

# EMBRIC Newsletter



## EMBRIC News



### **Innovation Marine Biotech – Hopes and Hurdles**

Several barriers impede the blue bioeconomy from unfolding its strength. After running the Research Infrastructure cluster for 34 month, the EMBRIC consortium has identified several hurdles which slow down innovation in the field. These include obstacles

related to standards, investment capacity and sustainability of marine bioresources. Particularly needed are policies that decrease the risk-taking capacity of private investment, which would be essential to support the rise of the blue bioeconomy in peripheral maritime regions.

The EMBRIC consortium has started working with the Conference of Peripheral Maritime Regions ([CPMR](#)) to tackle these issues and to inform regional, national and European policy-makers. On the 20th of March, representatives of both, EMBRIC and CPMR will meet in Brussels to discuss these challenges. This will form the basis for the meeting "[Blue bioeconomy: Releasing the economic potential of marine biotechnology](#)" at the European Parliament where representatives of the European Commission will meet with Research Infrastructures and representatives of the private sector on the 21st of March. Agenda topics for this high-level meeting: the strategy of the EU for Marine Biotechnologies and how to push marine biotechnologies to the next level.

Dr. Harald Jahn, Head of Division of the Agribusiness and Rural Development, Division of the Projects Directorate of the European Investment Bank, will be opening the meeting. Confirmed speakers for this closed policy event are the Heads of Unit from Marine Research (DG RTD), Biotechnology and Food Supply Chain (DG GROW), Blue Economy Sectors, Aquaculture and Maritime Spatial Planning (DG MARE) and several

members of the Intergroup Seas, Rivers, Islands and Coastal Areas.

An **EMBRIC Press Release** including the main results of the events will be issued on the 21st of March.



## 'Blue Invest 2018' – Connecting companies and investors

The OECD estimates that the global maritime economy will grow at twice the rate of the mainstream economy by 2030. Blue Invest 2018 is a blue bioeconomy match-making event initiated to discuss how to best take advantage of this huge potential.

Blue Invest 2018 takes place on the 17th of May at the European Commission and brings together innovators and the financial community to boost the economic potential of the ocean while protecting its marine resources. The Commissioner for Environment, Maritime Affairs and Fisheries, Karmenu Vella, will open the event which includes a pitching contest for innovators in front of a panel of top investors, inspiring speaker and several networking opportunities, such as pre-arranged bilateral meetings for investment and project development opportunities.

The programme of the event can be downloaded [here](#). [Registration](#) is open until 10 May 2018.

## Discover our results

EMBRIC started in 2015 and has since then published various interesting results. If you want more insights and see what has been accomplished so far, please have a look [here](#).



**Deliverable 1.4**  
Production of a "vision paper" on the ambitions and scope of EMBRIC

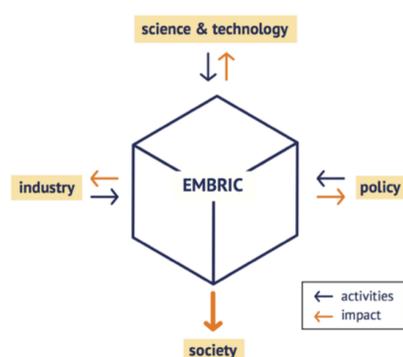


## Ambition and scope of EMBRIC

**Deliverable 1.4:** The unique biodiversity of marine organisms offers a huge economic potential. Currently, this potential remains largely unexploited due to a lack of connectivity between scientific research and industry and a high fragmentation of regional development and innovation policies. This paper shows what EMBRIC can do to overcome these barriers. Namely, to foster a closer cooperation of Research Infrastructures which can lead to a better exploitation of synergies within the Research Infrastructures, which can then accelerate the development of key enabling technologies and increase

technology transfer among the institutions.

Deliverable 1.4 will be published as an EMBRIC position paper in the [Springer book Grand Challenges](#) in Biology and Biotechnology later this year.



[Download the EMBRIC position paper here](#)

## Get to know ... EMBRC-ERIC

**This section introduces our EMBRIC Research Infrastructure team - this time: EMBRC-ERIC**

EMBRC-ERIC has nine founding members and is a pan-European Research Infrastructure (RI) for marine biology and ecology research. It aims to find answers to fundamental questions regarding the health of oceanic ecosystems in a changing environment, enables new technologies and supports life-science breakthrough discoveries with the use of marine biological models as well as continue long-term marine monitoring efforts.

On the 20th of February 2018, the European Commission adopted the Implementing Decision to establish the European Marine Biological Resource Centre, as the 18th European Research Infrastructure Consortium, with the name of “EMBRC-ERIC”. With this decision, the European Commission enabled the onset of the Operational Phase of EMBRC-ERIC. Congratulations EMBRC-ERIC!

[EMBRC-ERIC Press Release](#)

## EMBRC Open call

The [EMBRC Transnational Access \(TA\)](#) program supports research projects in marine biotechnology. It provides researchers from academia and industry with access to Research services for marine biotech at its partner institutes (Access Providers) to enable them to carry out their research projects on marine organisms.

Do you have a project that is innovative, dealing with marine biotechnology and realizable at the facilities of EMBRIC Access Providers? Please submit your project proposal until the 30 April 2018. For more information, please check out our [Application Guide](#).

More info on the TA program

## Open calls relevant for the EMBRIC community

### Call from Baltic Blue Biotechnology Alliance

The Baltic Sea Region's leading marine and biotechnology institutes are opening their doors: labs, brains, resources, expertise and facilities. They offer assistance in all kinds of areas, from scientific and technical development to contractual and financial expertise to marketing.

The Baltic Blue Biotechnology Alliance (ALLIANCE) is looking for promising cases in the field of blue biotechnology in need of dedicated expert support for product and service development. Case partners and their mentors will explore new ideas with the potential to develop sustainable and innovative products from marine biological resources that are relevant to and for the benefit of the Baltic Sea Region (BSR).

Invited to apply are start-ups, SMEs, academic institutions or students with novel products or service development ideas from marine biobased resources. Application is open until 5 March 2018. The most promising applicants will be invited to pitch their ideas to an international expert panel on 10 April 2018 in Copenhagen, Denmark.

More information on this call



## Upcoming EMBRIC events

- ENA Sequence Retrieval Course at European Bioinformatics Institute (EMBL-EBI) - Wellcome Genome Campus, Hinxton, UK, 13 March 2018
- [Register now](#)
- EMBRIC - CPMR blue bioeconomy meeting will take place at the CPMR headquarters in Brussels on 20 March 2018 (invitation-only event)
- Workshop "Releasing the economic potential of marine biotechnology" at the European Parliament in Brussels on 21 March 2018 (invitation-only event)
- Company Forum Workshop "Advances in Aquaculture Genetics: North meets South" in Bergen, Norway, 3-4 May 2018
- Computational molecular evolution, Heraklion, Greece, 6 May 2018
- EMBRIC General Assembly, Heraklion, Greece, 17-19 September 2018

### Other upcoming events

- Blue Invest 2018 - a blue bioeconomy match-making event at the European Commission, Brussels, Belgium, 10 May 2018  
[Register now](#)
- Blue Biotechnology in the Baltic Sea Region – from Science to Business, Brussels, Belgium, 22 -24 August, 2018

EMBRIC project  
<http://www.embric.eu/>



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