



A DECADE IN THE DEEP

CELEBRATING 10th ANNIVERSARY OF EMSO ERIC

Rome, Italy | 15-16 December 2026

INTRODUCTION & EVENT OVERVIEW

EMSO ERIC, the European Research Infrastructure Consortium that operates the European Multidisciplinary Seafloor and water column Observatory, celebrates its 10th anniversary as an ERIC this year. EMSO ERIC has operated the observatory infrastructure since 2016 through a distributed system spanning 14 Regional Facilities across 21 sites—from the Nordic Seas to the Black Sea and out into the Atlantic—run by more than two dozen institutions and delivering around 125 in-situ variables from the seabed to the sea surface. Over the last decade, EMSO has anchored Europe's marine research capabilities by providing uninterrupted, high-quality data from the ocean surface to the abyss, serving as an essential foundation for global environmental science and climate change research.

The infrastructure comprises cabled observatories, seafloor stations, mooring lines, surface buoys, and autonomous moving systems as well as shallow-water test sites. These facilities are open to the research community, allowing scientists and industry partners across Europe and beyond to freely access EMSO data online and apply for physical access to the observatories through the EMSO Physical Access programme. Today, EMSO stands as more than an infrastructure: it is a thriving ecosystem of researchers, engineers, and cutting-edge regional facilities dedicated to understanding our ocean's future.

To mark and celebrate this decade of scientific and operational achievement while discussing strategic priorities for the future of European ocean observation, EMSO ERIC will bring together key scientific, policy, and institutional stakeholders on **15 and 16 December 2026 in Rome**, Italy, at the [Hotel Barceló Roma](#).

Below is the provisional agenda for the event; further details are already accessible on our [official website](#), where the final program will also be published in due course.

Science Day

10 Years of EMSO Science: Observing the Changing Ocean

Tuesday, 15 December 2026 | Location: [Barceló Roma](#) |

TIME	PROGRAMME
08:30-09:00	<i>Welcome and registration</i>
09:00-09:30	Opening and vision EMSO's mission, science themes and the value of sustained deep-ocean observation Ingrid PUILLAT, EMSO ERIC Director General Dominique LEFEVRE, CNRS and Science Service Group Leader
09:30-10:00	Keynote lecture The Future of Ocean Observing Systems Henry RUHL, MBARI, Director of Central and Northern California Ocean Observing System
10:00-11:15	Ocean Dynamics Challenge Keynote, Sabrina SPEICH, CNRS-IPSL EMSO perspectives, Nadia LO BUE, INGV EMSO case study and discussion
11:15-11:45	<i>Coffee break</i>
11:45-13:00	Biodiversity Challenge Keynote, Nicolas PADE, CEO of EMBRC ERIC EMSO perspectives, Silvana NEVES, PLOCAN EMSO case study and discussion
13:00-14:30	<i>Lunch</i>
14:30-15:35	Geophysical Challenge Keynote, Roberta IVALDI, Istituto Idrografico della Marina Militare (IIM) EMSO perspectives, Davide EMBRIACO, INGV EMSO case study and discussion
15:35-16:05	<i>Coffee break</i>
16:05-16:50	Cross-cutting panel discussion
16:50-17:40	Poster pitches
17:40-18:40	<i>Poster session and icebreaker</i>

Programme timings and contributors may be updated as the event is finalised.

DAY 2 | MORNING

Information Session

Wednesday, 16 December 2026 | Location: [Barceló Roma](#) | Morning - 08:30-14:00

TIME	PROGRAMME
08:30-09:00	<i>Welcome and registration</i>
09:00-09:30	Opening: ten years of EMSO Ingrid PUILLAT, EMSO ERIC Director General
09:30-10:00	How does technology serve science in EMSO Dominique LEFEVRE, CNRS and Science Service Group Leader Alfredo MARTINS, INESC TEC and Engineering and Logistics Service Group Leader
10:00-10:20	Physical Access: achievements and impact Simo CUSI, EMSO ERIC Engineering and Logistics Officer; Physical access user
10:20-10:50	<i>Coffee break</i>
10:50-11:25	The Digital Sea: Virtual Access and the EMSO data journey Enoc MARTINEZ, UPC, Data Service Group Leader Aljaz MASLO, EMSO ERIC Science and Data Officer
11:25-12:05	A Decade of Discovery: EMSO's Scientific Achievements and Societal Impact, Scaling Subsea Innovation and Skills through EMSO Dominique LEFEVRE, CNRS, Science Service Group Leader, Sara PERO, EMSO ERIC Communication Officer Panel discussion
12:05-12:30	Towards the future and international collaborations Ingrid PUILLAT, EMSO ERIC Director General
12:30-14:00	<i>Lunch</i>

DAY 2 | AFTERNOON AND EVENING

10th Anniversary Ceremony

Wednesday, 16 December 2026 | Location: [Barceló Roma](#) | Afternoon - From 14:00

TIME	PROGRAMME
14:00-14:30	Opening welcome Ingrid PUILLAT, EMSO ERIC Director General Host-country and host-institution representatives
14:30-14:45	Assembly of Members address
14:50-15:10	Research Infrastructures in European marine strategy High-level European and Research-Infrastructure perspectives
15:10-15:20	EMSO corporate video
15:20-15:45	Scientific keynote Henry RUHL, MBARI, Director of Central and Northern California Ocean Observing System
15:45-16:15	Networking break
16:15	Access success story and closing address Celebrating achievements and looking to the future Closing speech: Ingrid PUILLAT, EMSO ERIC Director General
Evening	Anniversary social event

The final line-up of institutional representatives will be announced following confirmation.