EMBRC-ERIC: A global reference research infrastructure for fundamental and applied marine biology and ecology research

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The European Marine Biological Research Centre (EMBRC-ERIC) is a supra-national distributed Research Infrastructure (RI) designed to further fundamental and applied marine biology and ecology research in renowned marine biological stations and institutes across Europe and associated European Union countries.

EMBRC-ERIC's mission aims at promoting the development of blue biotechnologies by supporting fundamental and applied research activities in medicine, nutrition, aquaculture, biotechnology, and fisheries, among others, thus ensuring long-term sustainability of marine stations.

Europe played a key-role in the creation of marine stations in the second half of the XIX century. These undertakings, which happened within a short period of ca. 30 years, were prompted by the necessity to study in detail the evolution of life, which originated and developed in the oceans, and to understand the diversity, sustainability and exploitation of marine life. The study and sustainable exploitation of the marine biological potential is only tractable with the integration of existing knowledge and capacities, through a world-class research infrastructure, such as EMBRC-ERIC, also in association with other relevant RIs.

EMBRC-ERIC thus provides a single access point to a unique portfolio of services, resources and knowledge. In particular, EMBRC-ERIC provides access to marine biological resources and ecosystems, state of the art experimental facilities and technology platforms to users from all sectors, for either precompetitive studies or commercial applications, and for education and training activities.

For that purpose, Joint Development Activities (JDAs) will continuously improve the existing services as well as enable the development of new services adjusted to the scientific and biotechnological research priorities of academic, governmental and industrial users and in response to emerging societal challenges. EMBRC-ERIC will provide the environment, facilities and expertise for the education and training of students and professionals in the life sciences.

Finally, Research Infrastructures (RIs) play an increasingly important role for the advancement of knowledge and technology in Europe and worldwide. Referring to facilities, services and resources, which are open to the scientific community to conduct top-level research, RIs bring together the suitable conditions and critical mass to enable cutting edge, large-scale research. The advancement of knowledge and technology towards Europe requires RIs to open up to the scientific community. EMBRC-ERIC is thus embedded in a strategic landscape of 48 RIs covering all research areas from biology to social sciences and physics to comply the long term needs of the European Research community.

EMBRC-ERIC is a vehicle for long-term programmatic planning, including acquisition or development of novel technologies, and coordinating information collection for open-access, interoperable data repositories, supporting excellent science pursuits and the establishment of new enabling technologies.

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