



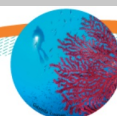
## EMBRIC News



### **Introducing our new scientific and technical manager, Amélie LECORNEC, a city-dweller with a heart turned towards nature**

Amélie joined the EMBRIC project in March as a scientific and technical manager. Holding two complementary master degrees - one in toxicology and one in project management - she worked at Sorbonne University for 2 years as European affairs and Technology Transfer officer before joining EMBRIC.

Thanks to her prior experience she has a broad vision of research funding processes (on the national and international level), and on how research generates innovation as well as to what extent it can be promoted, valued and transferred. Amélie's objective for the upcoming year is to contribute to the impact of the project - bringing innovation to society. For this purpose, she plans to join forces with the marine biotechnology community and to prepare the legacy of EMBRIC.



## **EMBRIC Press Release**

### **Taking the Blue Bioeconomy Forward**

**Brussels, 21. March.** The marine biotechnology is high on the political agenda. Around 70 experts, company representatives and policy makers met at the European Parliament on March 21 to discuss what is needed for a successful European blue bioeconomy. The debate at the fully booked event revealed: the potential of the oceans is uncontested among experts, but its exploration requires close cooperation and knowledge sharing, a strong focus on sustainability, political commitment and finally, investor and consumer enthusiasm. The event "Releasing the economic potential of marine biotechnology" was organised by the Intergroup Sea, Rivers, Islands and Coastal Areas with the support of the Conference on Peripheral Maritime Regions (CPMR) and the European Marine Biological Research Infrastructure Cluster (EMBRIC).

"We need more blue in the Bioeconomy Strategy," emphasized Felix Leinemann, Head of Unit Blue Economy Sectors at DG Mare in the European Commission, right in the beginning of the event. The marine stakeholders demanded politicians to take notice of the potential of marine resources and its sustainable exploitation within the ongoing revision of the European Bioeconomy Strategy. In 2018, several European initiatives are planned to put a spotlight on marine biotechnology, such as the Blue Bioeconomy Forum which will gather all relevant stakeholder groups to identify measures to open up markets for emerging blue biotech products or Blue Invest 2018, a match-making event taking place in Brussels that connects innovators to the financial community. "We see enormous potential in marine biotechnology," said Marco Weydert from DG Research and Innovation, and admitted: "Bringing the innovation into the market is still

a challenge.”

How to overcome existing hurdles was among the major topics discussed during the event. For the first time CPMR and EMBRIC joined forces to bring marine biotechnology and its potentials onto the political agenda. Several companies from the marine sector, cluster representatives and regional experts provided input on the obstacles they are facing. “Going out and discovering the diversity of our marine biology is the prerequisite of marine biotechnology,” stated Dermot Hurst from the Marine Institute in Ireland. “Without the costly discovery phase, no product would ever emerge.” All experts underlined that funding gaps can hinder innovation at all stages of the process – during research, pre-commercialisation or upscaling. They called for policies that decrease the risk-taking capacity of private investment, that are tailored to the blue biotech sector, that bridge innovation gaps, facilitate technology transfer and interlink the mosaic of marine research institutes and companies.

Gesine Meissner, MEP and Chair of the Intergroup on Sea, Rivers, Islands and Coastal Areas, closed the round by emphasizing that the addressed topics will be taken to the Parliament with the defined goal to support and promote the further development of a sustainable bluebioeconomy.

[Take a look at the programme](#)

[Read our twitter updates on the event](#)

[Press Release published on Il Bioeconomista](#)



## Discover our results



### **Transnational Access in EMBRIC - Success stories of the 1st call**

At the end of the 1st call of the Transnational Access (TA) program, the EMBRIC team invited all people involved in this first round to voice their experiences. The input received was included into the 2nd TA call that is still open until 30 April 2018. Follow the links below to read the success stories or discover how you can apply for the 2nd TA call.

### Cryopreservation of brown algae gametophytes



**Dr. Wouter Visch**  
University of Gothenburg  
(Sweden)

"Seaweed farming is the fastest growing sector of global aquaculture, but a relatively new industry in Europe. For seaweed aquaculture to be a successful newly emerging industry, it will have to develop sustainable production management strategies. An important step in this process is cryopreservation, which offers the possibility for long-term, stable storage of living cells. The EMBRIC grant enabled me to explore the use of different cryopreservation techniques on male and female kelp gametophytes at different laboratories. The results obtained in this EMBRIC funded project are very promising. Especially the between laboratory validation of our methods and exchange of expertise on this topic was key to its success. Additionally, working in a different cultural environment was a great experience."

[Read the success stories](#)

[Apply for the current TNA call](#)

## Get to know ... Aquaexcel

### This section introduces our EMBRIC Research Infrastructure team - this time: AQUAEXCEL

Aquaculture provides about half of the fish for human consumption worldwide. The demand for fish is rising, but fisheries are not expected to grow due to fully or over-exploited fish stocks. Aquaculture production seeks to meet this increasing demand for fish, but while the aquaculture sector is growing in the rest of the world, it has stagnated in Europe in recent years.

AQUAEXCEL tries to change this and supports sustainable growth in the aquaculture sector in Europe. It unites 39 top class European aquaculture research facilities that cover all relevant scientific fields, fish species and systems. The project provides a single access portal to high-quality services and resources tailored to the needs of the European aquaculture community. Nearly half of the project's €9.7 million budget will go into the provision of transnational access to research facilities and harmonised services for both academic and private sector users from the industry, especially SMEs. Academic and industry researchers will then be able to perform their research projects with "free of charge" access to top EU aquaculture research infrastructures which are not available in their country of origin.

[More information on the transnational access opportunities](#)

## Upcoming EMBRIC events

- Company Forum Workshop "Advances in Aquaculture Genetics: North meets South" in Bergen, Norway, 3-4 May 2018
- "Off the Shelf - Solutions for Fin- and Shell-fish selective breeding" in Montpellier, France, 25 August 2018
- Computational molecular evolution, Heraklion, Greece, 6 May 2018
- EMBRIC General Assembly, Heraklion, Greece, 17-19 September 2018

### Other upcoming events

- 4th GEO Blue Planet Symposium: our Future is Blue - Linking Ocean and Coastal Information with Societal Needs, Toulouse, France, 14 - 16 July 2018. Deadline for poster abstract proposals is: Monday 16 April 2018 ([Link](#))
- BlueInvest 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



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