



Joint EuroMarine-EMBRC 2020 call: Access of EuroMarine early career researchers to resources and services of the European Marine Biological Resource Centre

1 Background: EuroMarine, EMBRC and their objectives

1.1 EuroMarine

EuroMarine (www.euromarinetwork.eu) is a European, marine science network launched in 2014 and designed as a bottom-up organisation to raise the voice of the European marine scientific community. It is intended as a durable organisation and a legal entity placed under the control of the consortium that gathers all members was established in 2018 as a support structure (and potential recipient of external funds starting in 2020). As of April 2019, EuroMarine counts 59 member organisations (MOs), 51 of which are 'full voting' members contributing to the budget.

Two primary goals of EuroMarine are: (a) to support the identification and initial development of important emerging scientific topics and methodologies in marine sciences; and (b) to foster new services relevant to the marine scientific community.

EuroMarine achieves these goals through internal competitive calls for proposals, within the available budget. It is expected that support for these activities and their outcomes will help to leverage larger projects under European, national or joint research funding programmes.

EuroMarine also advocates for marine science and contributes to improving the science-governance interface, providing expertise and transferring knowledge.

1.2 EMBRC

EMBRC (European Marine Biology Resource Centre; www.embrc.eu) ERIC (European Research Infrastructure Consortium) is a global reference Research Infrastructure responding to the societal Grand Challenges through advanced marine biology and ecology research. With its services, it aims to answer fundamental questions regarding the health of oceanic ecosystems in a changing environment, enable new technologies to further our investigation capabilities, support life-science breakthrough discoveries with the use of marine biological models, and continue long-term marine monitoring efforts. EMBRC-ERIC is a driver in the development of blue biotechnologies, supporting both fundamental and applied research activities for sustainable solutions in the food, health and environmental sectors.

1.3 Why a joint call?

The call follows an offer extended by EMBRC to EuroMarine (seen as a natural user and 'prescriber' community for EMBRC infrastructures and services), during the EuroMarine 2020 General Assembly meeting.

From the perspective of EMBRC, the call aims at raising the awareness of marine research infrastructures among young researchers of EuroMarine by allowing them to test and put at use their services, and at ultimately fostering the use of EMBRC infrastructures.

From the perspective of EuroMarine, the call strengthens the capacity building components of its yearly activities and can encourage young researchers to test ideas and complete proof of concepts in line with EuroMarine's primary mission, which consists in supporting

the “identification and initial development of important emerging scientific topics and methodologies in marine sciences.”

2 Terms of the joint EuroMarine-EMBRC call– Selection procedure

EMBRC offers 50 k€ worth of services to 10 EuroMarine early career scientists (as defined by the [EuroMarine OYSTER \(early career scientists\) group](#), i.e., *PhD students or researchers within 5 years of their PhD degree*). Each successful applicant will benefit of up to 5 k€.

Grants cover the cost of EMBRC services. They do not cover travel and stay expenses, which successful applicants will have to cover otherwise.

Applications will be pre-selected and ranked on the basis of a description of the research project to which the targeted EMBRC services will contribute, considering its intrinsic scientific value, its novelty and its relevance to the general scientific strategy of EuroMarine, as outlined in the EuroMarine [Ocean Frontier manifesto](#).

In a second step, the feasibility and cost of services envisioned in the pre-selected proposals will be assessed, after which a final selection of ten successful proposals will be made.

Proposals must involve mobility on the part of the young researchers, who must visit at least one EMBRC facility located outside the country they are based in.

The targeted EMBRC services must be used by the end of 2020.

3 Details on some eligibility criteria

Early career scientist: The criteria (PhD student or researcher within 5 years of their PhD degree) is to be matched at the time of submitting the application and at that of using the EMBRC services (in 2020).

Membership in EuroMarine: The young scientist must be a student or employee of a EuroMarine full Member Organisation (having committed to pay its 2020 contribution to the EuroMarine budget) or an Invited Member from one of the following countries: Morocco, Peru, South Africa, Tunisia, or Turkey.¹

4 Available services and service providers

To explore available services and corresponding provider, please consult: <https://www.embrc.eu/services>

For any question concerning the EMBRC services, please contact: access@embrc.eu

Please note that you do not need to estimate the cost of the services you target (this will be the task of EMBRC, for pre-selected proposals).

¹ See www.euromarinenetwork.eu/documents/euromarine-2020-membership-list to check out the latest 2020 list of organisations and their status. See <http://www.euromarinenetwork.eu/documents/euromarine-2020-general-assembly-representatives> if you need to approach your organisation’s EuroMarine General Assembly representative to verify the membership status.

5 Examples of possible proposals & services

The below examples involve multiple sites and service, which is by no means a requirement. Applicants can focus on a single site and a single service.

- *Example 1*
 - PhD student, National Institute of Biology, Slovenia
 - Service request:
 - Phytoplankton sampling in Crete (HCMR), Portugal (CCMAR) and Belgium (RBINS)
 - Molecular analyses by SZN Napoli
- *Example 2*
 - 1st post-doc position, University of Bergen
 - Service request:
 - Sample intertidal invertebrates in Belgian estuary
 - Perform ocean acidification experiments (UGent)
 - Perform fatty acid analyses (UGent)

6 Submission of proposals

To apply, please fill in the Google form at <https://forms.gle/bjeBesszhqZWjMJU7> by the submission deadline (the reception of proposals will be acknowledged; please make sure you receive such receipt).

Please keep your proposal as brief as possible (and under the limits specified in the submission form).

Please note that you will be invited to upload a short CV/profile and a motivation letter/statement, for which you will be asked to sign in under your Google account (please create one if necessary).

7 Timeline

4 March: Publication of the call
19 April: Deadline for proposal submission
20 Apr.-3 May: Pre-selection

4-15 May: Feasibility assessment and costing; notification of outcome
Second half of 2020: Research visit / Service provisioning

8 Terms and conditions of funding

Successful applicants should acknowledge EuroMarine and EMBRC in any publication or communication related to the results obtained through the call and corresponding EMBRC services. This should be done with a sentence starting with the designation of the relevant product (e.g. "This paper" / "This research" / "Research for this paper" / "The preparation of this paper") and ending with "has been supported by EuroMarine and EMBRC".

Successful applicants will also be asked to provide some feedback on their experience of this call and EMBRC services, to communicate outcomes to the EuroMarine and/or EMBRC Secretariat, and to observe some Open Science principles.

Funding will not imply fund transfers between EMBRC or EuroMarine and the successful applicants' organisations. Instead, the EMBRC-ERIC will directly pay invoices of the service providers.

9 Further information, references, contact

- EMBRC website: <https://www.embrc.eu/>
- EMBRC services: <https://www.embrc.eu/services>
- EMBRD contact: access@embrc.eu, to be used for any question regarding EMBRC services

- [Joint EuroMarine-EMBRC call webpage:](http://www.euromarinenetwork.eu/joint_EuroMarine-EMBRC_call2020)
http://www.euromarinenetwork.eu/joint_EuroMarine-EMBRC_call2020, which includes links to:
 - the present call text;
 - the submission form;
 - lists of [2020 EuroMarine Members Organisations](#) and corresponding [General Assembly Representatives](#)
 - [EuroMarine 2018 Ocean Frontiers for Sustainable Development manifesto](#)
- EuroMarine contact: secretariat@euromarinenetwork.eu, to be used for any doubt concerning the 2020 membership.