



EMBRC
EUROPEAN
MARINE
BIOLOGICAL
RESOURCE
CENTRE

Criteria and processes for integration of new partners

Deliverable D9.5

October 2013

The EMBRC preparatory-phase



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1. Criteria and process for integration of new partners into EMBRC

The integration of new partners into EMBRC is taken care by a specific work package, WP9 (consolidation of EMBRC, embedding with stakeholders and the wider community), which is the contact point between EMBRC and Aspiring partners, and is also responsible to deal with other relevant stakeholders. EMBRC website has a section dedicated to inform potential aspiring partners who wish to join future EMBRC, or other relevant stakeholders who wish to interact with us for common interests <http://www.embrc.eu/index.php/partners/partnerships/get-involved.html>.

1.1 Criteria for integration of Associate partners in the EMBRC preparatory phase

1. Countries with **European coastline**.
2. Marine stations or Institutes in the countries above **providing access** to coastal marine biota and their ecosystems and / or research infrastructure, and that operate education, training and research programmes.
3. Those station(s) of the above that have **advanced research services**; for example, facilities for genomics, advanced imaging technology, climate control rooms and experimental facilities, aquaria and culture/maintenance facilities for marine organisms, local accommodation for visiting scientists.
4. Any **specialization** such as a particular service or key ecosystem should also be taken into account. Some redundancy would be acceptable (for example that bioinformatic services exist in several stations), but there should be differentiation and areas of added-value.
5. Failure to meet one of the criteria above does not automatically result in exclusion, i.e. an institute with a weak point can be allowed to improve on this point within EMBRC.
6. Partnership is at the country level. If there are several marine **stations/institutes in a country** then they should coordinate between themselves agreeing on a suitable mode of membership.
7. National support and **national and/or regional funding** is required to become part of the EMBRC construction phase.
8. Associated countries, third countries and intergovernmental organizations must recognize the legal personality and capacity of EMBRC-ERIC.

1.2 Process for integration of new partners (aspiring and associate partners) into EMBRC during the preparatory- phase

1. WP9 approaches or is approached by a marine institute interested in learning about ppEMBRC to possibly become an EMBRC member.
2. WP9 provides the marine institute (cc the Management Team) with a letter explaining:
 - a. that we cannot add any new partners to the preparatory phase of the project;
 - b. that we foresee a network of Aspiring partners that are welcome to attend (at their own cost and with no voting rights) all appropriate ppEMBRC meetings and workshops;
 - c. that during the preparatory phase, EMBRC will define (i) a set of measurable criteria against which eligibility of partners to enter the construction and implementation phase of EMBRC will be assessed (section 3.1) and (ii) a procedure for selection and subsequent integration of partners (this section);
 - d. that Aspiring partners fitting to the criteria above will receive a formal invitation letter, from the EMBRC point of view, to become a member in the implementation and operation phases of EMBRC and will be named Associate partner, during the preparatory phase.
 - e. that, in addition to the above mentioned criteria, only partners with national support can become a member in the implementation and operation phases of EMBRC;
 - f. that we will encourage them to approach their national/regional funding agency or other appropriate funding bodies, as soon as possible to receive a first “Letter of Support” for taking part in the preparatory phase activities.
3. If the enquiree is still interested WP9 informs the Steering Committee (SC) and lists this marine centre as an Aspiring partner in the ppEMBRC Stakeholder database (also asking for complementing infrastructure details). An Aspiring partner can follow the preparatory phase with no voting rights and no reimbursement of expenses.
4. If requested we provide Aspiring partners a site specific, non-formal, encouragement to follow the preparatory phase (cc the Management Team).
5. Only when the EMBRC member criteria are set (defined by WP9 based on the policy document defined by WP1 and submitted to the SC that proposes ratification to the GA) the Chair of the SC can provide Aspiring partners fitting to these a formal invitation letter, from the EMBRC point of view, to become a member in the

implementation and operation phases of EMBRC. They will also be invited to sign the Memorandum of Understanding (MoU, D5.5) and to apply for the future EMBRC Headquarters Call. Actual membership will, however, as stated above, only be possible for those partners (ppEMBRC partners and Associate partners) which will have received formal approval from their national governments to join EMBRC.

6. At this second stage (passed the criteria, invited by the Chair of the CS) these partners will become Associate partners. They will indeed have the same status as the ppEMBRC partners in regard to the possibilities to join the implementation phase but without being ppEMBRC members.
7. Aspiring partners not (yet) passing the criteria or not (yet) receiving national support are of course welcome to continue being Aspiring partners.
8. WP9 is responsible for the contact with the Aspiring partners (as well as with all other EMBRC stakeholders) which includes keeping an updated record (including their Letter of Support once received), making sure they are informed about the progress of the project, making sure they are invited to appropriate activities etc. Progress and updates are communicated regularly to the SC (cc to Management Team).
9. If WP9 needs to place an item on the SC meeting agenda, then the request and documentation are sent to the MO (info@embrc.eu) which will place it on the agenda of the next SC-meeting.

2. Potential new EMBRC partners

The potential new EMBRC partners already in contact with WP9 are:

- **BELGIUM:** Vlaams Instituut voor de Zee and University of Gent.
- **DENMARK:** Arktisk Station Disko, Greenland and Marine Biological Section Helsingør (University of Copenhagen), Danish Shellfish Centre (Danish Technical University), Daneborg and Zackenberg Stations, East Greenland, and Marine Biology Station, Roenbjerg (University of Aarhus), and Marine Biological Research Centre (University of Southern Denmark).
- **FINLAND:** Tvärminne Zoological Station – University of Helsinki.
- **IRELAND:** Irish Marine Institute, communicating with the Universities of Galway and Cork.
- **ISRAEL:** Interuniversity for Marine Sciences, Eilat.

- **LITHUANIA:** Coastal Research and Planning Institute (Klaipeda University).
- **NEDERLANDS:** Royal Netherlands Institute for Sea Research.
- **POLAND:** Institute of Oceanology, Polish Academy of Sciences.
- **RUSSIA:** White Sea Biological Station “Nikolai Pertsov” of Biology faculty of Lomonosov Moscow State University & White Sea Biological Station “Kartesh” of Zoological Institute of Russian Academy of Sciences.
- **SPAIN:** Marine Sciences Station of Toralla (ECIMAT), University of Vigo & Plentzia Marine Station (PIE) – Plentzia, University of the Basque Country.
- **TURKEY:** TÜBİTAK Marmara Research Center; the Environment Institute – Marine and Inland Water Unit.

From these, by August 2013, some were selected to become Associate Partners during the preparatory phase and were invited to sign the Memorandum of Understanding and join EMBRC under the construction phase: Belgium, Denmark, Finland, Israel, Lithuania, the Netherlands and Spain.

They are presently in different stages of negotiations with their national governments. The status of their national negotiations will be published soon in ppEMBRC D9.4 - Short-list of potential new EMBRC partners.