

EMBRC HQ Update - N.26

17 September – 17 December 2021

Prepared by: EMBRC HQ

The present report covers the period from 17 September to 17 December 2021.

Purpose: to update the EMBRC General Assembly (GA) on progress on the main items of work activity at EMBRC-ERIC headquarters (HQ).

General activities:

- EMBRC NORWAY visited HQ from 14-19 November 2021.
- The 9th EMBRC-ERIC General Assembly took place in Paris on 24 and 25 November. Since the COVID pandemic, this is the first time that GA members have met in-person.





- During the 9th EMBRC-ERIC General Assembly, it was voted that Sweden become a member of EMBRC as of 1 January 2022.
- Nicolas Pade was renewed as director for the new 5-year budgetary cycle.
- EMBRC France is participating in two new projects:
 - “Augmented Observatories of the National Marine Biological Resource Centre (EMBRC-France)¹” (AO-EMBRC): Three marine stations of EMBRC-FR will develop genomic observation following the same approach as EMO BON.
 - “Mutualised Digital Spaces for FAIR data in Life and Health Science” (MuDiS4LS): In partnership with the French Institute of Bioinformatics, EMBRC FR will participate in the management of metadata and make them accessible.

Governance meetings:

- Committee of Nodes 31 (CoN), in Faro, 28-29 September 2021:
 - Participants: Nicolas Pade, Gemma Gimenez Papiol, Ibon Cancio, Marco Borra, Sidonie Gras, Tatiana Tsagaraki, Deborah Power, Jan Vanaverbeke, Georgios Kotoulas, Bernard Kloareg, Axel Miller, Davide Di Cioccio
 - Aim: Determine if the TSD and Science Strategy have been implemented. Discuss new centralised services and how EMBRC can add value to services
- Committee of Nodes 32 (CoN), online, 13 December 2021:
 - Participants: Nicolas Pade, Gemma Gimenez Papiol, Ibon Cancio, Marco Borra, Sidonie Gras, Tatiana Tsagaraki, Deborah Power, Jan Vanaverbeke, Georgios Kotoulas, Bernard Kloareg, Axel Miller, Davide Di Cioccio
 - Aim: Review what happened during the GA

Communication:

- Finalisation of the specifications for a video on the ‘ABC’s of using EMBRC’;
- Social media/website campaigns:
 - Marine Scientist Monday: Ibon Cancio (EMBRC-ES) continued to create entertaining and informative texts on history’s greatest marine scientists, which the Communications Officer continued to publish/promote online. We discussed the possibility of turning the campaign into a printed book, which would be distributed to ‘friends and family of EMBRC’. As of now, it is anticipated that the campaign will run until end 2021.
 - LinkedIn articles and service highlights: nodes made contributions for September, October, and November; the piece for EMBRC UK (scheduled for January 2022) has been received; contributions for December will be published shortly.
 - Regular updates on social media platforms and website, including information on EMO BON sampling campaigns.

¹ <https://www.embrc.eu/newsroom/news/embrc-france-has-two-new-projects>



- **Communications Working Group:**

- Working Group meeting, 7 October 2021:
 - Participants: one or more representatives from each node
 - Aim: to harmonise and optimise communications activities at HQ and node level, and brainstorm on future potential communications activities
 - Next meeting: scheduled for 6 December 2021, but cancelled at the last minute due to COVID; the meeting will be rescheduled for January 2022 and will focus on the communications strategy for the coming year. New members will be introduced; EMBRC Italy has yet to replace its former member, but until then, Marco Borra will partake.

Services:

Access and benefit-sharing² (ABS)

- During the workshop 'KPI ad interim review' on 4 October 2021, the access officer and the liaison officers discussed the status of the implementation of the Key Performance Indicators after six months from the release of the KPI manual. Changes to some metrics and values of the KPI manual were also discussed.
- Davide Di Cioccio participated in the presentation of Open Research Europe on 15 October 2021. During the event, the framework, goals, and developments of the newly introduced 'Open Research Europe' platform were presented.
- Davide Di Cioccio and Arnaud Laroquette participated in the workshop on 'Persistent Identifiers for Research Facilities³' on 22 October 2021. The meeting focused on practices in the use of Persistent Identifiers (PIDs) in research facilities and the opportunity to introduce best practices for their use.
- On 4 November 2021, a first meeting took place with EMBRC biological resource suppliers to implement the EMBRC ABS Best Practice Guidelines.
- On 15 November 2021, the Access Officer presented the new access management system to liaison officers. During the workshop, a live demo of the system (feasibility check) was also provided.
- Davide Di Cioccio participated in the 'Socio-Economic Impact Assessment of Research Infrastructures⁴' workshop, organised by JERICO-DS (Joint European Research Infrastructure of Coastal Observatories), on 19 November 2021. The meeting focused on research infrastructures' approach to the use of KPIs and key impact indicators.
- On 30 November 2021, Davide Di Cioccio held a meeting with the OpenAIRE⁵ IT team to discuss the elements for the dashboard of EMBRC scientific outcomes (publications, datasets, etc.).

² <https://www.embrc.eu/services/access-and-benefit-sharing>

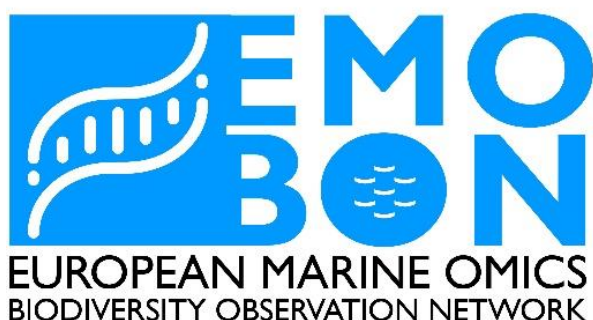
³ <https://www.panosc.eu/events/persistent-identifiers-for-research-facilities-workshop/>

⁴ https://docs.google.com/presentation/d/1XyJAFcgu-jfsHaMcc_QVusaq5LGAq-T0uipnNIWb-28/edit#slide=id.gd0cf33e34d_0_32

⁵ <https://www.openaire.eu/>



- **Access and benefit-sharing Working Group:**
 - ABS Working Group, 5 October 2021:
 - Participants: Nicolas Pade, Anne-Emmanuelle Kervella, Arnaud Laroquette, Ibon Cancio
 - Scope/aims: Implementation of ABS Best Practices
 - ABS Working Group, 16 November 2021:
 - Participants: Nicolas Pade, Anne-Emmanuelle Kervella, Arnaud Laroquette, Ibon Cancio, Ian Probert, Ioulia Santi, Katrina Exter
 - Summary: EMBRC ABS strategy, and its application to projects related to ABS (EBB extension and BlueRemediomics)
 - Next meeting: January 2022 (exact date TBD)



- EMO BON ran a session at the 5th Community Workshop of the IOC-UNESCO Ocean Best Practices System: An Ocean of Values⁶ to discuss the current sampling strategies for genomics, from 20-24 September 2021. The discussion included workflow checkpoints, characteristics of the environments, contextual data, and protocol repositories, and resulted in several suggestions and ideas.
- Two different legal frameworks that could cover EMO BON activities have been identified (UNCLOS, ABS). An email was sent to the ABS National Focal Points (NFP) from the countries where samples are collected, in order to request information on their national ABS measures and to obtain the UNCLOS contact. Four countries have replied so far. Reminder emails will be sent to obtain the missing information.
- The EMO BON Handbook⁷ became part of the Ocean Best Practices Repository and is now available to the whole ocean community. Through this, EMO BON supports open science.
- Ioulia Santi participated in the 'Plankton ecosystem functions, biodiversity, and forecasting - research requirements and applications'⁸ workshop organised by MBON (Marine Biological Observation Network) from 13-14 October 2021. The workshop aimed to provide an overview of the state of field, lab and modelling approaches used to study plankton biodiversity and discuss data needs for improving our understanding of the value of plankton, its functions

⁶ <https://workshop5.oceanbestpractices.org/>

⁷ <https://repository.oceanbestpractices.org/handle/11329/1734>

⁸ <https://eqmh.github.io/MBON-Plankton-Workshop/>



and ecosystem services. The meeting highlights will be produced as a peer-viewed publication.

- The 3rd and 4th EMO BON Sampling Events⁹ took place in October and December 2021. The 16 EMO BON observatories continue the long-term sea samplings to access marine biodiversity.
- In October and November 2021, the first shipment of EMO BON samples took place. Samples were transported from the 16 observatories to EMBRC HQ. There, the samples were collected, catalogued, and packed and sent to the French National Sequencing Centre - Genoscope for analyses. The analyses of the samples began in November 2021. For the purpose of sample preparation, the EMO BON project manager, Ioulia Santi came to Paris (27-28 October).

EMO BON events:

- EMO BON Metabarcoding Protocols meeting, 4 November 2021:
 - Participants (HQ): Ioulia Santi, Davide Di Cioccio
 - Aim: Discuss and evaluate the metabarcoding protocols that will be used for analysing the EMO BON samples. The discussed protocols will be conformed by the EMO BON Operational Committee
- 4th EMO BON Operational Committee (OpCo) meeting, 3 December 2021:
 - Participants (HQ): Ioulia Santi, Nicolas Pade, Arnaud Laroquette
 - Aim: To discuss the latest updates (samplings, samples transportation), the metabarcoding protocols and upcoming project proposals related to EMO BON
 - Next meeting: End January or beginning February 2022 (no date)

Projects:



- In September 2021, the ASSEMBLE Plus project officer confirmed the extension of the project for one year. The new deadline (September 2022) allows for the continuation of work package activities. Applicants accepted for transnational access can be hosted by July 2022.

⁹ <https://www.embrc.eu/newsroom/news/4th-emo-bon-sampling-event>



- The 5th General Assembly, 9 November 2021:
 - Participants (HQ): Nicolas Pade, Davide Di Cioccio
 - Summary: During the meeting, work package leaders presented updates of the work of Joint Research (JRA) and Networking Activities (NA). One of the main topics of discussion was the legacy of the activities conducted in the project, at one year from the end of ASSEMBLE Plus
 - Next meeting: September 2022 (no date)



- As part of WP7 on developing formal and informal learning, education, training and use of knowledge and technologies, EMBRC is conducting a gaps and opportunities assessment. To begin the process, EMBRC prepared and sent out surveys for collecting the 'Blue Growth' priorities for the Black Sea region from each country and collected information on existing training programmes.



EOSC-Life

- Regarding WP4 and WP6 from the EOSC-Life project, Arnaud Laroquette had two internal meetings to discuss the best way to complete the tasks. The document on FAIR data management has been updated to include the human microbiome in its scope. Now the project team has to find out which EOSC-Life member RIs are impacted by the document changes.
- The categorisation (tagging) system for the EOSC-Life WP4 toolbox on sensitive data has been updated and a final version 3 has been approved (<https://zenodo.org/record/5507324#.YXu8mZ5ByUk>). The project team is planning to publish the results in a journal.



- EMBRC participated in the drafting of the second WP6 draft policy brief on scaling-up research projects through ERICs: impact of big science on the research ecosystem. The policy brief will be finalised by January 2022.



- Drafting and finalisation of two 40-page guideline documents on communications with stakeholders in Latin American countries, and stakeholders in African countries (respectively); coordination of two separate Organising Committees, piloted by EMBRC's Communications Officer and EMBRC Portugal's Communications Officer; coordination of input on the documents (from Organising Committee members as well as the 20+ survey respondents for each region).
- Participation in a sustainability meeting (November 2021) to discuss the strategy to ensure the longevity of certain deliverables (including the RI-VIS toolkit, developed by EMBRC Portugal, and the guideline documents) post-project; preparation for the final project meeting, including input on the proposed agenda regarding communications outputs.

Other recent events

- '2nd ESFRI Forum Open Session¹⁰', 22 September 2021:
 - Participant (HQ): Nicolas Pade
 - Aim: The second ESFRI Open Session was organised as part of the 77th ESFRI Plenary Meeting to discuss the European Green Deal

¹⁰ <https://www.esfri.eu/esfri-events/2nd-esfri-open-session>



- 'European Culture Collections' Organisation (ECCO)¹¹, 22-24 September 2021:
 - Participant (HQ): Arnaud Laroquette
 - Aim: To promote collaboration and exchange of ideas and information about all aspects of culture collection activity
- 'Biodiversity Genomics 2021: sequencing genomes across the planet'¹², 27 September–1 October 2021:
 - Participant (HQ): Ioulia Santi
 - Scope/aim: The meeting focused on ground-breaking discoveries in biodiversity, new data and knowledge obtained by using genomics to access biodiversity. Ioulia Santi presented EMO BON workflow and future outcomes in a poster and a 'lightning' talk
- '*Solutions Fondées sur la Nature: définitions, concepts et attentes européennes*', organised by Café Relais, 30 September 2021:
 - Participant (HQ): Sidonie Gras
 - Aim: To educate participants on the concept of 'Nature-based Solutions'
- RI-VIS 'Australia-Europe Symposium on Research Infrastructures'¹³, 5-7 October 2021:
 - Participants (HQ): Nicolas Pade, Sidonie Gras
 - Aim: To promote collaboration and initiate networks sustainably
- 'Inauguration of the Swedish Biodiversity Data Infrastructure'¹⁴ week, 4-7 October 2021:
 - Participant (HQ): Ioulia Santi
 - Aim: To discuss the new biodiversity database of Sweden, how it works and what it offers, how to access it and what is published
- 'Marine Life 2030 - Decade Project'¹⁵, 13 October 2021:
 - Participants: Nicolas Pade, Linwood Peddelton,
 - Aim: To discuss opportunities between EMBRC and the Knowledge Action Network (KAN), more specifically to share knowledge on several axes for advancing society's grand challenges of managing activities for a healthy and resilient ocean
- 'Blue Cloud', 23 September 2021:
 - Participants (HQ): Nicolas Pade, Ioulia Santi
 - Aim: To contribute to the development of the Blue-Cloud Strategic Roadmap to 2030. This is a policy document that will guide some organisations 'such as the European Open Science Cloud, the pilot EU Digital Twin Ocean and relevant international initiatives contributing to the UN Agenda 2030 through the UN Decade of Ocean Science for Sustainable Development'

¹¹ <https://www.eccosite.org/>

¹² https://www.darwintreeoflife.org/news_item/biodiversity-genomics-2021-sequencing-genomes-across-the-planet/#:~:text=Life%20Enabling%20Funds-,Biodiversity%20Genomics%202021%3A%20sequencing%20genomes%20across%20the%20planet,research%20is%20Sunday%2C%20August%208.

¹³ <https://ri-vis.eu/network/rivis/events/australia---europe-symposium-on-research-infrastructures>

¹⁴ <https://biodiversitydata.se/news/swedish-biodiversity-data-infrastructure-launch-event/>

¹⁵ <https://www.oceandecade.org/actions/marine-life-2030-a-global-integrated-marine-biodiversity-information-management-and-forecasting-system-for-sustainable-development-and-conservation/>



- 'Horizon Europe Info Days'¹⁶, 25-26 October 2021:
 - Participant (HQ): Sidonie Gras
 - Aim: To give prospective applicants and other stakeholders of EU research and innovation the opportunity to get information and ask questions about the main funding instruments, and processes of Horizon Europe
- 'Supporting Implementation of the Post-2020 Global Biodiversity Framework' webinar organised by the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD), 26 October 2021:
 - Participant (HQ): Ioulia Santi
 - Aim: The purpose was to discuss the monitoring framework of the post-2020 global biodiversity framework (GBF) and to foster collaboration between stakeholders
- 'Ocean Biomolecular Observing Network (OBON)¹⁷ - UN Decade', 3 November 2021:
 - Participants (HQ): Nicolas Pade, Ioulia Santi
 - Aim: OBON (Ocean Biomolecular Observing Network) is a programme of the United Nations Decade of Ocean Science for Sustainable Development with the aim to create a digital representation of the ocean. The objective of the meeting was to present EMO BON and discuss its involvement as an endorsed project related to OBON
- 'Odyssey Final Conference'¹⁸, 3 November 2021:
 - Participant (HQ): Sidonie Gras
 - Aim: To present the final results to key target audiences: partners, the scientific community, marine-based industry (including SMEs), policymakers, public authorities, media, consumer organisations and the general public
- 'MBON and the organization of a global community for the Ocean Decade: Priorities, benefits, and co-design strategies'¹⁹ organised as part of the Marine Biodiversity Networking Friday by the Marine Biodiversity Observation Network (MBON) and the AIR Centre, 12 November 2021:
 - Participant (HQ): Ioulia Santi
 - Description: The event was an introduction and discussion on the Marine Life 2030 programme of the Ocean Decade
- 'World Congress of Marine Stations'²⁰, 17 November 2021:
 - Participant (HQ): Nicolas Pade
 - Aim: To present the EMBRC network and EMO BON, including its scientific, policy and societal results
- 'Biodiversa+'²¹, 17 – 18 November 2021:
 - Participant (HQ): Sidonie Gras
 - Aim: To present the benefits of interacting with Biodiversa+ and learn more about its Strategic Research and Innovation Action

¹⁶ https://ec.europa.eu/info/research-and-innovation/events/upcoming-events/horizon-europe-info-days_en

¹⁷ <https://www.oceandecade.org/fr/actions/ocean-biomolecular-observing-network-obon/>

¹⁸ <https://odysseaplatform.eu/events/odyssea-final-conference-nov-3-2021-0900-1700-cet/>

¹⁹ <https://www.aircentre.org/netfridays-marine-biodiversity-01/>

<https://www.aircentre.org/netfridays-marine-biodiversity->



- '2nd EuroGOOS Integration Workshop²²', 29-30 November 2021:
 - Participant (HQ): Nicolas Pade
 - Aim: To improve the integration between EuroGOOS Task Teams, Working Groups, and Regional Operational Oceanographic Systems (ROOS), align strategies, and improve engagement and cooperation
- 'Green transition for competitive and sustainable research infrastructures²³', 1 December 2021:
 - Participant (HQ): Sidonie Gras
 - Description: A virtual event to promote the green transition and more specifically for Research Infrastructures through a series of talks and a panel debate
- 'ESFRI Days²⁴', 6-7 December 2021:
 - Participant (HQ): Nicolas Pade
 - Description: After a two-year-long process of hard and meticulous work by a great number of scientists and ESFRI delegates, a new ESFRI Roadmap is to be published. The Roadmap will include 11 new Research Infrastructure Projects and report on the development of Research Infrastructures on the existing Roadmap. The ESFRI Days meeting served to present results and discuss next steps

Upcoming events

- 'EU - Russian Federation Symposium on Research Infrastructures²⁵', organised by CREMLINplus project together with the RI-VIS project, 17 December 2021:
 - Aim: The virtual symposium brings together delegates from Russian and European Research Infrastructures (RIs) which are active in different scientific domains, to raise awareness of the broad array of scientific opportunities offered to scientists and for RI cooperation in Europe and in the Russian Federation
- 'ERIC FORUM meeting 2022²⁶', organised by CREMLINplus project together with the RI-VIS project, 26-27 January 2022:
 - Aim: The virtual symposium brings together delegates from Russian and European Research Infrastructures (RIs) which are active in different scientific domains, to raise awareness of the broad array of scientific opportunities offered to scientists and for RI cooperation in Europe and in the Russian Federation

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[tps://eurogoos.eu/events/2nd-eurogoos-integration-workshop/](https://eurogoos.eu/events/2nd-eurogoos-integration-workshop/)

²³ <https://www.csc.fi/en/-/green-transition-for-competitive-and-sustainable-research-infrastructures-virtual-event-1-december-2021-11-30-13.00-cet>

²⁴ <https://www.esfri.eu/esfri-events/esfri-days-2021>

²⁵ <https://www.eric-forum.eu/event/eu-russian-federation-symposium-on-research-infrastructures/>

²⁶ https://www.eric-forum.eu/2021/11/08/save-the-date%E2%96%BA-eric-forum-meeting-2022/?utm_source=rss&utm_medium=rss&utm_campaign=save-the-date%25e2%2596%25ba-eric-forum-meeting-2022



- 'The 11th ENVRI week²⁷', organised by ENVRI-FAIR, 31 January to 4 February 2022:
 - Description: ENVRI week is an annual event dedicated to Environmental Research Infrastructures (RIs), including EMBRC (which is also considered a 'Life Science RI')

Links

- ASSEMBLE PLUS: <https://www.assembleplus.eu/>
- DOORS: <https://www.embrc.eu/newsroom/news/doors-project-kicks-tackle-pollution-black-sea>
- EMBRC: <https://www.embrc.eu/>
- EMBRC partners: <https://www.embrc.eu/partners>
- EMO BON: <https://www.embrc.eu/emo-bon>
- EOSC LIFE : <https://www.eosc-life.eu/>
- ERIC FORUM : <https://www.eric-forum.eu/>
- EUROMARINE: <https://www.euromarinenetwork.eu/>
- OpenAIRE: <https://www.openaire.eu/>
- RI-VIS: <https://ri-vis.eu/network/rivis/home>

Social networks

- EMBRC campaigns: <https://www.embrc.eu/campaigns>
- EMBRC LinkedIn: <https://www.linkedin.com/company/embrc>
- EMBRC Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/EMBRC.eu/>
- EMBRC Youtube: https://www.youtube.com/channel/UChjMOuNlWb_R4kb1ojt8t4A

Thank you to all our collaborators and supporters of EMBRC projects.

The next HQ Update will be available by Friday 18 March 2021.

²⁷ <https://envri.eu/event/envri-week-2022-save-the-date/>