

EMBRC HQ Update - N.16

15 April 2019 – 15 June 2019

Prepared by: EMBRC HQ

Summary: *The GA requested the ED to prepare, on a regular basis, an update on progress with a bimonthly frequency. The present report covers the period 15 April 2019 to 15 June 2019.*

Scope: *to update the GA on the progress of main items of the work activity at the EMBRC-ERIC Headquarters.*

General activities

HR

- Interviews were held for the **Financial Administration Officer** role on 17 April. Alexandra Vasic was selected for the role and commenced the position on 3 June.
- Davide Di Cioccio joined EMBRC-ERIC as **Access Officer** on 3 June, leaving his role at Stazione Zoologica Anton Dohrn in Naples, Italy. Davide will be organising the access to EMBRC and handling the TNA call for ASSEMBLE Plus.
- The post of **Communication Officer** was advertised on the following platforms: Nature Careers, Earthworks Jobs, Jobs.ac.uk, LinkedIn and social media channels. The post attracted 25 candidates. Interviews are expected to take place late June/early July.

Communication

- An article written collaboratively by Sidonie Gras and Nicolas Pade was submitted for inclusion in the July edition of the Open Access Government publication. The article is titled 'Building a Sustainable Future from our Oceans'.

Governance Meetings

- The **4th EMBRC-ERIC General Assembly** was held at the Old Course Hotel in St Andrews, Scotland, from 13-14 May. EMBRC-ERIC Secretary, Elena Billi-Rizza, circulated the first version of the minutes from the meeting on 23 May. Some notable outcomes from the meeting include:
 - The establishment of a Scientific and Innovation Board (SIB): volunteers among GA members to select and propose a list of possible members. The SIB will be convened once EMBRC-ERIC has updated its scientific strategy.
 - Implementation of new accounting system with the help of the new FAO.

- The GA approved the 2019 Workplan and Budget: at the beginning of September the ED and FAO will propose a budget template to the Chair, EG and AC.
- The GA requested the implementation of a mechanism to consider and formally approve EMBRC engagement in future projects.
- This HQ Update will be issued every three months, rather than bimonthly as has been the practice until now.
- Nicolas Pade visited **EMBRC-BE**, Ghent, on 25-26 April 2019. All EMBRC-BE sites presented their services and facilities, and a general discussion on the operation of the RI and links between the hub and nodes took place.
- As part of the visit to ERIC FORUM, Nicolas Pade visited **EMBRC-NO** on 8-9 May. The visit included discussions on the functioning of a national infrastructure, links between EMBRC-NO and ELIXIR-NO and visits to the services in and around Bergen.
- The agenda for the **CoN 13 meeting** was circulated on 28 May. The two-day meeting will be held at the Stazione Zoologica Anton Dohrn in Naples. Among the items for discussion are Upcoming H2020 Proposals; Feedback from the General Assembly; and the EMBRC-ERIC scientific strategy.
- The dates and location of the **5th EMBRC-ERIC General Assembly** have been announced. The meeting will take place in Eilat, Israel, on 27-28 November 2019.

Other events

- Nicolas Pade and Melindy Matthews attended the **4th ERIC FORUM** meeting from 7-8 May in Oslo. The forum discussed the structure of ERICs, including VAT issues, and EMBRC sought engagement in the WG on Future Issues.
- Professor Adelino Canário attended **SUST-BLACK**, the Conference on Sustainable Development at the Black Sea, from 8-9 May in Bucharest.
- Sidonie Gras attended a duo of **RI-PATHS** workshops in Hamburg and Cambridge on 8-9 May. The workshops provided insight into the issues and considerations that come with evaluating the impact of a Research Infrastructure. The focus was on quantifiable economic impacts of research infrastructures and new ways of documenting network effects in research, innovation and training.
- Anne Emmanuelle Kervella (EMBRC-France & ABS Working Group) and Nicolas Pade attended the **DG MARE** workshop “Marine generic resources in areas beyond national jurisdiction: bridging policy, law, science and research development” on 21-22 May in Brussels. The aim of the workshop was to support the ongoing negotiations at the United Nations in the context of the Intergovernmental Conference. Nicolas Pade gave a presentation showing how RIs and collections can play an important role in accessing BBNJ and provide capacity building.
- Nicolas Pade and Sidonie Gras attended the **EMBRIC** End of Project meeting on 23 May in Paris. Discussions focussed on the best way to continue outputs from EMBRIC. Suggestions from EMBRC included maintaining a focus on industrial engagement and expanding current EMBRIC partners to include other RIs and communities.

- Melindy Matthews (EMBRC-ERIC Legal Officer) attended a meeting with **CERIC-ERIC** on 28 May in Trieste, Italy.
- Nicolas Pade attended the **EHUSEA** workshop, “Towards the definition of a EuroMarine Strategic Agenda on training” on 27-28 May in Capo Granitola, Sicily.
- Nicolas Pade presented EMBRC to the 13th Meeting of the **Group of Senior Officials** (GSO) on 3-5 June in Roscoff, France. The meeting was organised by the French Ministry of Higher Education, Research and Innovation in conjunction with the G7 meeting.
- Sidonie Gras attended the final **ENVRIplus** event on 4 June in Brussels. The day included presentations on Collaboration for better science, enhanced synergies, societal impact and Future prospects and needs of the ENVRI cluster.
- Nicolas Pade and Sidonie Gras attended the **EurOcean** Conference on 11-12 June in Paris. The discussions focussed on Sustainable marine resources; poster pitches; The land perspective for a healthy ocean; Bringing sea basin communities together; Oceans and human health; National perspectives for marine science contribution to Sustainable Development Goals; and Ensuring a sustainable ocean by 2030.
- Sidonie Gras attended a workshop on **FAIR data**, offered by ASSEMBLE Plus, on 13-14 June in Ostend. The purpose of the workshop was to introduce concepts and applications of FAIR data principles; introduce data management approaches; and improve skills in realising virtual access to data resources and long-term biological data series.
- Nicolas Pade took part in the **BLUEMED** Mediterranean Research Infrastructures Stakeholders Conference from 13-14 June in Paris. Dr Pade animated a discussion on the role of research infrastructure on bio-resource driven research.

Upcoming events

- **Horizon 2020's** Infrastructure information day, 17 June 2019, Paris
- **EMBRC** e-Infrastructure WG, 24-25 June 2019, Paris
- Atlantic Ocean Research Alliance **World Microbiome Day** event, 27 June 2019, Brussels
- **EMBRC** WG meeting on RoOS and Policies, 28 June 2019, Paris
- **CoN** 13, 4-5 July 2019, Naples
- **BMS** Retreat, 17th **CORBEL** meeting, 2nd **EOSC-Life** meeting, 10-11 July 2019, Sitges, Barcelona
- 15th European Ecological Federation Congress, 29 July – 2 August 2019, Lisbon
- 54th European Marine Biology Symposium, 25-29 August 2019, Dublin

The next HQ Update will be available by Friday 20 September 2019.