

EUROPEAN MARINE BIOLOGICAL RESOURCE CENTRE AND EMSO ERIC SIGNED MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING

On December 21, 2018, EUROPEAN MARINE BIOLOGICAL RESOURCE CENTRE (EMBRC) and the EUROPEAN MULTIDISCIPLINARY SEAFLOOR AND WATER-COLUMN OBSERVATORY (EMSO ERIC) signed an important Memorandum of Understanding (MoU). The MoU strengthens collaboration in ocean science and technology between two Landmark European Marine Research Infrastructures in the ESFRI portfolio of world-class Research Infrastructures for EU research excellence and competitiveness.

According to Juanjo Dañobeitia, Director General of EMSO ERIC, “this MoU is essential because it strengthens the strategic partnership between two Landmark EU marine research infrastructures – EMBRC and EMSO - in the battle against those environmental threats which most affect European Seas and Polar regions and which impact the lives of millions of people worldwide. It sends a strong signal on the importance of working together to implement the United Nations’ Sustainable Development Goals and the key challenges we face in assuring the sustainability and the cleaning of oceans - from the reduction of marine litter and particularly of plastics, to minimization of oil-rig decommissioning marine pollution, to promoting and developing blue biotechnology sectors and jobs and countering anthropogenic threats to biodiversity.”



From left to right: Maria I. Fredella, EMSO ERIC Project Manager; Juanjo Dañobeitia, EMSO ERIC Director General; Ilaria Nerdello EMBRC Executive Director; Paola Materia EMSO ERIC Grants Program Officer.



ABOUT EMBRC-ERIC

The *European Marine Biological Resource Centre (EMBRC)* <http://www.embrc.eu/> is a pan-European Research Infrastructure for marine biology and ecology research. With its services, it aims to answer fundamental questions regarding the health of oceanic ecosystems in a changing environment, enable new technologies to further their investigation capabilities, support life-science breakthrough discoveries with the use of marine biological models, and continue long-term marine monitoring efforts. EMBRC-ERIC is a driver in the development of blue biotechnologies, supporting both fundamental and applied research activities for sustainable solutions in the food, health, and environmental sectors.

ABOUT EMSO ERIC

The *European Multidisciplinary Seafloor and water-column Observatory (EMSO)* <http://www.emso-eu.org> is a European Research Infrastructure Consortium (ERIC) which provides energy, communications, smart sensors, and a diversity of environmental data for continuous, high-resolution, (near-)real-time, ocean observations across a multidisciplinary range of research including biogeochemical, physics, engineering, and computer science, from polar to subtropical environments, through the water column down to the abyss and sub-seafloor. EMSO, a large-scale environmental European Research Infrastructure (RI) on the ESFRI Roadmap, has eight deep-sea and three shallow Regional Facilities spanning from the North Atlantic through Mediterranean, to the Black Sea. EMSO represents a fundamental contribution to understanding the key environmental processes in the medium-to-large changes with the long-term vision of creating the European Ocean Observing System (EOOS) and will play a key role providing *on site* observations for the COPERNICUS earth observation program.

ABOUT ESFRI

The *European Strategy Forum on Research Infrastructures (ESFRI)* <https://www.esfri.eu/forum> is a strategic instrument to develop the scientific integration of Europe and to strengthen its international outreach. The competitive and open access to high quality Research Infrastructures supports and benchmarks the quality of the activities of European scientists, and attracts the best researchers from around the world. ESFRI operates at the forefront of European and global science policy and contributes to its development translating political objectives into concrete advice for RI in Europe.

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