

# EMBRC.be - The Belgian node of the European Marine Biological Resource Centre

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The European Marine Biological Resource Centre (EMBRC) is a distributed research infrastructure that aims to provide a strategic delivery mechanism for excellent and large-scale marine science in Europe. EMBRC aspires to interconnect the European marine research communities by upgrading and harmonizing their current infrastructures and services. It will support both fundamental and applied research based on marine bio-resources and marine ecosystems and as such encourage the development of blue biotechnologies. EMBRC will provide the suitable research environment for a variety of users from both academia and industry.

Presently, EMBRC has nine European countries and associated countries as full members. The EMBRC national nodes comprise research infrastructures located in leading marine biological stations and laboratories in Europe. The Belgian node is at date represented by Ghent University, University of Hasselt and the Flanders Marine Institute (VLIZ).

EMBRC builds on existing facilities, equipment and human capital in these coastal marine biological stations and laboratories. EMBRC aims for long-term collaboration, development of common strategies, sharing of best practices and the development of common standards related to the use of marine biological resources. Services, foremost tailored to users from academia, industry and governments, will include the provision of access to European marine, coastal ecosystems and biodiversity, marine model organisms, culture collections, technology platforms including imaging, omics and structural biology facilities, e-infrastructure services, as well as culture, laboratory and training facilities.

To achieve these goals, EMBRC strives to establish a legal structure in the form of a European Research Infrastructure Consortium (ERIC) by the end of 2016. The ERIC was invented by the European Commission to provide a suitable framework for the implementation and operation of European Research Infrastructures. EMBRC-ERIC is being built to facilitate marine science in Europe in the long-term and, based on the commitment of European member states, will be operational for a minimum of 25 years.

For more information: [www.embrc.eu](http://www.embrc.eu)

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