EMBRC.be – The Belgian node of the European Marine Biological Resource Centre

Deprez Tim¹, Bossier Peter², Cattrijse André³, Chiers Koen³, De Clerck Olivier¹, Decostere Annemie³, Deneudt Klaas¹, De Troch Marleen³, Hernandez Francisco³, Mascart Thibaud¹, Moens Tom¹, Tkint Tim¹, Vanstappen Gilbert⁶, Verstraeten Tim¹, Willems Anne¹ and Vanreusel Ann¹

¹ Marine Biology Research Group, Ghent University, Krijgslaan 281 - S8, 9000 Gent, Belgium
E-mail: tim.deprez@ugent.be
² Laboratory of Aquaculture & Artemia Reference Center, Faculty of Bioscience Engineering, Ghent University
³ Flanders Marine Institute (VLIZ), InnovOcean site, Wandelaarkaai 7, 8400 Oostende, Belgium
⁴ Department of Pathology, Bacteriology and Poultry Diseases, Ghent University, Salisburylaan 133/D5, 9820 Merelbeke, Belgium
⁵ Laboratory of Phycology, Ghent University, Krijgslaan 281/S8, 9000 Gent, Belgium
⁶ Department of Animal production, Ghent University, Coupure Links 653/F, 9000 Gent, Belgium
⁷ Department of Biochemistry and Microbiology, Ghent University, K.L. Ledeganckstraat 35, 9000 Gent, Belgium

The European Marine Biological Resource Centre (EMBRC) is a pan-European research infrastructure providing a strategic delivery mechanism for excellent and large-scale marine science in Europe. EMBRC interconnects European marine research communities by upgrading and harmonizing their current infrastructures and services. It supports both fundamental and applied research based on marine bioresources and marine ecosystems and as such encourages the development of blue biotechnologies. EMBRC provides the suitable research environment for a variety of users from both academia and industry.

Presently, EMBRC has nine European and associated countries as full members. EMBRC strives to establish a legal structure as a European Research Infrastructure Consortium (ERIC) by the end of 2016, which will also lead to a restructuring of the organization of the Belgian node of EMBRC (EMBRC.be) with potential new partners. EMBRC.be is at date represented by Ghent University, University of Hasselt, Royal Belgian Institute for Natural Sciences and the Flanders Marine Institute.

EMBRC builds on existing marine biological facilities, equipment and human capital. It aims for long-term collaboration, development of common strategies and standards, and sharing of best practices related to the use of marine biological resources. Services, tailored to users from academia, industry and governments, include access provision to European marine ecosystems and biodiversity, marine model organisms, culture collections, technology platforms, e-infrastructure services and training facilities.

For more information: www.embrc.eu

Keywords: blue bio-economy; EMBRC; research infrastructure; biological resources