020 proposals

Status Summary of ongoing proposals

N.	Name of the Proposal	Status
1	INFRAEOSC-04-2018 – EOSC-Life: Providing an open collaborative space for digital biology in Europe	Granted
2	INFRASUPP-01-2018-2019 (b1) - ERIC Forum: ERIC Forum Implementation Project	Granted
3	INFRASUPP-01-2018-2019 – RI-VIS: Expanding research infrastructure visibility to strengthen strategic partnerships	Granted
4	INFRAIA-01-2018-2019 – Micro4Life: Fostering life sciences through microorganisms as the basis for a circular bioeconomy	Pending budget availability
5	BG-08-2018-2019 – AtlantECO: Atlantic ECOSystems assessment, forecasting & sustainability	Submitted
6	Infradev-3-2019: Individual support to ESFRI and other world-class research infrastructures	Pending submission

Detail of applications**1. INFRAEOSC-04-2018 – EOSC-Life: Providing an open collaborative space for digital biology in Europe (GRANTED)**

Coordination	European Molecular Biology Laboratory
EMBRC-ERIC's status in the consortium	partner (beneficiary)
EMBRC-ERIC's linked third parties	VLIZ, University of Gent, University of Vigo, University of Basque Country, CCMAR
Budget expected	1 248 870 €
Other member of EMBRC-ERIC involved in the consortium (beneficiary)	Sorbonne Université
Budget expected	189 662, 50 €
Nodes represented in the consortium	BE, SP, PT and FR

Involvement in the project	<p>EMBRC-ERIC (incl. linked third parties) is involved in WP:</p> <p>WP1: Publishing FAIR RI data resources in EOSC (36PM)</p> <p>WP2: Tools collaborator: deployment of life-sciences data integration and analysis workflow in EOSC (12PM)</p> <p>WP3: Demonstrators and open calls for user projects (21PM)</p> <p>WP4: Policies, specifications and tools for the management of data for biological and medical research (20PM)</p> <p>WP6: FAIRification and provenance services (24PM)</p> <p>WP8: International impact, innovation and sustainability (1PM)</p> <p>WP9: Training of the EOSC life community (6PM)</p> <p>Within WP1 VLIZ will provide the data experts that will work on connecting the data resources to the EOSC and support the related demonstrators and calls. Within WP2 VLIZ will contribute to the developments of the tools collaboratory and support the related demonstrators and calls. Within WP6, along with UVIGO and UPV, VLIZ will design specific mechanisms that contribute to the compliance of data with ABS principles. Within WP8, VLIZ will contribute to the developing the inter-cluster activities.</p> <p>CCMAR will undertake the implementation of a genome annotation platform: Marine Eukaryote Genomics Portal – access to tools and data-flows for marine genome annotation.</p> <p>UGENT will contribute to training the EOSC-Life end users and contributing to the training impact assessment.</p> <p>UVP/EHU will analyse the policies regarding ABS legislation that should face the different infrastructures according to their needs and services offered. UPV/EHU will work in the delineation of the framework and the pipelines for the provenience tracking of any piece of biologic information obtained from a genetic resource in a FAIR context.</p> <p>Sorbonne Université is involved in WP2 (21PM).</p>
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2. INFRASUPP-01-2018-2019 (b1) - ERIC Forum: ERIC Forum Implementation Project (GRANTED)

Coordination	BBMRI-ERIC
EMBRC-ERIC's status in the consortium	Partner (beneficiary)
EMBRC-ERIC's linked third parties	University of Vigo, University of Basque Country
Budget expected	65 800 € EMBRC-ERIC: 34 100 € UVIGO: 9 600 € UPV/EHU: 22 100 €
Other member of EMBRC-ERIC involved in the consortium (beneficiary)	None
Budget expected	N/A
Nodes represented in the consortium	Spain
Involvement in the project	EMBRC-ERIC (incl. linked third parties) is involved in: WP1 Project management (0.25PM) WP2 Governance model (0.25PM)

	WP3 Operation, administration, HR and finance of ERICs (1PM) WP4 Evaluation and Impact assessment (5PM) WP5 Communication and dissemination (0.75PM) WP6 Role of ERICs in European science policy and research strategy (0.5PM) For WP4, EMBRC-ERIC is responsible for delivering D4.4 “Report and proposal for model sustainability business plan for ERICs” due at M48.
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3. INFRASUPP-01-2018-2019 – RI-VIS: Expanding research infrastructure visibility to strengthen strategic partnerships (GRANTED)

Coordination	INSTRUCT ACADEMIC SERVICES LIMITED
EMBRC-ERIC's status in the consortium	Partner (beneficiary)
EMBRC-ERIC's linked third parties	CCMAR
Budget expected	263 375 €
Other member of EMBRC-ERIC involved in the consortium (beneficiary)	None
Budget expected	N/A
Nodes represented in the consortium	Portugal
Involvement in the project	EMBRC-ERIC (incl. linked third party) is involved in: WP2 Mapping and enabling new partnerships (1PM) WP3 Outreach events (1PM) WP4 International cooperation (1PM) WP5 Long-term sustainability of RIs (co-leader) (22.5PM) For WP5, EMBRC-ERIC is responsible for delivering D5.1 “communication standards toolkit” due at M12, D5.2 “proceedings of international conference” due at M25 and D5.3 “staff exchange report” due at M26.

4. INFRAIA-01-2018-2019 – Micro4Life: Fostering life sciences through microorganisms as the basis for a circular bioeconomy (Pending budget availability)

Coordination	Institut Pasteur
EMBRC-ERIC's status in the consortium	Partner (beneficiary)
EMBRC-ERIC's linked third parties	None
Budget expected	39 187.50 €
Other member of EMBRC-ERIC involved in the consortium (beneficiary)	Sorbonne University, CCMAR
Budget expected	SU: 168 872.50 CCMAR: 434 781 €

Nodes represented in the consortium	France and Portugal
Involvement in the project	<p>EMBRC-ERIC is involved in:</p> <p>WP3 Long-term sustainability plans for Micro4Life legacy outputs for bioindustry (4PM)</p> <p>WP9 Project management (1PM)</p> <p>SU is involved in:</p> <p>WP1 Virtual Access to mBRC information systems and to associated data (4PM)</p> <p>WP2 Establishing a global compliant framework for exchange of high quality microbial resources (4PM)</p> <p>WP3 Long-term sustainability plans for Micro4Life legacy outputs for bioindustry (4PM)</p> <p>WP7 Transnational access activities (6PM)</p> <p>WP9 Project management (1PM)</p> <p>CCMAR is involved in:</p> <p>WP1 Virtual Access to mBRC information systems and to associated data (5PM)</p> <p>WP2 Establishing a global compliant framework for exchange of high quality microbial resources (4PM)</p> <p>WP3 Long-term sustainability plans for Micro4Life legacy outputs for bioindustry (1PM)</p> <p>WP4 Gaining access to novel microbial resources through integration of digital information, next generation microbial culturomics, and biobanking expertise (12PM)</p> <p>WP5 Develop the knowledge and use of the biological resources of the infrastructure to facilitate innovations and industrial applications (36PM)</p> <p>WP6 Development of microbial science tools for schools and other civil stakeholders (5PM)</p> <p>WP7 Transnational access activities (28PM)</p> <p>WP8 Impact, dialogue and outreach (12PM)</p> <p>WP9 Project management (1PM)</p>

5. BG-08-2018-2019 – AtlantECO: Atlantic ECOSystems assessment, forecasting & sustainability (Submitted)

Coordination	Stazione Zoologica Anton Dohrn
EMBRC-ERIC's status in the consortium	Partner (beneficiary)
EMBRC-ERIC's linked third parties	HCMR, UVIGO, UGENT
Budget expected	Information will be provided at the second stage submission
Other member of EMBRC-ERIC involved in the consortium (beneficiary)	Sorbonne University, NERC, OGS
Budget expected	Information will be provided at the second stage submission
Nodes represented in the consortium	France, UK, Italy
Involvement in the project	Information will be provided at the second stage submission

6. Infradev-3-2019: Individual support to ESFRI and other world-class research infrastructures (*To be submitted in 2019*)

The call for proposals will be opened on November 14th 2018.

The deadline to submit the proposal is March 20th 2019.

The Commission considers that proposals requesting a contribution from the EU of between EUR 2 and 5 million would allow this topic to be addressed appropriately.

Coordination: EMBRC-ERIC

Consortium: as of now the consortium is composed of the following partners (beneficiaries):

- University of Vigo
- University of Basque Country
- Sorbonne University
- Royal Belgian Institute of Natural Sciences
- VLIZ
- HCMR
- University of Jerusalem
- Stazione Zoologica Anton Dohrn
- University of Algarve
- British Antarctic Survey

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