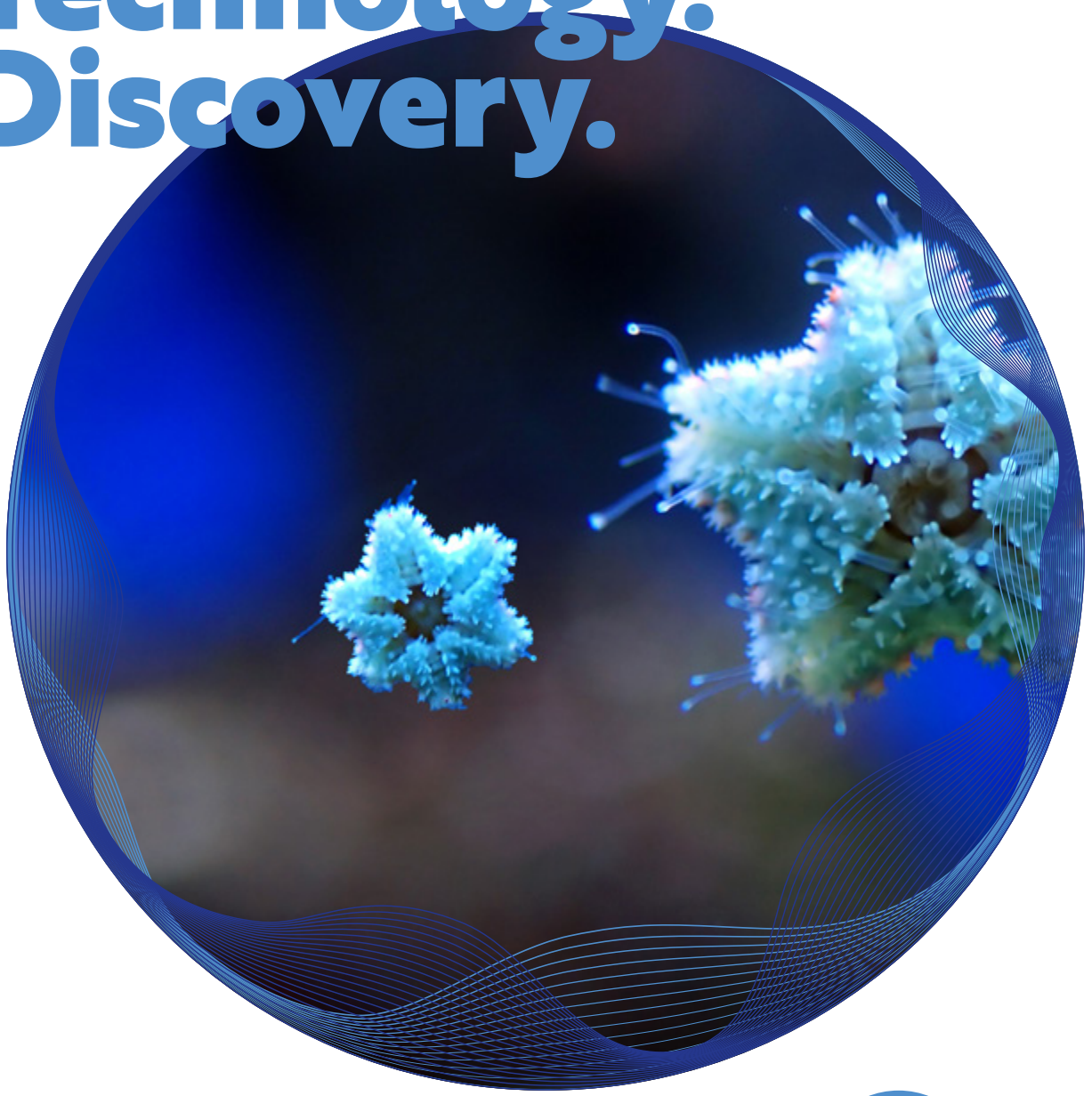
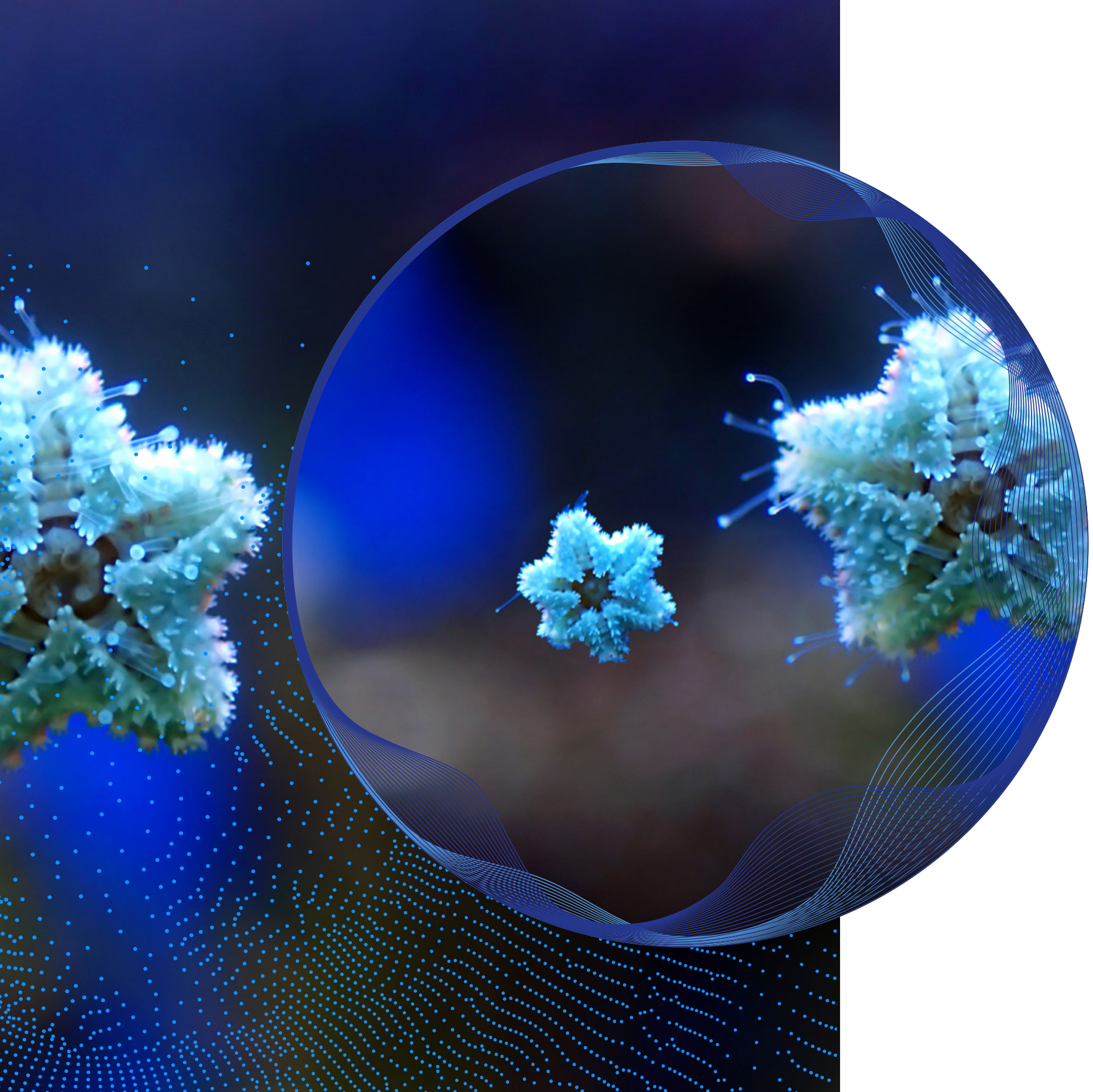
Marine Science. Technology. Discovery.



Annual report 2025

EMBRC
EUROPEAN MARINE BIOLOGICAL RESOURCE CENTRE



Contents

Messages

Today's tech for a better tomorrow

The marine environment, with its plethora of habitats, is an extremely challenging domain to study. To better understand the ocean's rich biodiversity, we are highly reliant on the use of technology. EMBRC is no exception, with significant effort going into its development, testing, and demonstration across our 80+ sites in Europe.

At EMBRC, every day brings a reminder of the importance of tech in our activities. Technological development and application is key to our efforts to strengthen international collaborations through our work in the OBON network and new partnerships with the Korean Institute of Ocean Science and Technology and Bamfield Marine Station (Canada).

This year, the European Commission published its Research and Technology Infrastructure Strategy in support of innovation. This rightly recognises technology's role in ensuring Europe remains economically and scientifically competitive. **EMBRC is a great example of how RIs are involved in tech development and testing**. Our current Joint Development Activity between France and Sweden is enhancing algae associated microbiome research and our Belgian partner's experimental underwater garden system in the North Sea is improving understanding of offshore wind impacts and potential restoration opportunities.

But technology also comes with serious challenges for RIs: when should you adopt new technology? Early adoption can give a competitive advantage but jumping on a bandwagon before a technology has stood the test of time (even very short), can lead to significant loss of investment and competitiveness. For example, there is no doubt that AI has the potential to be a gamechanger in understanding the complex interactions of marine organisms, but is it sufficiently developed to give us answers, results, and analyses we can trust?

How we adopt and use technology will continue to be at the forefront of EMBRC's activities. **As we start to shape our 2028-2032 strategy, we will evaluate which technologies to bet on, from EMO BON's automated eDNA samplers to strengthening sustainable aquaculture through our genomics know-how.** There are many possibilities and now we must make smart decisions. Investing in the right tech at the right time will ensure we can continue to provide the best services, resources, and expertise to push the frontiers of marine biological research.

" Technological development and application is key to our efforts to strengthen international collaborations."

Nicolas Pade,
Executive Director, European Marine Biological Resource Centre (EMBRC)

The role of tech in fulfilling our vision

As environmental issues such as climate change, pollution, and biodiversity loss become increasingly urgent and widespread, marine monitoring is necessary to facilitate appropriate action. The development of inexpensive, specific, and sensitive sensors that are widely deployed can gather data on vital variables for scientific and policy decisions. Similarly, biodiversity monitoring technologies, including imaging and sequencing, move us closer to real-time observation. Initiatives like these are central to EMBRC's mission.

EMBRC's applied science activities directly address immediate societal needs. Much aquaculture research is quickly adopted by industry, with innovations ranging from improved environmentally friendly feeds to the development of new breeds better suited to production.

While the EMBRC General Assembly (GA) offers strategic guidance, each node is responsible for bringing its facilities up to date with the latest technologies. The HQ's coordination of EMO BON (European Marine Omics Biological Observation Network) – supported by the GA and endorsed by the UN Ocean Decade OBON (Ocean Biomolecular Observing Network) programme – exemplifies the use of technology in biological observations that support vital biodiversity research and conservation.

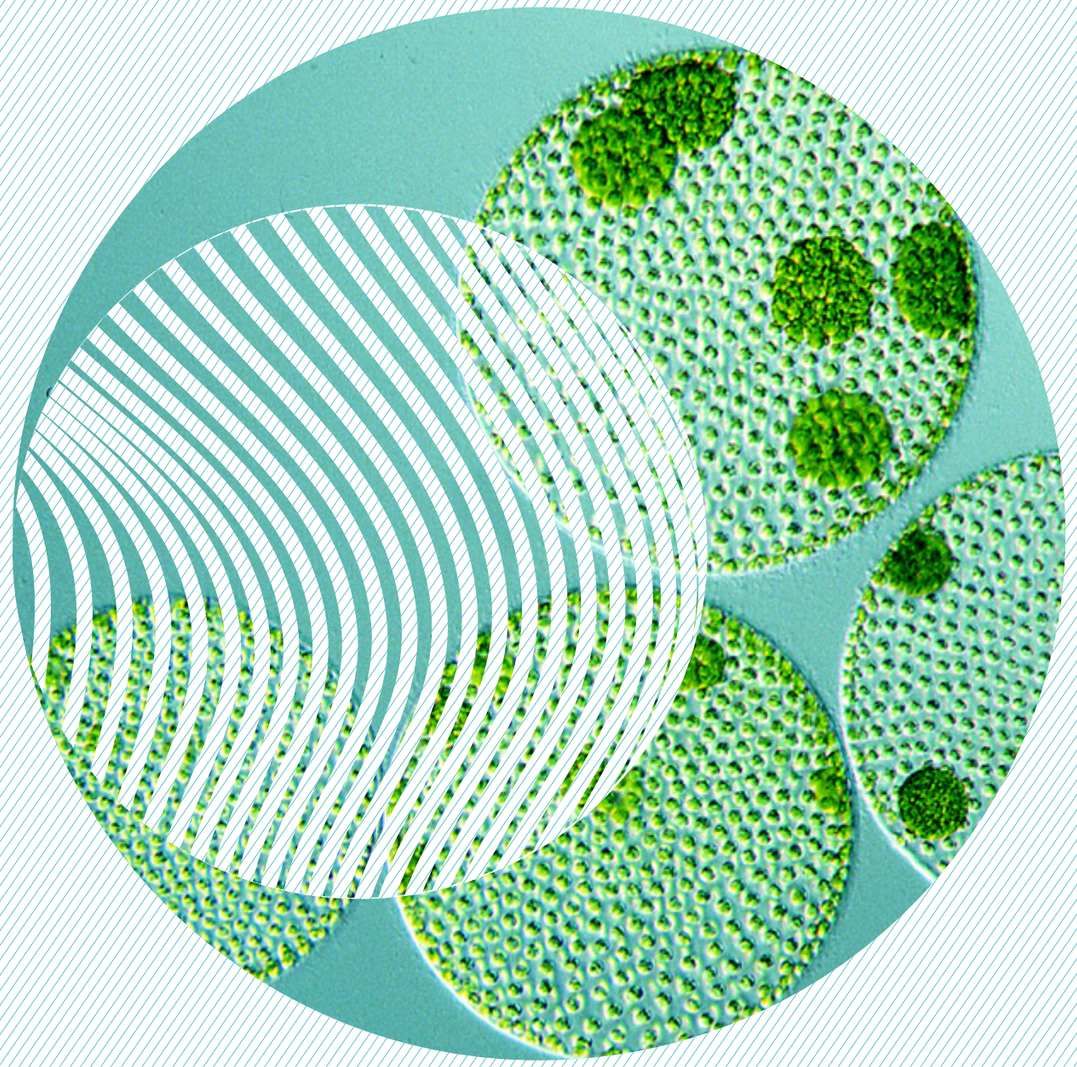
In 2025, substantial progress was made across various areas, including more professional industry interactions, especially in aquaculture, and more opportunities for researchers from different sectors to tackle societal and economic challenges through diverse Horizon European-funded projects. Some projects are advancing new technologies, such as combining AI with instrumentation, for example, microscopes equipped with AI software to generate 3D images, or biodiscovery pipelines for the discovery of novel molecules from marine organisms.

As science advances, technology has become increasingly crucial and will continue to be so across various aspects of marine science. Our biological understanding of most marine organisms remains limited, but their genomes will be increasingly explored with technologies such as gene editing and imaging. Yet, despite progress made in deploying satellite and ocean observation systems, the need to intensify ocean monitoring in light of climate change and the failure to meet various international agreements has grown.

" EMBRC requires not only a shared vision at the European level but also through coordinated and complementary initiatives and support at the national level to fulfil its potential."

Adelino Canario
Chair of the General Assembly, European Marine Biological Resource Centre (EMBRC)

Our purpose



Advancing marine biology and ecology research

The European Marine Biological Resource Centre (EMBRC) is Europe's only research infrastructure for marine biology and ecology. Through our pan-European network of marine stations and research organisations, we help researchers from both academia and industry understand the pressures on marine biodiversity, advance scientific innovation, and promote the sustainable use of marine resources.

Progressing our mission and goals

In April 2025, EMBRC hosted a team retreat at the Banyuls-sur-Mer marine station where our members took part in workshops and collaborated through strategic discussions about how to reinforce our mission.

Our project contributions directly support our mission by developing new technology, structuring biological observations, building FAIR (Findable, Accessible, Interoperable and Reusable) and Open Data systems, and engaging with Blue Economy stakeholders.

EMBRC was also part of important panels and discussions on Europe's future marine strategies through the EMODnet Conference, the Marine Research Infrastructure Workshops, and the 1st Stakeholder Consultation for the European Ocean Research and Innovation Strategy.

Life Below Water. Everything EMBRC does through its marine observation and research contributes to the management, conservation and sustainable use of our precious marine resources.

Our vision

To advance the understanding of marine life and harness its potential to create a sustainable future for the billions of people who rely on our ocean.

Our mission

- ➔ Deepening fundamental knowledge of marine organisms and their role in the environment,
- ➔ Promoting the use of marine experimental models in mainstream science
- ➔ Providing access to marine biological organisms and their habitats
- ➔ Exploring marine biodiversity for new products, inspiration, and innovation
- ➔ Promoting the sustainable use of marine resources

As a participant of the UN Decade for ocean sciences, EMBRC's work is underpinned by our commitment to meet the UN's Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

Insights and Opportunities through the Commitee of Nodes

The Committee of Nodes provides a vital link between EMBRC HQ and its national partners, translating European ambition to real action on a national level. They transmit crucial information and insights, including funding and project opportunities, to marine stations to ensure plans for implementation are realistic and fit-for-purpose.

In 2025, the Committee,

- Identified scientific & technical strengths of each node & national marine science priorities: a key building block for national Q1–2 plans in 2026 and building EMBRC's 2028–2032 strategy & budget.
- Planned the EMBRC Days and EMBRC's All Hands meeting for 2026
- Gave the green light to development of augmented observation & aquaculture training courses

These actions are at the heart of ensuring EMBRC-ERIC responds to national priorities, user needs, and meets the requirements of Europe's policy and science agenda in its next budget.

Supporting researchers across Europe in 2026 and beyond

The new strategy will outline an expansion of EMBRC's activities – such as transforming EMO BON from a genomics observatory to augmented observatory by incorporating image-based biological observation – and highlight where we can further support the research community's needs.

Key opportunities

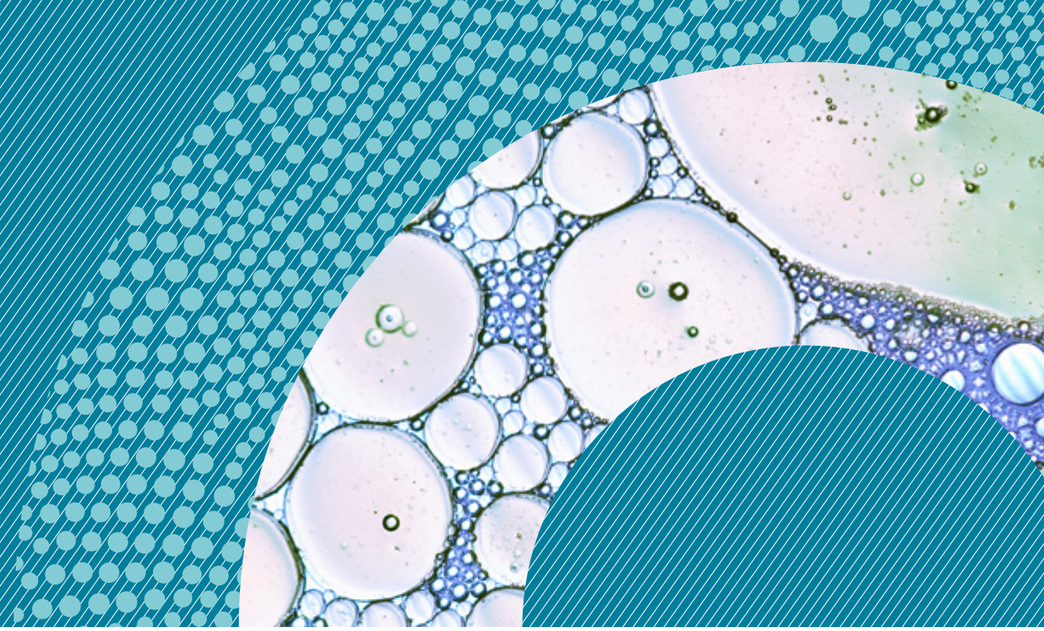
- ➔ Development & testing of new services & technologies
- ➔ Progression of the Joint Development Activities will lead to 5 new EMBRC services for 2026 & 2027
- ➔ Increased support & budgets for RIs in Horizon Europe and FP10

Key challenges

- ➔ Securing funding for EMBRC to maintain & grow its activities at the national level
- ➔ The publication of the European Commission's 2025 strategy on Research & Technology Infrastructures means EMBRC must make space for a new type of technology infrastructure
- ➔ Support for staff development & continued TA funding remain positive
- ➔ The European Commission's view of Research Infrastructures as proven tools for boosting European competitiveness (per the Draghi Report) creates long-term m anagement challenges in balancing short-term returns with long-term, stable funding
- ➔ Encouraging member states to continue the support for national infrastructure and personnel

2025 : *Year in review*

Here are a few of the EMBRC network's key highlights in 2025. Throughout the year, we continued to progress our mission through a range of activities from conferences and events to new partnerships and exciting project milestones.



JANUARY

➔ EMBRC continued its successful Tech Webinar series with its second event on Innovative disease control strategies for marine aquaculture.

➔ EMBRC began its partnership on the Three Research Infrastructures together: Carbon Uptake Southern Ocean (TRICUSO) project.

FEBRUARY

➔ The DTO-BioFlow project launched its second open call for researchers to contribute marine biodiversity data to the European Digital Twin of the Ocean.

MARCH

➔ Our executive director Nicolas Pade spoke about Marine Knowledge for the Ocean Pact at the European Ocean Days in Brussels.

➔ EMO BON's first data paper was published in the Biodiversity Data Journal.

➔ EMBRC presented EMO BON at the AquaEcOmics meeting in Evian, France, and presented preliminary analyses of microbial community data.

APRIL

➔ EMBRC hosted the second edition of its FAIR data training in Oostend to help participants make their data FAIR compliant.

➔ We joined the DOORS Black Sea high level event in Brussels to discuss DOORS' new findings & knowledge around the Black Sea's Blue Economy.

➔ Our executive director Nicolas Pade presented EMO BON at the 10th Our Ocean Conference (Our Ocean, Our Action) in Busan, Korea.

MAY

➔ EMBRC began its partnership on the MALDIBANK EU project.

➔ The four-year Horizon Europe project DOORS Black Sea ended.

➔ EMBRC hosted its third tech webinar focused on incorporating biodiversity monitoring in marine observation.

JUNE

➔ EMBRC released its G20 policy recommendations from its Ocean Dialogues events, calling for G20 leaders to integrate the ocean into their climate, development, and trade agendas. These recommendations shaped the OCEANS20 Communiqué.

➔ EMBRC attended the One Ocean Conference (OOC) and UN Ocean Conference (UNOC) in Nice. We showcased EMO BON through a poster presentation at OOC, displayed our video at UNOC's European Digital Ocean Pavilion, ran a MARCO-BOLO side event, and organised an exclusive side event on marine governance and Digital Twins of the Ocean.

JULY

➔ This summer, EMBRC's EMO BON observatories supported citizen science training and a sampling campaign through the EU Horizon project ANERIS.

➔ The three-year Horizon Europe project ISIDORe finished.

AUGUST

➔ The Horizon Europe project CanSERV concluded.

SEPTEMBER

➔ EMBRC's EMO BON new dataset is now available at the European Nucleotide Archive and will be integrated into the Digital Twin of the Ocean.

➔ EMBRC participated in Aquaculture Europe in Valencia, Spain, to present how we can support innovation and R&D in sustainable aquaculture.

➔ EMBRC presented EMO BON at the AtlantECO conference in Azores, Portugal and showcased preliminary analyses from Atlantic data, including how biodiversity differed across locations and time.

OCTOBER

➔ EMBRC was one of the data partners of the 9th edition of the annual Ocean Hackathon in Brest.

➔ EMBRC gave a lecture on EMO BON's data analysis tools at the OBON Annual Meeting in Hobart, Tasmania, Australia.

NOVEMBER

➔ EMBRC's Communication Unit attended the ERIC Forum's media workshops in Vienna, aimed at strengthening comms among European RIs.

DECEMBER

➔ EMBRC attended the TREC Symposium at EMBL, Heidelberg, Germany, and supported discussions about the expedition's contributions to marine biological discovery.

"2025 was another busy year for the EMBRC network; raising awareness of the importance of knowledge around marine biodiversity through a range of conferences, partnerships, policy recommendations, project launches and training sessions."

2025 *in numbers*

617
services available

21
ongoing Horizon Europe projects have EMBRC as a partner

695
users of EMBRC's research services

2
EU projects coordinated by EMBRC: MARCO-BOLO and eDNAquaPlan

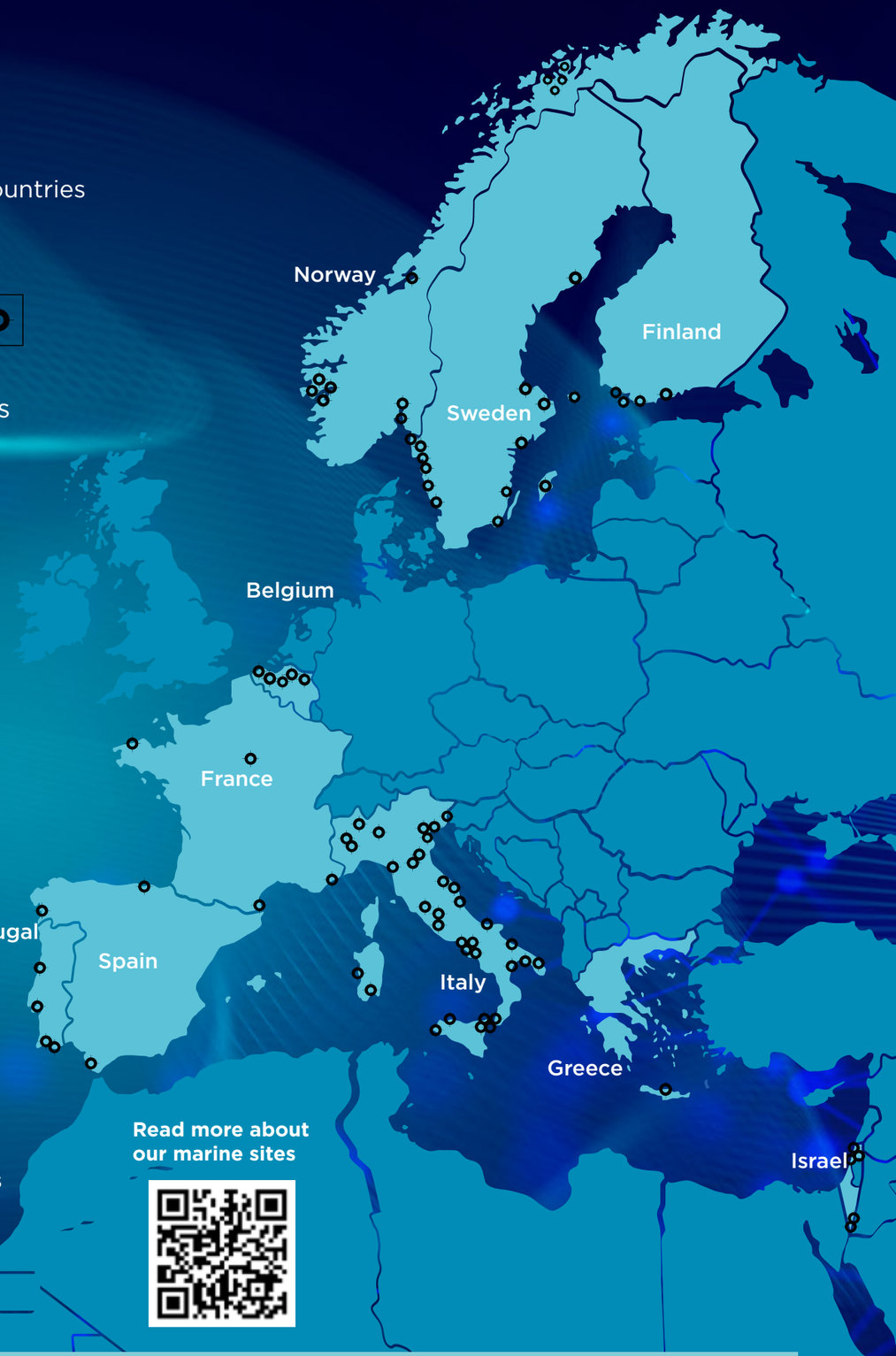
513
service requests granted

25
Conferences, events and webinars promoted on our channels

250
papers in 174 journals published by researchers from the EMBRC network

10
member countries

87
EMBRC marine sites



Read more about our marine sites

Alice Soccodato, Science Unit Manager, on EMBRC's political recommendations

Why did EMBRC need to share recommendations to G20 leaders?

Despite the clear need for action to protect and sustainably manage marine ecosystems, SDG 14, "Life Below Water," is the least funded of all the UN Sustainable Development Goals. The G20 is an important platform and its leaders have huge influence on establishing global standards, developing scalable technologies, building capacity, and influencing future research funding. Through these G20 policy recommendations, EMBRC hopes to cement the importance of marine research on the global policy agenda.

How has G20 policy been lacking in the ocean and climate space?

In recent years, the ocean has become more central to the G20 agenda, and it's fantastic to see these important marine issues getting attention. But more still needs to be done to fill policy gaps. The management of marine protected areas, governance of areas beyond national jurisdiction, funding of ocean issues, and capacity for data sharing all need to be improved further.

How will RIs like EMBRC support the G20 with the implementation of these actions?

Creating a sustainable Blue economy that benefits both people and the planet requires scientists and policymakers to collaborate more closely. Data generated by the EMBRC network can inform important policy decisions, and ensure they are as effective as possible. Our platforms also encourage collaboration – not just connecting researchers around the world but also forging relationships across different sectors. We want to ensure decisionmakers understand the potential real-life applications of marine science discoveries and how they can find the data they need to tackle important environmental and economic challenges.

How can the sector better demonstrate the need for sustainable investment?

Ocean data is immensely valuable but its economic worth for sectors such as transportation, agriculture, and tourism isn't always clearly communicated. We need to use biodiversity data to provide tangible evidence of the need for long-term, sustainable funding for marine biodiversity research.

EMBRC's G20 policy recommendations

for successful ocean stewardship

EMBRC's G20 policy recommendations called for G20 leaders to integrate the ocean into climate, development, and trade agendas. The guidelines provide tangible actions that can impact global sustainability efforts through the G20's policy agenda:

	G20 leaders	Private sector	Scientific institutions	NGOs
Establish global marine biodiversity standards	Showcase the value of biodiversity observation, establish global standards for marine biodiversity data collection and sharing for all creatures – from microbes to megafauna – and integrate data into regulatory frameworks.	Invest in marine biodiversity research and conservation through corporate funding mechanisms and partnerships as well as making biodiversity data FAIR and openly accessible, while protecting sensitive information.	Establish biodiversity observatories to generate continuous, long-term data on how ecosystems are responding to a changing environment, and promote FAIR, Open Science.	Advocate for ocean literacy and the value of marine biodiversity.
Build public-private partnerships and scalable monitoring technologies	Ask companies to integrate biodiversity data sharing into Corporate Social Responsability (CSR) programmes, ensure policies are science-based, enforce sustainability regulations, and encourage cost-effective tech that can be easily upscaled and repaired.	Collaborate with scientists to develop technologies that improve understanding of changing ecosystems and support the Blue economic transition.	Work with stakeholders to develop robust monitoring technologies and tools that provide critical data for marine management and conservation.	Advocate for policies and technologies that support global conservation goals, and raise awareness of the need for accessible, scalable, and maintainable monitoring tools.
Invest in capacity building, particularly for countries in the Global South	Increase investment that ensures equitable participation in conservation – particularly in the Global South, establish dedicated funding for marine biodiversity, and consider how innovative financial mechanisms can provide long-term support.	Use investments, expertise, and tech to support long-term local capacity-building, particularly in developing regions.	Focus on research that fills key biodiversity knowledge gaps.	Raise awareness of the importance of SDG 14 (Life Below Water) and marine biodiversity.

Read the full recommendations

These recommendations were created thanks to EMBRC's Ocean Dialogues roundtable – part of an Oceans20 series.

Our services

Supporting innovative marine science

EMBRC helps to speed up innovation in marine biology and ecology research through access to a wide range of bioresources, experimental facilities, technological platforms and services to support scientists of all career stages, whether they are performing their research on-site or remotely.

We work with more than 80+ partners across Europe to support scientists from academia and industry with fundamental and applied research, both on-site and remotely. Through our services, facilities and expertise, our network enables researchers to access unique marine ecosystems and organisms (cultured, reared, or collected). We also facilitate use of the tools, technology, and techniques needed to further the research and discoveries that will lead to a sustainable future.

Browse our service catalogue to learn more

EMBRC's Priority Blue Economy Sectors

EMBRC is driving economic Blue Growth through its strategic focus on three emerging ocean-based industries that align with EMBRC's strengths, the Horizon Europe Pillars, and the UN SDGs. These priority Blue Economy sectors are:

AQUACULTURE:

helping the producers of marine organisms to better monitor and improve their environmental impact, test mixed-culture technologies, and novel approaches for genetic breeding, feed trials, disease control and welfare that support a sustainable industry.

BIOTECHNOLOGY:

sharing chemical libraries, scale-up facilities, marine biological resources, and multidisciplinary expertise to help identify, isolate, and characterise new bioactive molecules with application in the Pharma industry.

MARINE OBSERVATION:

providing expertise, software, and genomic data to support environmental monitoring, Marine Spatial Planning and impact assessments of key marine sectors such as offshore renewable energy.

By accelerating knowledge transfer, technology, and innovation in these sectors, EMBRC is helping to boost the sustainable development of the ustainable Blue Economy.

Conducting research comes with many challenges such as logistical and geographical constraints, limited access to high-tech equipment, expertise and budget restrictions. Our research infrastructure provides solutions to these barriers, encourages collaboration, and fosters innovation so scientists can reach their goals, and make discoveries, faster and more effectively.

Interview

Using AI integration and machine learning to unlock biotechnological potential

The ACOI Coimbra Collection of Algae is one of the world's largest native collections of algae and cyanobacteria with 5000 strains collected from Portugal and its islands.

EMBRC culture collections support innovation by providing access to high-quality marine biological resources, says Mariana Assunção, Local Liaison Officer of UC-ACOI (EMBRC Portugal).

Here, she explains how technology can help maximise their impact.

EMBRC *Portugal*

How can algae benefit different industries?

Mariana:

Microalgae and cyanobacteria produce compounds that can be used in industries, such as agriculture (biofertilisers), energy (biofuels), and remediation (removing compounds from wastewater or soil). Their polyunsaturated fatty acids make them good for nutritional purposes, and their anti-bacterial, anti-fungi, and anti-cancer properties are of interest to the pharmaceutical sector. They're so important for so many different applications – I think micro algae will be the key to a sustainable future, and tech could help us unlock their hidden potential.

Why are digital tools and technologies important?

Mariana:

Digital tools are helping EMBRC to make it easier to find marine biological resources across distributed collections. For example, TRACE is a searchable database that integrates information from EMBRC's culture collections. Higher quality meta data helps to improve interoperability, which boosts scientific and societal impact.

What role could AI play in boosting this progress?

Mariana:

EMBRC is developing the foundations for AI integration which could support future machine learning approaches for strain characterisation, cultivation optimisation and identification of strains with biotechnology potential.

This could make it much easier for researchers to identify the correct strain for their needs from several databases, facilitating better collaboration between academia and industry. For example, if a researcher wanted to find a culture for a specific purpose – whether that's for medicine, pharmaceuticals, biofuels or nutrition – they could quickly find it through one quick search.

ACCESSING EMBRC'S SERVICES

Services accessed in 2025

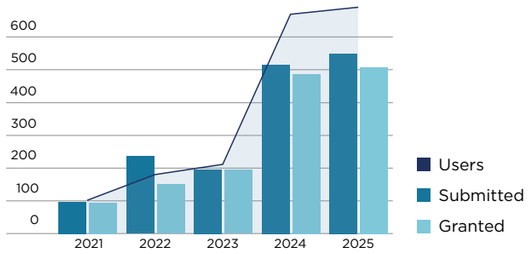
695 users
(+4% compared to 2024)

556 access requests submitted
(+7% compared to 2024)

513 access requests granted
(+4% compared to 2024)

From 2021 to 2025

Annual trends in access requests



This year, we received slightly more access requests than in 2024. While our requests in 2024 were largely hinged around the TREC expedition, 2025 saw more EMBRC services needed to support the AQUASERV project (Access programme in support of sustainable aquaculture and bioeconomy) and for use of strains from the NORCCA culture collection. Other researchers accessed EMBRC services through the project IRISCC and AGROSERV, and by answering EMBRC Italy's 2nd access call.

TYPE OF SERVICES

Services used in 2025

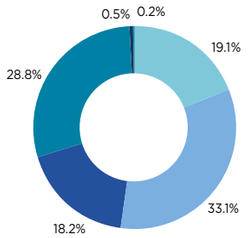
33.1%
biological resources
e.g. culture collections, taxonomic services

28.8%
technology platforms
e.g. imaging, molecular biology and omics laboratories, bioprospecting platforms, remote sensing, and telemetry

19.1%
ecosystem access
e.g. coastal research vessels, scientific diving teams

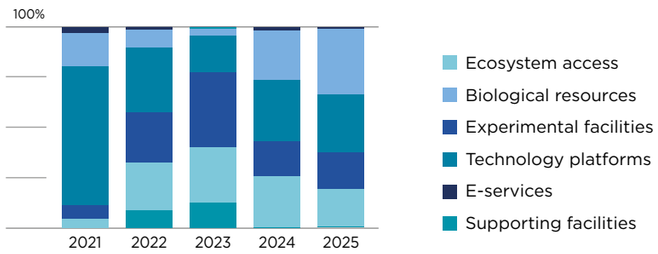
In 2025, EMBRC's most popular service was **biological resources** due to a high demand for **culture collections,** which can also be accessed remotely. We also saw a strong interest in our **technology platforms** and **ecosystem access,** driven by the **imaging** services and **coastal research vessels** available through EMBRC teams, particularly France and Sweden, respectively.

In 2025



From 2021 to 2025

Trends in the use of services over the years



GEOGRAPHIC DISTRIBUTION OF ACCESS REQUESTS

EU countries:

83.5%
of users

Top EU Users: France, Finland, Italy, Spain, Germany

Non-EU countries:

16.5%
of access requests

Top Non-EU Users: United States, United Kingdom, Switzerland, Serbia, Iceland, Australia

FUNDING TO ACCESS EMBRC SERVICES

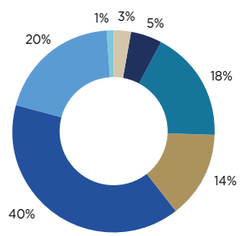
40%
of researchers were self-funded

25%
benefited from international funding (international + TA programmes)

14%
received other, non-specific funding sources

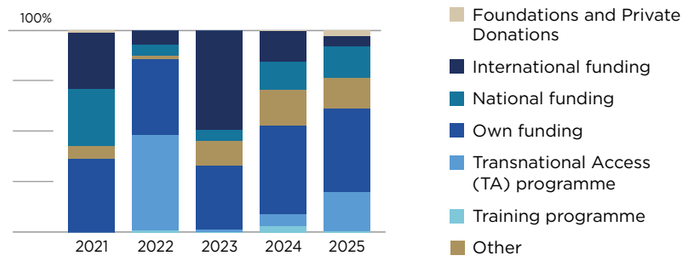
In 2025, it was most common for EMBRC users to self-fund their access to our services. We also had a large proportion of users who benefited from the TNA programmes of AQUASERV and IRISCC as well as national funding offered by EMBRC Italy and the Research Council of Finland.

In 2025



From 2021 to 2025

Funding type



ON-SITE VS. REMOTE ACCESS

In 2025

70%
of users accessed services on-site

30%
of users accessed services remotely

HOME INSTITUTION

In 2025

77%
of EMBRC users were based in academic institutions (universities and research organisations)

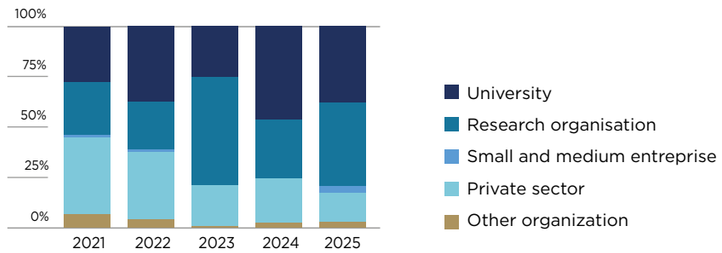
23%
of EMBRC users came from the private sector (including SMEs) and other institutions

In 2025, the largest proportion of our service users came from research organisations and universities. This continues a trend from previous years.

In 2025

From 2021 to 2025

Type of home institution



SCIENTIFIC DOMAIN

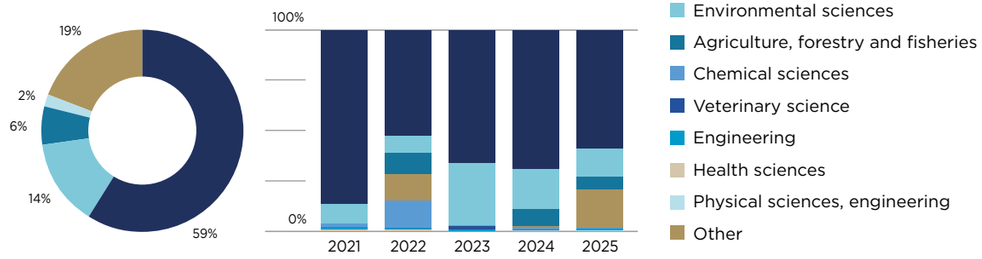
In 2025

59%
of users came from the domain of biological sciences

19%
of users came from other domains

14%
of users came from an environmental sciences discipline

Within the field of biological and environmental sciences, most of EMBRC's users specialised in ecology, plankton studies, evolution, finfish aquaculture and marine biotechnology. This is in line with what we have seen in previous years.



CAREER STAGE

EMBRC continues to offer its services, resources, and expertise in support of researchers at all career stages.

In 2025

35%
researchers

7%
early career researchers

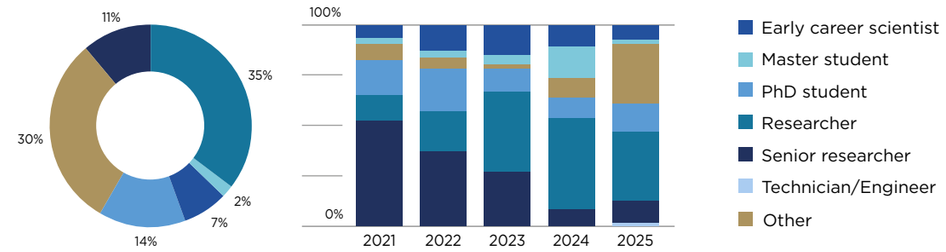
2%
master students

In 2025, mid-to-senior researcher profiles continue to represent the backbone of our user base, while Master's and early-career PhD students made up a smaller share of EMBRC users. This is consistent with the several Transnational Access (TA) programmes that facilitated use of our services this year, as these TAs are designed to support independent scientists with more advanced projects.

We also updated our reporting categories in 2025 to include "Technician / Engineer" profiles. While their presence in our annual data is new, these professionals have always been part of our research ecosystem, but were not explicitly tracked in previous reports.

In 2025

User profile



GENDER BALANCE

In 2025

41%
women

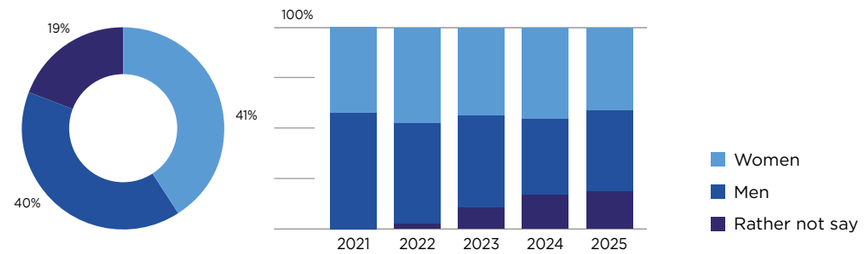
40%
men

19%
rather not say

In 2025

From 2021 to 2025

Gender balance



Interview

Europe's First Augmented Marine Observatory

EMBRC France is involved in the exciting AO-EMBRC project, which aims to create Europe's first augmented marine observatory. The Augmented Observatories project combines genomics, quantitative imaging and physico-chemical data to learn more about how marine ecosystems are being impacted by environmental changes.

We met with Lionel Guidi, a researcher at CNRS, and Jean-Olivier Irisson, a computational ecologist at Sorbonne Université, to find out more about how this programme is helping us understand how climate change is affecting ocean life.

EMBRC *France*

Tell us about the Augmented Observatory programme?

Lionel:

Bringing together the key skills of our three research sites, we've developed a common way of looking at the biological component of the ocean. These are:

- ➔ Marine sensors (Banyuls-sur-Mer / OOB)
- ➔ Genomic sampling (Roscoff Marine Station / SBR)
- ➔ Imaging (Villefranche-sur-Mer / IMEV).

Why is this important?

Lionel:

We're using long-term biological data to study how the ocean is reacting to climate change. Using historical data allows us to ask ecological questions retrospectively rather than just relying on a single sampling campaign – meaning we can come to more robust and powerful conclusions.

Can you give an example of a research project you've supported?

Jean-Olivier:

One project used quantitative imaging to analyse 12 years of plankton samples from the Mediterranean Sea. Their measurements of 45 features on 800,000+ individual zooplankton revealed that the plankton's morphological diversity increased when food levels were low. It was a good test of the ecological theory that diversity increases in environments with fewer resources.

How are you using AI?

Jean-Olivier:

AI is supporting imaging by accelerating the process of labelling images. It suggests identifications in a fast and replicable way so that taxonomists can focus on correcting the mistakes instead of manually labelling everything. It can also help us combine separate complex datasets and find links between them. Of course, a human checks the results.

How do you help researchers?

Lionel:

EMBRC France' Augmented Observatory services are linked to the specialties of our three marine sites (typically, Roscoff for genomics, Banyuls-sur-Mer for sensors, and IMEV for imaging). We can help scientists from different disciplines generate data, and collect, store, process and analyse samples.

Our activities

EMBRC supports citizen science campaign

In June 2025, a two-day campaign by the EU project ANERIS mobilised citizen science volunteers across 8 countries to collect environmental DNA (eDNA) samples from coastal waters and sediments following structured protocols.

EMBRC helped to equip the participants with the necessary skills through a multilingual training session on its Marine Training platform while EMBRC Greece (HCMR) and EMBRC Belgium (VLIZ) were involved in the development of the sampling kits and analytic tools.

The campaign tested newly developed genomic tools – such as nanomics, SLIM 2.0 and MARGENODAT – which enable researchers to detect demersal fish species and macrobenthic organisms as well as studying genetic diversity and monitoring for non-indigenous species.

Several EMO BON marine stations supported the project, including SBR (France), UMF (Sweden), TZS (Finland), PiE and UVigo (Spain), SZN (Italy), and CIIMAR (Portugal). Through this European campaign, ANERIS and the participating EMBRC marine stations hope to strengthen data generation, add to our understanding of coastal ecosystems across Europe, and empower local communities to support scientific research through expertise and low-cost technology.

In partnership with

ANERIS
OPERATIONAL SENSING LIFE TECHNOLOGIES FOR MARINE ECOSYSTEMS

Q&A with course participants

Irini Tsikopoulou, a postdoc researcher at HCMR (EMBRC Greece), and Nancy De Saeyer, a lab technician at Gent University (EMBRC Belgium), both took part in the sampling course. Here, they share more about their experience.

What attracted you to the citizen science course?

Irini Tsikopoulou

"As a benthic taxonomist who usually uses classic methods, the experience of eDNA sampling was new to me. I joined the course because I was curious to learn how it works as well as finding out how people without expertise can come together to collect samples through citizen science campaigns."

Nancy De Saeyer

"As a coastal resident working in a research environment at the University of Gent, my projects often include a marine science element so this training session immediately caught my attention. Having seen first-hand the time and expertise needed to collect and analyse marine samples, I was interested in learning more about the processes involved in marine monitoring. As well as supporting sampling efforts as a citizen scientist, I gained insights into how data can be generated from fieldwork to answer important questions about ocean habitats."

What was involved in the hands-on activity?

Irini Tsikopoulou

"We visited two beaches near Heraklion – one of them was quite heavily affected by human disturbance while the other was more pristine. We were given guidance so we knew what to do, and then we split up into five small groups and worked as teams to take water samples. We collected around three or four litres of water using a bucket, filtered it with a syringe to extract the eDNA and then put them in a fridge so they could be analysed later."

What were the best things you learned during this course?

Irini Tsikopoulou

"I really enjoyed the hands-on elements of the course because it gives students good experience putting the techniques into practice. It was great to learn how eDNA can be used to identify different taxonomic groups with relatively low effort and just one sample. I'm used to working with benthic samples, which can be more patchy, so it was interesting to learn to work with water samples. The new skills I learned from this hands-on, practical experience will be really useful for me in future projects."

Nancy De Saeyer

"One of the main highlights was the introduction to the sampling methods. We gained practical skills through a clear, hands-on demonstration of the methods that deepened my understanding of coastal monitoring. It's been interesting to be kept updated on the project's progress and results since our training session too. This has helped me see how our contributions from the day fit into a bigger research picture and make me feel like an active part of the scientific community."

What were the most useful things you took away from the sessions?

Nancy De Saeyer

"It's been great to gain a practical understanding of eDNA sampling methods, such as how the filtration system is set up and handled, and how to make sure you are following Standardised Operating Procedures during fieldwork. I'm not currently using eDNA techniques in my own work but I now feel confident sharing what I've learned with colleagues in case it can benefit their research projects. I hope my small contribution can have a ripple effect across the university and I'm always keen to contribute to projects like this."

Innovative science for a sustainable Europe

In 2025, EMBRC continued in its mission of pushing the frontiers of marine science by collaborating in 21 European research projects. By participating in these projects, our pan-European network is driving forward important work to deepen our knowledge and understanding of the ocean, advance scientific innovation, and support a sustainable blue bioeconomy in Europe.

BIODIVERSITY & OCEAN OBSERVATION COORDINATED BY EMBRC

MARCO-BOLO

December 2022–November 2026

Strengthening biodiversity observation in support of decision-making

Total budget: 7,255,037.50 €

EMBRC budget: 607,310.00 € €

marcobolo-project.eu/

2025 milestone: MARCO-BOLO took a major step towards the project's integrated data architecture by successfully demonstrating functional data and information exchange with external partners, and establishing the first fully operational workflows for sharing biodiversity data across infrastructures including OBIS and EMODnet Biology. The project is also developing new technology with a new system for managing multi-sensor networks trailed at sea.

eDNAqua-Plan

September 2023–August 2026

Developing a digital ecosystem for eDNA reference libraries for marine and freshwater ecosystems

Total budget: 1,978,282.50 €

EMBRC budget: 240,625.00 €

ednaquaplan.com/

2025 milestone: Through consultation with stakeholders globally, eDNAqua-Plan developed a proposal for a more efficient, harmonised and FAIR-compliant European digital ecosystem. The project presented its aspiration in the form of a Vision Fact Sheet accompanied by additional recommendations and materials that explained how the changes would optimise its outputs. Stakeholders provided their feedback on the feasibility of implementation and potential improvements during a dedicated dialogue, testing phase and Blueprint Workshop.

BIODIVERSITY & OCEAN OBSERVATION: OTHER PROJECTS

AtlantECO

September 2020–August 2025

Developing a novel, unifying framework for a better understanding and management of the Atlantic Ocean and its ecosystem services

Total budget: 10,932,573.75 €

EMBRC budget: 17,614.80 €

atlanteco.eu/

2025 milestone: One of the AtlantECO consortium's new papers – The southern gap in ocean microbiome science – addresses how the geographic gap in ocean microbiome research has left important southern regions underexplored.

AQUARIUS

March 2024–February 2028

Addressing challenges and exploring opportunities for the long-term sustainability of marine and freshwater ecosystems

Total budget: 14,499,999.25 €

EMBRC budget: 343,717.10 €

aquarius-ri.eu/

2025 milestone: The AQUARIUS project successfully launched its Transnational Access Programme and 7 applications were submitted to use EMBRC services at our partners CCMAR and CIIMAR (Portugal) as well as SBR, OOB, and IMEV (France) in 2025 or 2026.

BIOcean5D

December 2022–November 2026

Studying the impact of human activity on Europe's seas and coastlines

Total budget: 15,449,903.00 €

EMBRC budget: 189,550.00 €

biocean5d.org/

2025 milestone: EMBRC's Marine Training Unit launched a BIOcean5D webinar series. In October, they unveiled the link between phytoplankton molecular physiology and biogeochemical cycling. In December, they ran a session presenting the use of the JEDI marker to measure planetary biodiversity.

DOORS BLACK SEA

June 2021–May 2025

Streamlining research and providing the infrastructure to better understand the Black Sea

Total budget: 9,000,000.0 €

EMBRC budget: 100,000.00 €

doorsblacksea.eu/

2025 milestone: As part of a DOORS research cruise, EMBRC participated in the collection of 8 eDNA samples at 3 sites in Bulgarian and Georgian waters in the Black Sea following the protocols in the EMO BON Handbook. Following sampling, sequencing, and analysis, the raw data are published in ENA and the DOORS systems of systems.

BIODIVERSITY & OCEAN OBSERVATION: OTHER PROJECTS

DTO-BioFlow
Integration of biodiversity monitoring data into the Digital Twin Ocean

September 2023–February 2027

Integrating biodiversity monitoring data into Digital Twins of the ocean

Total budget: 9,747,516.25 €

EMBRC budget: 358,750.00 €

dto-bioflow.eu/

2025 milestone: EMBRC organised the 2nd DTO-BioFlow Data Grants Holders Workshop in Paris, and created an accessible "how to" pamphlet, to equip marine biodiversity data holders with the necessary skills to contribute to the EU Digital Twin Ocean (EU DTO) via EMODnet Biology.

TRICUSO

January 2025–December 2028

Transforming the way ocean carbon uptake is observed, analysed, and integrated into climate decision-making

Total budget: 9,999,300.00 €

EMBRC budget: 263,750.00 €

tricuso.eu/

2025 milestone: As part of TRICUSO, EMBRC organised the first of a series of dedicated workshops to develop a roadmap and implementation strategy for the future creation of a European Bio-Go-SHIP programme.

IRISCC

April 2024–September 2028

Empowering researchers and other stakeholders with integrated research and knowledge services, driving effective climate action

Total budget: 14,499,857.75 €

EMBRC budget: 113,187.50 €

iriscc.eu/

2025 milestone: The IRISCC project launched its Transnational Access (TA) Programme, which received 9 applications in its first call. The project partners are also collaborating on the upcoming release of an interoperable mesocosm for the study for CO2 removal (CDR).

AQUACULTURE

AQUASERV

April 2024–March 2029

Providing researchers access to top European infrastructures, advancing studies in fisheries, aquaculture, and sustainability

Total budget: 14,157,482.52 €

EMBRC budget: 567,562.50 €

aquaserv-ri.eu/

2025 milestone: AQUASERV celebrated its first full year and received over 100 applications in the open call for its TA programme. Of these, 52 were submitted to EMBRC facilities and 38 were accepted. More than 10 projects were completed at EMBRC institutions exploring topics including carbon cycling in seagrass ecosystems, fish biodiversity in warming seas, and the impact of microplastics on seabream.

AgroServ
Integrated RI Services supporting a sustainable AGRIecological transition

September 2022–August 2027

Providing customised and integrated RI services to support a sustainable and resilient agriculture and agroecological transitions

Total budget: 14,252,873.35 €

EMBRC budget: 66,252.75 €

agroserv.eu/

2025 milestone: To broaden participation, AgroServ launched new Transnational Access calls allowing applications to a single research infrastructure (rather than two or more).

DATA COLLECTION, MANAGEMENT & ANALYSIS

eosc
Blue-Cloud2026

January 2023–June 2026

Providing a virtual environment with open and seamless access to services for storage, management, analysis, and re-use of marine research data

Total budget: 8,845,420.00 €

EMBRC budget: 110,437.50 €

blue-cloud.org/about-blue-cloud-2026

2025 milestone: As part of the Digital Twin of the Ocean (EOSC-DTO), Blue-Cloud 2026 has continued its work developing FAIR-compliant EMO BON data and integrating them into Blue-Cloud's Data Lake, helping to strengthen collaboration across infrastructures and improve digital ocean innovation.

FAIR-EASE
Building Interoperable Earth Science & Environmental Services

September 2022–August 2025

Building interoperable earth science and environmental services

Total budget: 4,738,125.00 €

EMBRC budget: 46,250.00 €

fairease.eu/

2025 milestone: FAIR EASE integrated EMO BON data (including logsheets, omics, and MetaGOflow) via the EMOBON Virtual Research Lab and provided this through the Data Discovery and Access Service (IDDAS) so users can filter and analyse the metadata. Providing marine genomic data like this helps research initiatives understand the sustainability of ecosystem services from a microbial to global level.

BIOPROSPECTING AND THE USE OF BIORESOURCES

canSERV
providing cutting edge cancer research services across europe

September 2022–August 2025

Providing cutting edge, interdisciplinary, and customised oncology services

Total budget: 14,866,440.50 €

EMBRC budget: 116,846.38 €

canserv.eu/

2025 milestone: canSERV's TA programme closed in July with a final call for researchers to apply for funded access to services for cancer treatment and its molecular pathways.

ISIDORe

January 2022–July 2025

Supporting the generation of new knowledge and intervention tools to help control epidemic-prone pathogens

Total budget: 20,998,624.00 €

EMBRC budget: 48,750.00 €

isidore-project.eu/

2025 milestone: At the 8th Edition of the World Congress on Infectious Diseases, ISIDORe delivered a presentation on marine-based strategies against climate-driven infectious threats. This highlighted EMBRC's role within the ISIDORe consortium in advancing marine-based, One Health approaches to climate-driven infectious threats.

BlueRemediomics

December 2022–November 2026

Cataloging marine microbiome data and culture collections to improve ABS and ensure fairness and equity in the use of marine genetic resources

Total budget: 7,649,827.50 €

EMBRC budget: 383,812.50 €

blueremediomics.eu/

2025 milestone: At the BlueRemediomics consortium meeting (Riga, April 2025), EMBRC presented its progress on upcoming deliverables and participants were encouraged to use EMBRC services to sequence strains of interest and to upload new data to the MGnify database.

MALDIBANK

May 2025–April 2029

Advancing microbial research by tackling antimicrobial resistance, supporting environmental monitoring, and improving food security.

Total budget: 9,767,243.75 €

EMBRC budget: 75,000.00 €

maldibank.eu/

2025 milestone: The four-year MALDIBANK project launched in May 2025. The initiative will use AI-powered analysis to support advances in microbial research that will tackle global challenges in health, food, and the environment.

TECHNOLOGY: OMICS & IMAGING

AI4Life

September 2022–August 2025

Democratising access to FAIR data and open AI models by creating an accessible platform and offering training for life scientists

Total budget: 4,141,167.50 €

EMBRC budget: 34,500.00 €

ai4life.eurobioimaging.eu/

2025 milestone: AI4Life developed and finalised the BioImage Model Zoo: a community platform focused on Artificial Intelligence models dedicated specifically to the analysis of bioimages, such as microscopy or biomedical imaging.

ANERIS
OPERATIONAL SENSING LIFE TECHNOLOGIES FOR MARINE ECOSYSTEMS

January 2023–December 2026

Developing the next generation of scientific tools and methods for sensing marine-life

Total budget: 9,999,665.00 €

EMBRC budget: 275,000.00 €

aneris.eu/

2025 milestone: ANERIS' citizen science course on the critical role of environmental DNA (eDNA) in marine research and conservation has reached more than 70 people. The course – which is available in English, Dutch, Greek, and Portuguese – gave participants an understanding of eDNA as a non-invasive method for monitoring marine biodiversity and ecosystem health.

iMagine

May 2023–April 2028

Addressing environmental challenges through imaging technology developments

Total budget: 9,569,677.50 €

EMBRC budget: 121,250.00 €

eurobioimaging.eu

2025 milestone: EMBRC delivered "Suitability of new imaging technologies for marine samples" and provided a representative set of marine specimens to the IMAGINE technology developers. The team also established collaboration and communication channels with technology developers, and presented the results during IMAGINE's mid-term meeting in September.

STRENGTHENING THE COORDINATION OF RESEARCH INFRASTRUCTURES

ERIC FORUM

September 2023–August 2027

Facilitating the establishment and operations of ERICs.

Total budget: 1,495,281.25 €

EMBRC budget: 12,089.19 €

eric-forum.eu/

2025 milestone: The Cherenkov Telescope Array Observatory (which aims to change the way we study the high-energy universe) and The European Holocaust Research Infrastructure (which conducts cross-national Holocaust research, and provides freely available education services) became ERICs, bringing the total number of ERICs to 30.

European *highlights*

EMBRC Sweden

SUBSIM DEMONSTRATES THE BENEFIT OF TRAWLING RESTRICTIONS

A new study from the University of Gothenburg published in Ecology and Evolution revealed that trawling restrictions benefit corals and anemones, and that ecosystems are changing as sea surface temperatures increase.

The researchers used SUBSIM – the Swedish platform for subsea image analysis – to review 26 years of underwater footage from the Kosterhavet National Park MPA on the northern west coast of Sweden. In this protected area, shrimp trawling is regulated, trawling shallower than 60 metres is banned and there are 11 trawling-free zones below 60m.

By monitoring the abundance of 17 species, the scientists showed that the Koster Sea's underwater ecosystem is changing as waters become warmer. As temperatures increased, smaller, more heat-tolerant suspension feeders were more likely to thrive. They also saw increases in trawl-sensitive species, showing that the park's protections are working.

The study demonstrates how technologies that enable marine observation can shed light on how ecosystems are affected by a changing climate and what can be done to protect them.

7
EMBRC institutes

51
EMBRC services

EMBRC France

EMBRC FRANCE SHOWCASES ITS WORK TO POLITICIANS AND THE PUBLIC AT UNOC

UNITED NATIONS OCEAN CONFERENCE NICE, FRANCE 2025

In June 2025, EMBRC France showcased the research infrastructure's work at the Third United Nations Ocean Conference in Nice (UNOC3). EMBRC welcomed politicians and members of the public to our stand at the IMEV Marine Station in Villefranche sur Mer to learn about the work we're doing to advance marine science for a sustainable future.

This year, EMBRC France also celebrated the start of its four million euro funding package from the French Ministry of Higher Education and Research. This three-year investment will enable French marine stations to replace ageing vessels and buy vital equipment, such as new microscopes, mass spectrometry technology and aquarium supplies.

Keeping up to date with the latest technology ensures EMBRC France remains at the forefront of scientific development and can support researchers in their mission to boost scientific knowledge and discovery.

3
EMBRC institutes

22
EMBRC services

European highlights

EMBRC Belgium

BELGIUM CELEBRATES 10 YEARS IN THE EMBRC NETWORK

In December, EMBRC Belgium marked a decade of excellence in marine biological science as it celebrated 10 years as part of EMBRC. During this time, its institutions – Ghent University, KU Leuven, UHasselt, Flanders Marine Institute and the Institute of Natural Sciences – have facilitated nearly 300 scientific papers and participated in 40 European research projects.

To mark this momentous milestone, EMBRC Belgium hosted an afternoon of talks looking back over its last 10 years supporting innovative marine science research. At the event, the node presented project highlights and data about the use of the infrastructure services, and participants discussed what the future of marine science might bring and how it can support a sustainable blue economy.

Congratulations EMBRC Belgium on all your successes over the last 10 years. We look forward to seeing what you achieve in the next 10!

5
EMBRC institutes (10 research groups distributed across 3 universities & 2 research institutes)

58
EMBRC services

EMBRC Greece

EMBRC GREECE COORDINATES ANERIS eDNA SAMPLING CAMPAIGN

In the summer of 2025, EMBRC Greece was proud to coordinate a European citizen science eDNA sampling campaign as part of the EU Horizon project ANERIS (operAtional seNsing lifE technologies for maRIne ecosystemS). EMO BON stations, university students, and non-expert scientists were all supplied with sampling kits, instructions and online training so they could take part, even without in-depth genomics expertise.

Partners designed a sampling scheme to explore coastal communities across the EU and produce a set of indicator maps for species diversity, intraspecific genetic variation and non-indigenous species occurrence. The campaign aims to develop and validate cost-effective and easy-to-use biodiversity assessment protocols based on nanopore sequencing, which could complement the work of EMO BON and other existing genomics observatory networks.

1
EMBRC institute

18
EMBRC services

EMBRC Finland

FINMARI RECOGNISED AS A TOP 10 RESEARCH INFRASTRUCTURE (RI), STRENGTHENED BY EMBRC FINLAND

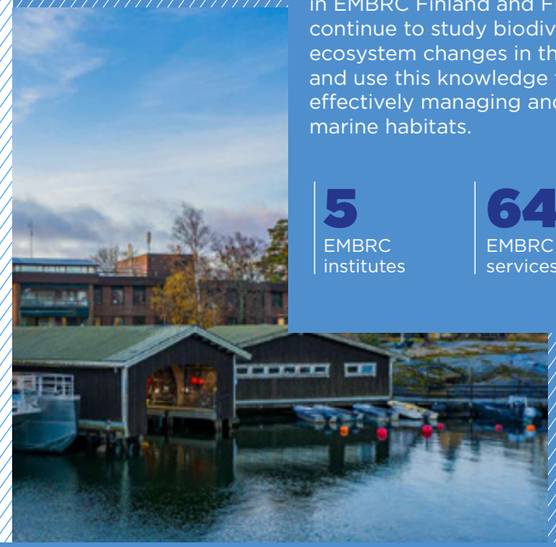
The Finnish Marine Research Infrastructure (FINMARI) – which EMBRC Finland is part of – was ranked among the top 10 RIs in the national Research Infrastructure Roadmap of Finland. The Finnish Research Infrastructure Committee of the Research Council of Finland also selected FINMARI to continue on the National Research Infrastructure Roadmap for 2025–2028 thanks to its "significant and consistent impact". FINMARI is now in its operational phase.

This milestone demonstrates the value of belonging to the EMBRC network for its country members. When Finland officially joined EMBRC in 2024 as its 10th country member, this strengthened FINMARI even further and helped the RI maintain this roadmap status.

Together, the researchers involved in EMBRC Finland and FINMARI can continue to study biodiversity loss and ecosystem changes in the Baltic Sea, and use this knowledge to find ways of effectively managing and protecting marine habitats.

5
EMBRC institutes

64
EMBRC services



EMBRC Israel

THE ISRAEL NATIONAL CULTURE COLLECTION OF ALGAE AT IOLR FURTHER STRENGTHENS ITS OFFERING

EMBRC Israel has continued to strengthen its national capabilities through further advancements of the Israel National Culture Collection of Algae (INCCA)'s services. INCCA is a vital resource in preserving Israel's biological diversity of algae. It also supports scientists from academia and industry studying how algae and macroalgae can contribute to climate solutions in fields such as agriculture, cosmetics and green energy.

In 2025, the culture collection grew to 275 strains, and the list was uploaded to the EMBRC TRACE database. EMBRC Israel also focused on improving marine strain isolation, cryopreservation, data management, and quality control within INCCA. These advancements will bolster EMBRC's efforts to find sustainable ways of using algae for the benefit of humanity.

5
EMBRC institutes

66
EMBRC services

European highlights

EMBRC Italy

CONNECTING RESEARCHERS THROUGH EMBRC'S BIOPROSPECTING WORKING GROUP

EMBRC's bioprospecting working group connects most of the researchers involved in marine bioprospecting, and principal stakeholders, and helps them share ideas and knowledge that can improve their research services. In 2025, the group has been working to build a consortium of relevant experts to strengthen their capabilities in anticipation of applying to at least one Horizon Europe project next year.

During 2025, EMBRC Italy also had 29 applications to its second transnational call to offer access to its marine sites, 20 of which were accepted. Of the applicants, 24 were from Italy, 2 from Spain, 1 from Austria, 1 from Lithuania, and 1 from Slovenia.

16 EMBRC institutes

100 EMBRC services

EMBRC Norway

UNIQUE SAMPLES – NEW TO NORWAY – ADDED TO THE MARINE BIOBANK

Norway's national marine biobank (Marbank) provides academia and industry with easy and safe access to marine biological resources for research and exploitation purposes. In 2025, Marbank's focus was on maintaining its unique collections of marine biological samples from cold, Arctic waters.

This year, the team was excited to collect and process some new samples, including several interesting marine fungi. Some of these species – including *Uzbekistanica storfjordensis, Parafenestella varangrensis, Lulworthia norwegica* and *Paralulworthia lignicola* – were described new to science, while others have yet to be described.

EMBRC Norway hopes to build on these strong foundations in 2026 by uploading all Marbank's samples into the TRACE catalogue. Completing this task will make it easier for researchers across Europe to find and use Marbank's samples.

7 EMBRC institutes

92 EMBRC services

EMBRC Portugal

CIIMAR CELEBRATES 25 YEARS OF STRATEGIC SCIENTIFIC EXCELLENCE

In September 2025, the Interdisciplinary Centre of Marine and Environmental Research (CIIMAR) hosted the New Horizons conference in Porto to commemorate its 25th anniversary. During the event, government leaders, policymakers, academics, and industry stakeholders came together to celebrate CIIMAR's 25 years of scientific achievements.

Attendees reflected on CIIMAR's journey and recognised the strategic value of EMBRC membership. Joining the research infrastructure in 2013 enabled Portugal's marine stations to further enhance their legacy by sharing vital services, resources, and expertise with the European research community. This is helping to streamline scientific advances that fill gaps in our knowledge and understanding of the ocean and carve a path to a more sustainable society.

4 EMBRC institutes

72 EMBRC institutes

EMBRC Spain

EMBRC SPAIN ORGANISES WORKING DAY ON OPPORTUNITIES FOR NATIONAL COLLABORATION BETWEEN EUROPEAN RESEARCH INFRASTRUCTURES IN FOOD, ENVIRONMENT & HEALTH

In March 2025, EMBRC Spain organised the first working day on opportunities for national collaboration between European research infrastructures in food, environment, and health. The popular event was attended by 58 national representatives from European infrastructures, Unique Scientific and Technical Infrastructures (ICTS), and other stakeholders. It took place at the Ministry of Science, Innovation, and Universities (Madrid).

This event was organised under the framework of the Spanish EMBRedES+ project, which aimed to help EMBRC Spain streamline its management, strengthen its internal organisation, collaborate with other ERICs, and improve its positioning both nationally and internationally.

It was a great success, attracting European infrastructures from the food and health fields (e.g. ERINHA & ELIXIR) as well as environmental ones (e.g. LifeWatch & ACTRIS). The event helped to raise awareness of research infrastructures' support of excellent research and laid the groundwork for future collaborations with the aim of ensuring their long-term sustainability.

3 EMBRC institutes

82 EMBRC services

Our impact

Interview

Focusing on – and funding – ocean observation data

Fugro's Pooja Mahapatra shares why ocean observation data is critical for a sustainable Blue economy and how to overcome common roadblocks.

Ocean observation is vital for a sustainable Blue economy, but it can be hard to express its value in tangible terms. In this Q&A, **Pooja Mahapatra, Head of Product** – Climate & Nature at Fugro – who recently took part in EMBRC's Oceans Dialogue roundtable – explains how she thinks we can overcome some of the barriers facing this sector.

Why is ocean observation data important?

There are two distinct communities in the ocean space. Some people focus on the seabed – bathymetry and hydrography – while the ocean observation community looks at real-time measurements of the ocean. You need one for the other and to get a holistic picture of the ocean, you need both.

Seafloor mapping is very important but people sometimes forget about the depth of water between the surface and seabed – this is what you measure through ocean observation. **This data underpins vital topics like climate resilience and the sustainable ocean economy so it's important to turn our focus towards them.**

How can we make ocean observation data feel relevant to those outside academia?

It's worth remembering that people don't really care about all the underlying data or cutting-edge technologies you use to answer certain problems. They have a problem and they want an answer. For example, Fugro is working with First Nations peoples in Torres Strait in Australia who noticed changes in their mangroves. We ran a series of workshops where we listened to their needs and co-designed simple apps that could give them the data they needed, from complex data fusion, in a few simple clicks. The proof is in the pudding – people are using the app, and it's helping them justify investment decisions for local mangrove conservation.

How can we make investment sustainable?

In many cases, the value that data brings is not clearly articulated. This is usually because it doesn't really benefit someone directly. **We need to look for sustained business models where conservation measures have co-benefit: for example, in sectors like tourism, aquaculture, or offshore energy.**

Another big driver is tourism. If we're able to build tourism models that feed off healthy ecosystems, that gives the tourism industry a strong reason to maintain the quality of biodiversity in that region. That generates one sustainable financing model. Things like blue bonds or carbon markets are also up-and-coming ways to channel financing in this space, as long as they are data driven – because, otherwise, trust in the system gets corrupted very quickly – and can be well and clearly measured.

How does collaboration help to advance biodiversity science?

Tangible examples where these collaborations are working include **autonomous eDNA samples, Digital Twins of the Ocean** with a dynamic component powered by biological and environmental data, or maximising the value of **video and satellite data using AI species recognition.**

Every piece of the puzzle is an important one and coming together makes us even stronger. For example, EMBRC might contribute through ARMS and Fugro could contribute through several other hydrospatial technologies. **I see this as an ecosystem effort: every partner puts in one or more pieces of the puzzle and together it makes a beautiful collage.**

EMO BON in numbers

9 participating countries

20 partner institutes

21+

Sampling campaigns

6 water column

6+ soft substrate (6+ microorganisms, 3+ meiobenthos, 2+ macrobenthos)

9+ hard substrate

1,093

samples collected

720 water column

256 soft substrate

117 hard substrate

5

Horizon projects which EMO BON is part of (ANERIS, Blue-Cloud2026, BlueRemediomics, DTO-BioFlow, FAIR-EASE).

EMO BON
EUROPEAN MARINE OMICS BIODIVERSITY NETWORK

EMO BON is a long-term omics observatory of marine biodiversity and ecosystems that brings together decades of marine biodiversity knowledge and experience under one coordinated network. It aims to generate continuous baseline biodiversity data, provide genetic insights into key ecosystems across Europe, and fill current gaps in biological observation.

Spotlight on science, technology, innovation and the SDGs

EMBRC's vision of a sustainable future for the billions of people who rely on our ocean is inextricably interlinked with the UN's Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

This was exemplified in 2025 when LifeWatch ERIC coordinated the release of a white paper by a network of European organisations – including EMBRC - showcasing the importance of science, data, and innovation in supporting the SDGs and the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework.

The white paper highlights the role science and innovation plays in tackling the threats presented by climate change, biodiversity loss, and pollution. It also stresses the importance of a holistic response from academics and policymakers.

The paper calls for:

- → Biodiversity to be positioned at the core of global sustainable development strategies
- → The promotion of science that addresses the interconnections between biodiversity, climate, food, water, and health
- → Deeper integration and collaboration between science, industry and policy
- → The use of innovative technologies and AI to strengthen global efforts for ecosystem monitoring, restoration, and sustainability
- → Open, interoperable digital ecosystems
- → Inclusive participation that supports Indigenous Peoples and Local Communities as custodians of biodiversity
- → Long-term investment in biodiversity-focused research infrastructures and financing pathways for innovation that safeguards biodiversity
- → Equitable Governance and Benefit-Sharing of biodiversity resources
- → Biodiversity data to follow FAIR and CARE principles
- → Equitable access to infrastructures for scientists around the world

The authors write:

"Biodiversity can no longer be treated as a siloed issue. It is foundational to climate resilience, public health, food security, and economic stability. The three interconnected planetary crises facing humanity (biodiversity loss, climate change, and pollution) represent the most urgent challenges of our time. Addressing them requires collective efforts from scientific communities, as well as the public and private sectors and policymakers."

"In this context, Science, Technology, and Innovation (STI) are crucial, because the complex transformations we need demand data-driven decision-making, cross-sectoral collaboration, and multidisciplinary and cross-domain research frameworks."

Science and innovation is key to solving complex global environmental challenges quickly and at scale. Ahead of the UN Summit of the Future in 2026 – and more than halfway through the Ocean Decade – the organisations call for global collaboration and integrated, future-oriented science to tackle the threats our planet is facing.

From Knowledge to Solutions: Science, Technology and Innovation in Support of the UN SDGs

Key learnings from EMBRC's

TECH webinar

Driving discoveries through today's technology

Blue growth is inextricably linked to technological development and innovation. When researchers from academia and industry collaborate to push the boundaries of scientific knowledge, they can find new ways to make processes and facilities more sustainable: from reducing disease in aquaculture to preventing expensive invasive species breakouts.

Sharing research outputs can help to boost the speed and success of future scientific applications. That's why EMBRC is helping its network learn from others' experiences through its series of webinars, hosted by our **Industrial Liaison Officer Mery Piña,** on how different economic sectors can contribute to a sustainable Blue Economy. These webinars are designed to translate complex scientific outputs into clear and intelligible discourse that resonates equally with researchers (60% of participants), industry practitioners (30% of participants), and policymakers (10% of participants).

JANUARY

Innovative disease control strategies for marine aquaculture

"Phages have drawn the attention of pharma companies and are considered as the next trillion dollar idea in biotech... By supporting private sector researchers and Blue Economy professionals advancing innovation in these areas, Aquatic Biologicals and EMBRC Greece are playing a key role in the move towards a sustainable Blue Economy in Europe."

Dr. Pantelis Katharios,
founder of Aquatic Biologicals (HCMR / EMBRC Greece).

Key learnings:

- Aquaculture is a hotspot for the development of antimicrobial resistance
- Risk of undermining the sustainability of the fish farming industry
- Scientists are becoming increasingly concerned about antibiotics in aquatic environments and the associated risks of drug resistant bacteria
- In Mediterranean aquaculture, disease is responsible for 400 million in lost revenue
- Phage therapy could be used as "smart" disinfectants, providing an alternative to antibiotics.

9,600 impressions

Watch the webinar

APRIL

Transforming water quality management globally

"Although eDNA is the fastest growing biomonitoring tool, there are still several constraints preventing its broad use... Our goal is to overcome these to be able to have a high frequency of data acquisition."

Carmem Manes,
principal researcher at MICROSENSE (Sorbonne University – Banyuls Observatory, EMBRC France)

Key learnings:

- The difficulty in accessing some marine environments makes eDNA work challenging
- Long delays between sampling and analysis are costly, hindering frequent analysis
- New devices to detect microbial contaminants in situ are a major step forward in environmental monitoring
- How MicroSense's autonomous water quality monitoring device could transform water resource management on a global scale

109,000 impressions

Watch the webinar

JULY

Detecting non-native species through marine monitoring and modelling

"Using modelling, we can identify areas that are more vulnerable to invasions and build an early warning system. If you notice alien species settling, you need to act fast to prevent a negative impact."

Justine Pagnier,
a conservation ecologist at University of Gothenburg, EMBRC Sweden

Key learnings:

- Alien species are one of the greatest threats to the world's ocean today
- They have increased drastically in Europe since the 1950s
- Species can move to a new place through shipping, deliberate release, or climate change (range expansion)
- While some can integrate harmlessly into their new environment, others can damage the ecosystem affecting fishery yields and damaging aquaculture stocks
- When that happens, it's important to identify and manage these invasive species quickly to prevent negative ecosystem and economic impacts
- Alien Detective is a tool that allows the classification of species detected in EMO BON data to support management decisions.

1,500 impressions

Watch the webinar

Podcasts

In 2025, members of the EMBRC team were invited onto podcasts to talk about their work. Communicating the importance of marine science and the role it plays in building a sustainable economy is central to our mission, so we were thrilled to see EMBRC team members raising awareness and boosting understanding of the importance of marine life through these guest appearances.

Episode: Ocean Story Hour
Guest: Anabelle Chaumun, Communications Manager

In this engaging discussion, EMBRC's Communications Manager Anabelle Chaumun explains how to make science more relatable by translating research into something human-centred. During the chat, Anabelle explains why turning science into stories that inspire action are vital in our transition towards a sustainable future. She also shares how storytelling can help people connect with the ocean world, which can sometimes feel invisible and intangible, and why this is important in a world when misinformation often spreads faster than science-based evidence.

"From a communications perspective, focusing on making this complex idea accessible means helping people understand why marine biodiversity matters and reminding them of how it connects to our societies. We need to get more various scientific insights into the global public conversation and make it accessible for audiences in ways that invite them to better understand the question and get engaged."

Anabelle Chaumun

Listen now

Episode: Sustainable Aquaculture with EMBRC research services
Guest: Mery Piña, Industries Liaison Officer

Being invited onto this podcast gave EMBRC the opportunity to address professionals in the aquaculture industry – one of our priority sectors alongside marine observation and biotechnology. During the conversation, Mery introduced EMBRC's work and explained how our services can underpin the development of the sustainable blue economy through training and support for science-based technologies that improve regenerative aquaculture. She also explained how transnational access programmes can help SMEs and startups with limited funds, encouraging more people to apply. We hope that more aquaculture professionals will consider applying for our services as a result of listening to this discussion.

"We made a study to identify which are the industrial sectors that we serve best. And that's where these three sectors – marine observation, aquaculture and marine biotechnology – came from. We identified that our top priority is aquaculture so we are really focusing on how our 100 aquaculture services can serve our community. We are currently running two transnational access programmes through AgroServ and AQUASERV. In these two projects, people can access these services for free, thanks to funding from the EU Commission."

Mery Piña

2025's communications *highlights*

This year, EMBRC's communications team continued its ongoing work to connect the marine science community and share the successes of our network across Europe.

2025 was a turning point for EMBRC's media activities with the launch of our new website and newsletter, release of our G20 recommendations, attending UNOC, and being featured in several press articles. It's great to see growing awareness of how our research infrastructure can support scientists from academia and industry, and we look forward to growing this further in 2026.

EMBRC's new website

EMBRC unveiled its new website, which was updated to better serve the needs of scientists, industry, policymakers and international organisations. The newly improved site has a strong focus on its user experience to facilitate easy access to EMBRC's catalogue of top-notch research services and expertise. Its updated format also helps the research community maximise the success of their discoveries by enabling them to find the different services and information they need to support their scientific work or inform marine-related policy and decisions.

"Making complexity comprehensible is not about simplification, it's about access. When scientific knowledge is dense, scattered, or poorly structured, it becomes a barrier. When we redesigned EMBRC's website, we aimed to restore clarity: to choose the right words, build the right hierarchy, and create the conditions for true accessibility and Open Science. Communication is not cosmetic; it is a tool to make knowledge usable for all."

Gwenaelle Walter, Communications Officer, EMBRC Headquarters

We were excited to launch our newsletter – EMBRConnect – to link the marine science community with the latest biodiversity innovations, connect interdisciplinary researchers, and create waves of ocean discovery across Europe.

Subscribe

UNITED NATIONS OCEAN CONFERENCE NICE, FRANCE 2025

One Ocean Science Conference (OOSC) & UN Ocean Conference (UNOC), Nice, France

At UNOC 2025 in June, EMBRC issued a press release announcing its G20 policy recommendations. We also hosted a series of events and activities to promote the infrastructure's work. These included a poster presentation at OOSC on EMO BON's results and how the project is filling gaps in biological observation and a side event at UNOC on the role Digital Twins of the Ocean play in global marine governance. This insightful panel was hosted with the Environmental Politics Research Group at the University of Vienna and MARCO-BOLO.

ERIC Forum Media workshops

EMBRC's communication team, Anabelle Chaumun and Gwenaelle Walter were among 20 comms professionals who attended the ERIC Forum's media workshops in Vienna. During the two-day masterclass, attendees honed their media skills through sessions on a range of topics including creating and pitching stories to journalists, maximising social media trends, and multimedia storytelling. We're looking forward to putting these into practice as we continue to ramp up our media outreach.

The European Aquaculture Conference, Valencia, Spain

EMBRC hosted a coffee and blue pitches session at the European Aquaculture Conference 2025 where three scientists delivered a five-minute pitch presenting how EMBRC's services supported their aquaculture research. This lively event generated 8,400 impressions, had an engagement rate of 20.9% (17% higher than EMBRC's campaign average), and boosted EMBRC's followers by 59% in September.

EMBRC in the media

In 2025, the work of EMBRC was spotlighted through several media articles:

- EMBRC was spotlighted in SONAR magazine through an interview with our industrial liaison officer Mery Piña about our involvement in the Ocean Hackathon.
- Our Chair, Adelino Canario, appeared on the EASTalk podcast discussing how AQUASERV can help to unlock research opportunities.
- Our executive director Nicolas Pade was featured in Science Business discussing the potential impacts of a European Commission funding proposal.
- Our industrial liaison officer Mery Piña appeared on France 24 sharing her insights on the UN Ocean Conference.
- Anabelle Chaumun, Communications Manager and Mery Pina, Industrial Liaison Officer, were interviewed by the Oceanography podcast and the EASTalk podcast.

Our publications in 2025

In 2025, EMBRC marine stations continued to further exciting developments and discoveries about marine biodiversity and important habitats.

Researchers from across EMBRC's European network published:

250 papers

in **174** different journals

(source: GoogleScholar)

Top journals

PUBLISHED STUDIES APPEARED IN:	PUBLICATIONS
Scientific Reports	6
Frontiers in Marine Science	5
Molecular Ecology	4
Molecules	4
Nature Communications	3
Limnology and Oceanography	3
Frontiers in Microbiology	3
New Phytologist	3

Spotlight on the value of plankton & its biotech applications

Paper: The immeasurable value of plankton to humanity
Journal: BioScience
Published: June 2025

Read the paper

Life on Earth as we know it wouldn't exist without plankton. These tiny organisms are often overlooked in favour of more charismatic megafauna, like sharks and rays, but they provide countless benefits to the environment and human societies. Thanks to plankton, communities around the world can access food, clean water, and other benefits such as energy and recreational activities that contribute to their wellbeing.

In this paper, a collaboration of researchers including EMBRC's **Alice Soccodato (Science Unit Manager)** and **Ioulia Santi (Observation, Data and Service Development Officer)** shared a comprehensive summary of the value plankton adds to human life. They focused on the value of plankton across the following six themes: biogeochemistry; ecology; climate; the evolution of science; economy; and culture, recreation, and well-being.

Biotechnological innovations inspired by plankton

The features and attributes of plankton have also inspired several exciting biotechnological innovations, including:

Construction: Calcite shells of certain plankton species (e.g., foraminifera, coccolithophores) are part of limestone, a material used in the steel industry and for the production of chalk, construction materials, agricultural lime, and toothpaste.

Energy: Planktonic microalgae such as Dunaliella are used for biodiesel and bioethanol production

Food & supplements: Harvested and farmed plankton are used as food and supplements for species cultured for both commercial and recreational aquaculture, such as fish, shellfish, and shrimp, as well as for humans

Marine biodiversity protection: Monitoring plankton through eDNA tools can provide an early warning system for potentially harmful invasive species and inform ecosystem protections.

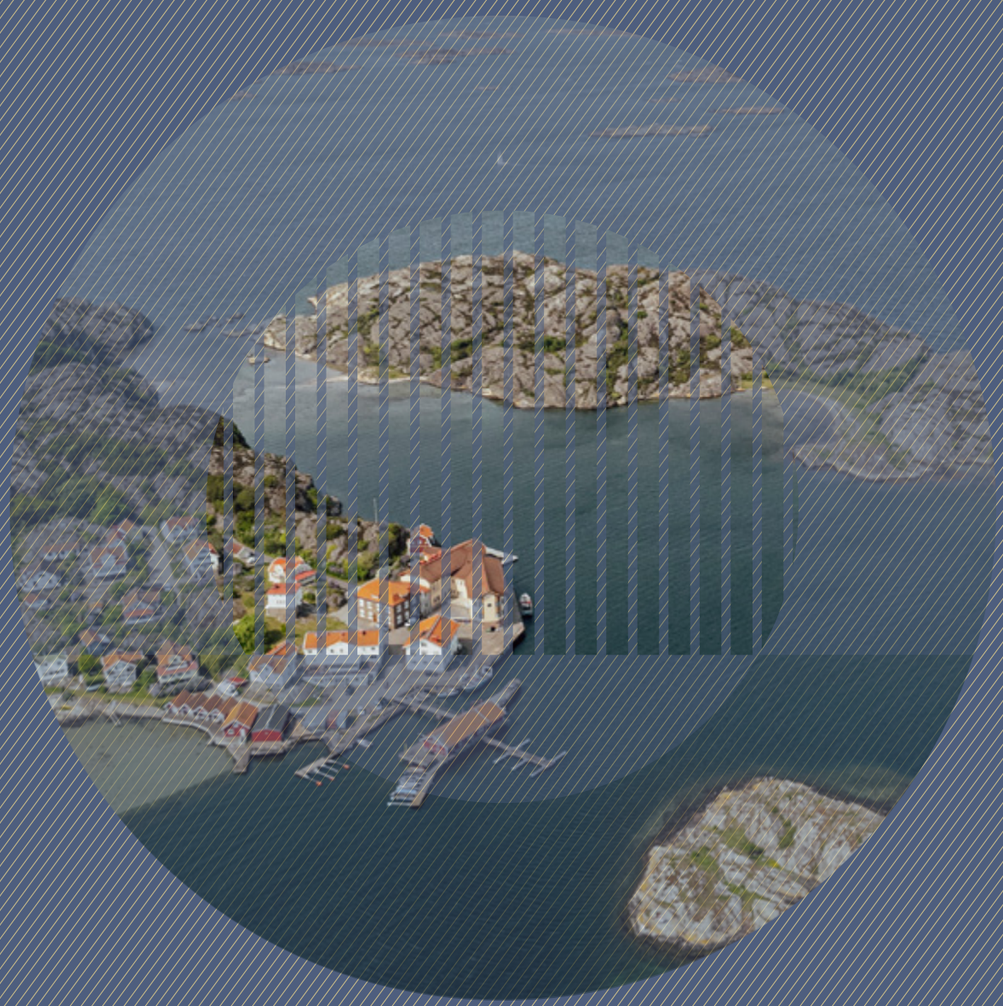
Pharmaceuticals: Plankton-derived bioactive compounds, such as bioluminescent proteins and toxins, are increasingly used in medicine and the pharmaceutical industry.

Water quality monitoring: Government agencies can use biosensors to monitor plankton as a way of checking environmental status and water quality (e.g., microbial pathogens, harmful algae, eutrophication, pollution).

EMBRC supporting plankton-inspired technological innovation

Through this paper, EMBRC researchers share important insights into the value of plankton for the environment, economies, biotech companies, policy-makers, and more. This knowledge can help researchers in academia and industry improve their understanding of plankton for research and commercial applications that contribute to a sustainable Blue Economy for generations to come.

Governance



As a distributed research infrastructure, EMBRC has 10 member countries and over 80 marine research sites across Europe. Our headquarters in Paris, France, is responsible for the infrastructure's coordination and centralised management.

EMBRC General Assembly (GA)

EMBRC is governed by a General Assembly, which is made up of two representatives from each EMBRC member country and is responsible for making decisions about the organisation's strategy, governance and scientific development.

BELGIUM

Koen Lefever (Vice-Chair), Belgian Science Policy Office (BELSPO)

Gert Verreet, Departement Economie, Wetenschap en Innovatie (EWI)

FRANCE

Catherine Leblanc, Sorbonne Université (SU)

Catherine Le Chalony, Ministry of Higher Education, Research and Innovation (MERI)

FINLAND

Jouni Heiskanen, University of Helsinki

Jaana Lehtimäki, Research Council of Finland

GREECE

Panagiotis Kasapidis, Hellenic Centre for Marine Research (HCMR)

Antonios Magoulas, Hellenic Centre for Marine Research (HCMR)

ISRAEL

Moshe Ben-Sasson, Ministry of Science, Technology and Space (MOST)

Simon Berkowicz, Interuniversity Institute for Marine Sciences (IUI)

ITALY

Marco Borra, (Vice-Chair), Stazione Zoologica Anton Dohrn (SZN)

Mauro Bertelletti, Ministry of Scientific Research and Education (MIUR)

NORWAY

Inger Oline Røsvik, Research Council of Norway (RCN)

Henrik Glenner on behalf of **Amund Maage,** University of Bergen (UiB)

PORTUGAL

Marta Abrantes, Foundation for Science and Technology (FCT)

Adelino Canário (Chair), Centre of Marine Sciences (CCMAR)

SPAIN

Estefanía Muñoz Sánchez on behalf of **Inmaculada Figueroa Rojas,** Ministry of Science, Innovation and Universities

Juan Luis Gómez Pinchetti, University of Las Palmas de Gran Canaria

SWEDEN

Ulf Jonsell, Swedish Research Council

Gunilla Rosenqvist, Uppsala University

EMBRC Secretariat

Nicolas Pade, Executive Director, is EMBRC's executive and legal representative. He leads EMBRC's Secretariat, which is responsible for the organisation's general management and administration.

Nicolas Pade, Executive Director

Alexandra Vasic, Chief Financial and Administrative Officer

Guillaume Duspara, Administrative Assistant

Nathalie Mellot, Financial and Administrative Officer

Davide Di Cioccio, Access Unit Manager

Stella Alexandroff, Access Officer

Arnaud Laroquette, Access and Benefit Sharing (ABS) Compliance Officer

Alice Soccodato, Scientific Officer and Project Manager

Ioulia Santi, Observation Data and Service Development Officer

Christina Pavloudi, Data Scientist

Giulia Vecchi, Project Manager (MARCO-BOLO)

Paulina Ramirez Quevedo, Project Manager (eDNAquaPlan)

Kamila Sfugier Tollik, EU Projects Coordination Officer

Anabelle Chaumun, Communications Manager

Gwenaëlle Walter, Communications Officer

Mery Piña, Industry Liaison Officer

Inès Amami, General Assembly Secretary

Governance

The Committee of Nodes

Serving as a link between EMBRC HQ and its national partners, this committee provides advice on development and technical issues and ensures decisions made by the GA are implemented at national level.

Jan Vanaverbeke, Royal Belgian Institute of Natural Sciences (RBINS) – Chair until October 2025

Deborah Power, Centro de Ciências do Mar (CCMAR) – Chair since October 2025

Joanna Norkko, University of Helsinki (UH)

Mery Piña (Secretary), European Marine Biological Resource Centre (EMBRC HQ)

Alice Soccodato, European Marine Biological Resource Centre (EMBRC HQ)

Nicolas Pade, European Marine Biological Resource Centre (EMBRC)

Alex McDougall, Institut de la Mer de Villefranche (IMEV)

Georgios Kotoulas, Institue of Marine Biology, Biotechnology and Aquaculture (HCMR-IMBBC)

Raz Tamir, Israel Oceanic and Limnological Research (IOLR)

Donatella De Pascale, Stazione Zoologica Anton Dohrn (SZN)

Tatiana Tsagaraki, University of Bergen – until October 2025

Henrik Glenner, The Arctic University of Norway (UiT) – since October 2025

Matthias Obst, Kristineberg Marine Research Station (KMRS), University of Gothenburg (UGOT)

Estefania Paredes Rosendo, University of Vigo (UVigo)

The Science & Innovation Advisory Board

The Science & Innovation Advisory board is made up of industry and academic experts who have been elected by the GA to advise EMBRC on strategic matters.

Claire Jolly,
OECD

Antonio Villanueva,
BioMar

Emma Heslop,
IOC/UNESCO (GOOS)

The EMO BON Operational Committee

As EMO BON's governing body, the Operational Committee (OpCo) oversees the project's function and makes operational and developmental decisions. The OpCo is made up of one representative from each EMBRC member country, representatives from EMBRC's Headquarters, the e-infrastructure and traceability working groups and the General Assembly.

Nicolas Pade,
EMBRC-ERIC

Ioulia Santi,
EMBRC-ERIC

Kim Praebel,
The Arctic University of Norway – Tromsø Aquaculture Research Station (UiT)

Fabrice Not,
Station biologique de Roscoff (SBR)

Bruno Louro,
Centre of Marine Sciences (CCMAR)

Oihane Diaz de Cerio,
Plentzia Marine Station (PiE)

Raffaella Casotti,
Stazione Zoologica Anton Dohrn (SZN)

Hanneloor Heynderickx,
Flanders Marine Institute (VLIZ)

Melanthia (Melina) Stavroulaki,
Hellenic Centre for Marine Research (HCMR)

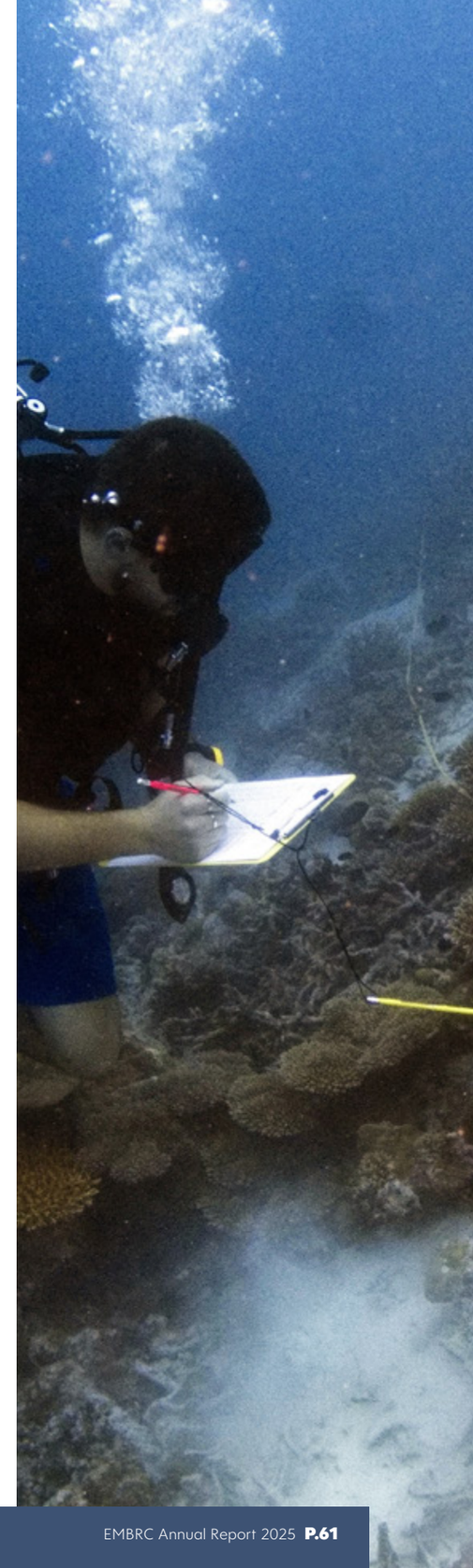
Matthias Obst,
University of Gothenburg (UGOTH)

Laura Kauppi,
University of Helsinki (UH)

Christina Pavloudi,
EMBRC-ERIC

Katrina Exter,
Flanders Marine Institute (VLIZ)

Arnaud Laroquette,
EMBRC-ERIC



Our Funding & Finances

YEAR 2025 - **INCOME**

Belgium	€ 61,939
Finland	€ 61,094
France	€ 84,773
France Host Premium	€ 150,000
Greece	€ 47,532
Israel	€ 55,371
Italy	€ 73,107
Norway	€ 69,117
Portugal	€ 49,760
Spain	€ 64,127
Sweden	€ 65,323

OPERATIONAL INCOME	
Operational Income	
Membership Contributions	€ 782,143
Overheads on Finished Projects	€ 50,701
Other	-
VAT Refunds	-
Total Operational	**€ 832,844**

AgroServ € 25,134
AI4LIFE € 7,512
ANERIS € 40,391
AQUARIUS € 24,188
AQUASERV € 87,608
AtlantECO € 6,538
BIOcean5D € 28,016
Blue-Cloud 2 € 11,961
BlueRemediomics € 40,836
DOORS € 35,646
DTO-BioFlow € 99,128
eDNAqua-plan € 69,993
ERIC Forum 2 € 7,463
FAIR-EASE € 4,212
IMAGINE € 22,273
IRISCC € 30,637
ISIDORe € 15,555
MALDIBANK € 14,777
MARCO-BOLO € 96,590
PHYTODIVERSE € 2,284
TRICUSO € 26,995

EUROPEAN PROJECTS INCOME	
EU project income	€ 697,737
Total EU projects	**€ 697,737**

IN-KIND CONTRIBUTIONS	
Host premium In-kind HR	€ 25,000
Host premium In-kind offices	€ 122,000
Host premium In-kind back office	€ 18,000
Total In-kind	**€ 165,000**

TOTAL **€ 1,695,581**

YEAR 2025 - **EXPENDITURES**

OPERATIONAL EXPENDITURES	
Operational Expenditures	
Salaries & staff expenses	€ 735,060
Office supplies	€ 15,965
Subcontracting	-
Outsourcing	€ 107,444
Travels & Meetings	€ 53,403
Communication	€ 46,903
Others	€ 5,125
Total Operational	**€ 963,900**

EUROPEAN PROJECTS EXPENDITURES	
Direct Personnel costs	€ 588,092
Other goods, works & Services	€ 57,620
Travels & Meetings	€ 29,061
Other goods, works & Services	€ 22,964
Total EU projects	**€ 697,737**

IN-KIND EXPENDITURES	
Host premium In-kind HR	€ 25,000
Host premium In-kind offices	€ 122,000
Host premium In-kind back office	€ 18,000
Total In-kind	**€ 165,000**

ACTIVITIES EXPENDITURES	
Personnel costs (Industry)	€ 100,836
EMO BON	€ 169,580
International Travel	€ 1,317
Industry	€ 21,624
Staff Exchange Programme	€ 6,570
AquaExcel	€22,059
Total Activities	**€ 321,986**

TOTAL **€ 2,148,623**

NET RESULT **€ - 453,042**

General conclusion :

In 2025, in addition to its operational activities and European projects, EMBRC is actively pursuing its policy of utilizing the cash surplus to support the development of its complementary activities.

This approach results in increased financial support for key services such as EMO BON and Industry, which play a central role in our missions. Furthermore, structuring programmes such as Staff Exchange and Aquaexcel also benefit from these funds, thereby promoting international exchanges as well as the strengthening and sharing of scientific skills and knowledge within the EMBRC network.

These services and activities complement operational missions and European projects, providing significant added value to EMBRC's overall offering.All of these actions are fully aligned with EMBRC's strategy and missions, aiming to increase its scientific impact, develop and enhance its attractiveness at the European and International levels.

It should be noted that this policy of drawing down the cash surplus is the main reason for the overspending, which has resulted in a negative balance of €453,042.

Thank you

As we pass the halfway point of the UN Ocean Decade, we're proud of the tireless efforts of our pan-European network. In 2025, our 10 country members continued working hard to understand marine life and harness its potential to create a sustainable future for the billions of people who rely on our ocean.

A few of our many highlights include releasing our G20 policy recommendations, publishing the first EMO BON data paper, unveiling EMBRC's new website, attending several conferences – including the UN Ocean Conference – and the continued success of our Tech Webinar series.

We'd like to thank everyone who supported our work this year and we're excited to continue working with you in 2026.

A special thank you to the European Commission, Horizon Europe, and ESFRI. Your support makes it possible for EMBRC to continue supporting scientists as they foster innovation, produce knowledge, and make the new discoveries that will lead to a sustainable future.

EMBRC is grateful to all the individuals who contributed to this report, including at HQ and country level

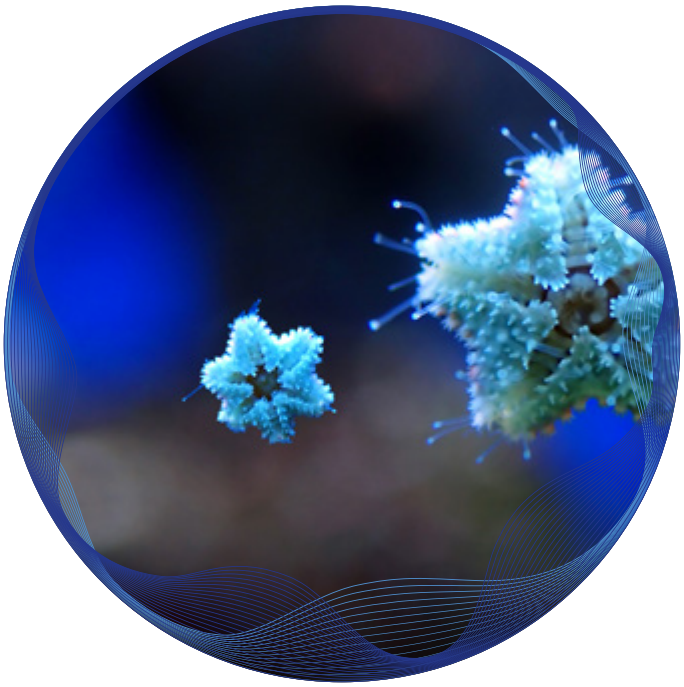
Project coordinated by Anabelle Chaumun, Communications Manager, EMBRC Headquarters

Editorial managers: Melissa Hobson, The Ocean Writer Ltd; Anabelle Chaumun, Communications Manager, EMBRC Headquarters

Designed by Morgane Goavec, Casimirdesign

Find out more :
embrc.eu
@EMBRC_EU
@EMBRC.EU
EMBRC (European Marine Biological Resource Centre)

EMBRC
EUROPEAN MARINE BIOLOGICAL RESOURCE CENTRE



EMBRC
EUROPEAN
MARINE
BIOLOGICAL
RESOURCE
CENTRE