

THE EUROPEAN MARINE BIOLOGICAL RESOURCE CENTRE

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The European Marine Biological Resource Centre (EMBRC; www.embrc.eu) will comprise a distributed ESFRI Research Infrastructure of key European marine biological and molecular biology laboratories, together providing: 1) access to European coastal marine biota and ecosystems; 2) an integrated supply of marine organisms for interdisciplinary research, including models; 3) coordinated services including biobanks and platforms for genomics, structural and functional biology, microscopy and bioinformatics; 4) interdisciplinary training in marine biological sciences and genomics; and 5) outreach and consultancy. New and improved services will be provided for research, training, education and innovation. EMBRC targets users from across the biological, biomedical, geochemical and environmental sciences, from the public (academia, government, NGO) as well as the private sector (industry, SME), wishing to apply state-of-the-art approaches to study marine model organisms. EMBRC is currently in its third year of the preparatory phase with founding partners from Italy, France, Germany, Greece, Norway, Portugal, Sweden, and the UK together with aspiring partners from e.g. Belgium, Denmark, Israel and the Netherlands wishing to join in the implementation and construction phase. EMBRC plans to obtain ERIC status and is currently developing a Memorandum of Understanding with business plan and consortium agreement. The operational EMBRC will contribute to finding coherent solutions for exploiting the full economic potential of the seas in a sustainable way, minimizing the impact on the marine environment, following EUROPE 2020 and MARINE KNOWLEDGE 2020 objectives.