EMBRIC - Bringing Europe's Marine Blue Bio-Economy forward

Mascart Thibaud¹, Tim Deprez¹, Karolien Deprez², Wim Vyverman² and Ann Vanreusel¹

Marine Biology research group, Department of Biology, Ghent University, Krijgslaan 281/S8, 9000 Gent, Belgium

E-mail: thibaud.mascart@ugent.be

Laboratory of protistology and aquatic ecology, Department of Biology, Ghent University, Krijgslaan 281/S8, 9000 Gent, Belgium

The European Marine Biological Research Infrastructure Cluster (EMBRIC) is designed to accelerate the pace of scientific discovery and innovation from marine Bio-Resources. EMBRIC aims to promote new applications derived from marine organisms in fields such as drug discovery, novel foods and food ingredients, aquaculture selective breeding, bioremediation, cosmetics and bioenergy.

By conducting a comprehensive survey of available resources and techniques, EMBRIC will develop new pipelines and new industry standards.

By interconnecting science, industry and policy, EMBRIC will defragment regional research, development and innovation policies.

By implementing joint academia-industry development activities, EMBRIC will allow industry to directly integrate results and protocols in commercial processes.

By developing best practices and integrated training programs, EMBRIC will accelerate the pace of scientific discovery and innovation.

By connecting 6 existing European Research Infrastructures and 27 partners from Academia, Research institutes, non-for-profit organizations and industry, EMBRIC will facilitate technology transfer, knowledge transfer and transnational access.

The role of the Ghent University within EMBRIC is twofold:

- The marine biology research group, which has a long and outstanding tradition in coordinating training activities will be the EMBRIC work package leader on training and exchange of best practice.
- The laboratory of protistology and aquatic ecology will contribute to breeding and analysing improved microalgae for blue biotechnology applications

Finally, by clustering existing regional research infrastructures, joint academia-industry developments and by facilitating access and technology & knowledge transfer, EMBRIC will interconnect science, industry and policy and furthermore bring Europe's Marine Blue Bio-economy forward.

For more information: www.embric.eu

Keywords: EMBRIC; Europe; blue bio-economy; marine bio-resources; interconnect science and industry