



EMBRC to continue the work of ASSEMBLE Plus: Stimulating European excellence in marine biology and ecology research.

Press Release: October 2022

After five successful years, the EU Horizon 2020-funded project, ASSEMBLE Plus (Association of European Marine Biological Laboratories Expanded) has closed and the [European Marine Biological Resource Centre \(EMBRC\)](#) will ensure the continuation of its legacy.

Launched in 2017, ASSEMBLE Plus provided scientists from academia, industry and policy with access to over 30 marine installations in 16 countries. Through specific initiatives such as the [Transnational Access Programme](#), [Networking Activities](#) and [Joint Research Activities \(JRAs\)](#), ASSEMBLE Plus stimulated European excellence in fundamental and applied research in marine biology and ecology. Research outputs supported by ASSEMBLE Plus have improved European knowledge and technology bases for applications in blue economy, policy and education.

Key achievements of ASSEMBLE Plus include:

- Supporting over 500 international researchers from 46 different countries with their projects, while also enabling new strands of research by funding pilot projects.
- Introducing scientists to new facilities as well as offering training, networking and collaboration opportunities for hundreds of early career scientists.
- Supporting two initiatives for genomic observations: [Ocean Sampling Day \(OSD\)](#) and [Autonomous Reef Monitoring Structures - Marine Biodiversity Observation Network \(ARMS-MBON\)](#).
- Developing open access protocols for [genetic manipulation](#) and [cryopreservation](#) of marine organisms, [camera-based underwater surveying techniques](#), and [novel experimental platforms](#).
- Producing [open access data](#) to support further research and advocating for the importance of applying FAIR data principles to all marine research.

In parallel to ASSEMBLE Plus (2017-2022) and the previous, FP7-funded ASSEMBLE project (2009-2014), EMBRC was developed as a long-term research infrastructure to support marine biological research. Today, EMBRC is Europe's leading research infrastructure for marine biological resources with a mission to support marine biological and ecological research as well as innovation. EMBRC also works to raise awareness of marine biological research, its application, and relevance for society and policy. EMBRC will ensure that the legacy of ASSEMBLE Plus will continue beyond the project, specifically:

- Researchers will still be able to access ASSEMBLE Plus facilities via the EMBRC network.
- Platforms and protocols developed during **ASSEMBLE Plus** are available on the [EMBRC's Service Catalogue](#).

- Genomic observation initiatives will continue: ARMS-MBON will be included in the [European Marine Omics Biodiversity Observation Network \(EMO BON\)](#) and OSD will become All Atlantic Sampling Day as part of the [AtlantEco project](#).

Dr Nicolas Pade, ASSEMBLE Plus Scientific Coordinator and Executive Director of EMBRC said,

“I am delighted that EMBRC will be able to continue the important work that ASSEMBLE Plus has started. Collaboration is the key to successful research. Sharing ideas, working with people from different disciplines and visiting other institutions and facilities are all vital tools that will help us to understand and tackle the problems facing our marine environments. We look forward to working with the ASSEMBLE Plus alumni and community for many years to come!”

For more information about the outputs and legacy of ASSEMBLE Plus, please visit [assembleplus.eu](#) or [download the final project newsletter](#). For information about EMBRC, visit [embrc.eu](#).



Notes for Editors

About ASSEMBLE Plus

For more information about the project, please visit [assembleplus.eu](#) or email assembleplus_ta@embrc.eu. Follow [@ASSEMBLE Plus](#) on Twitter for regular updates from the project.

For ASSEMBLE Plus queries, please contact Mercedes Arjona mercedes.arjona@sorbonne-universite.fr.

For EMBRC queries, please contact the EMBRC Secretariat at secretariat@embrc.eu.



This project has received funding from the European Union's Horizon 2020 research and innovation programme under Grant Agreement no. 730984 (ASSEMBLE PLUS). This output reflects only the author's view and the European Commission cannot be held responsible for any use that may be made of the information contained therein.

About EMBRC

EMBRC (European Marine Biological Resource Centre) enables researchers to better understand the ocean's biodiversity by facilitating access to marine organisms and their ecosystems, while providing the necessary services, facilities and other resources to support innovative research. Services are provided by more than 70 sites in ten member countries: Belgium, France, Greece, Israel, Italy, Norway, Portugal, Spain, Sweden and the United Kingdom. [Read more about how to access EMBRC services](#) or [watch the ABCs of using EMBRC video](#).

In addition to providing various services, EMBRC contributes to European and international projects. Diverse in scope and country involvement, these projects aim to enhance EMBRC activities and/or services, strengthen collaboration with similar European organisations, structure the research community and provide services to support research. You can learn more about the projects EMBRC are involved in by visiting the [EMBRC Projects](#) page.

###