

## EMBRC: a pan-European Research Infrastructure for marine biological and ecological research

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The European Marine Biological Resource Centre (EMBRC-ERIC) is a pan-European distributed Research Infrastructure. It provides and supports large-scale and high-quality marine science in Europe as part of the European Strategy Forum on Research Infrastructures (ESFRI) roadmap since 2008. The present operators include renowned marine biological stations and institutes across the European Union and associated countries. Through access to state-of-the-art national facilities, EMBRC-ERIC will provide the necessary and relevant services, facilities and technology platforms to study marine organisms and ecosystems, promoting the development of blue biotechnologies. By being part of EMBRC, Flanders remains on the front stage of the Blue Growth scenario, with fundamental and applied research and education activities in sustainable aquaculture, exploitation of living resources, blue biotechnology, ecosystem health and marine management.

The Flemish EMBRC consortium consists of 10 internationally prominent laboratories, belonging to four EMBRC operators (UGent, KU Leuven, UHasselt and VLIZ). The Royal institute for Natural sciences is an additional Belgian operator. The societally and economically relevant overarching research themes in which the Flemish consortium wants to continue to excel and strengthen its position are threefold:

- Global change ecology and evolution,
- Marine living resources and food production, and
- Ecosystem health

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