

**Minutes of 13th European Marine Biological Resource Centre (EMBRC) UK
Node meeting – 26th June 2017 – telephone conference call**

Present:

David Paterson - University of St
Andrews / MASTS (Chair)
Martyn Cox - Marine Scotland
Alistair Main – University of St
Andrews

Axel Miller – SAMS
Melody Clark – British Antarctic Survey
Nick Pade - Marine Biological
Association

Apologies:

Colin Moffat – Marine Scotland
Gavin Grewar - Marine Scotland
Iveta Makejusova - Marine Scotland
Colin Brownlee – Marine Biological
Association
Beatrix Schlarb-Ridley – British
Antarctic Survey

Mark James - MASTS
Vincent Janik – University of St
Andrews
Claire Gachon - SAMS

Welcome and introduction

1. David Paterson welcomed everyone to the meeting. There wasn't an EMBRC-ERIC EIB meeting imminent, this having been postponed, but there were many actions from the last meeting to consider.

Minutes and review actions of 12th meeting

2. Minutes were agreed as an accurate record of the meeting subject to the inclusion of thanks to BAS for hosting the meeting and organising a visit to their facilities. The Actions were all completed or would be covered as part of the agenda, except for:

ACTION 12.5: e-Infrastructure - Dan Lear has been attending e-infrastructure meeting and NP attending User Access workshop on 7th Dec. Nick reported that there was nothing of importance for the UK Node from User Access workshop.

New **ACTION 13.1:** NP to contact Dan Lear re update on e-infrastructure (new web site, access platform and EMBRC data policy).

ACTION 12.7: External funding and resources - map of funding opportunities will be available by February 2017. UK Node not aware of this appear as yet but need to understand and use it.

New **ACTION 13.2:** – DMP to establish if this is available yet.

ACTION 12.9: EMBRC has made nominations to the '[EU Marine Training Portal Advisory Board](#)' – DMP to investigate why there is no UK representative on the Board. DMP had investigated this and established there were a limited number of members (about 5) with not every national body involved. It was noted that there were UK connections. The UK Node could keep in touch via reports back from the EIB and CoN meetings.

ACTION 12.15: EMBRC UK to identify a way to gain recognition from UK Research councils.

New **ACTION 13.3:** DMP and MC will agree an approach to NERC to establish how EMBRC UK can garner support at the Research Councils.

ACTION 13.4: MC to arrange upload of minutes of 12th meeting to web site.

EIB matters

3. Following the Madrid EIB meeting, the ERIC application had been submitted to the EU Commission. Initial feedback was that it was progressing well and that a formal decision, by way of announcement in the EU *Official Journal*, was expected in the summer with a formal launch being planned for the autumn. It was hoped that changes to the statutes would be minimal as they had been amended to reflect earlier Commission comments.
4. Following correspondence with BBSRC recently, it was confirmed that EMBRC was a research infrastructure added to the ESFRI Roadmap 2008 and therefore the new call of ESFRI Roadmap 2018 (and ESFRI UK) did not apply.
5. Currently there wasn't a date set for the next EMBRC-ERIC EIB meeting. It was anticipated to be in the autumn and maybe associated with an official ERIC launch. The next UK Node meeting would be planned to coincide. At this stage there weren't any new actions for the UK Node in relation to ERIC / EIB matters except those already agreed.

Committee of Nodes

6. Liaison officer role – it was understood that EMBRC HQ considered the LO role, within each country partner, would develop into a full time post acting as a conduit for all applications in which all EMBRC institutions were involved. The UK Node position, confirmed by MBA, BAS SAMS and SOI, was currently that there was a single Liaison Officer (Axel) with each institution having a liaison person who would act in their institute's interests when approached about access to infrastructure / New applications. At this stage it was not appropriate to change that stance. Axel would advise the CoN meeting (later this week in Crete) of the UK position.

ACTION 13.5: MC to develop table of UK institutional liaison officer contacts.

7. Access model - Axel had reported that through the CoN there were three possibilities being suggested by EMBRC:
 - a. EMBRC Paris HQ arranges the access direct with the partner institution
 - b. Contact made (by party wishing to access) with UK Node
 - c. Contact made (by party wishing to access) direct to EMBRC Rep at facility institution
8. It was thought that (c) was most likely to occur, with the occasional use of (b). The UK Node agreed that (a) seemed the most unlikely model to use.

ACTION 13.6: Am to report back on Crete CoN meeting.

EMBRC UK Node business

9. Recent liaison with BEIS / STFC – Colin and Martyn had met with BEIS and STFC recently and a short note had been circulated. BEIS had posed a number of questions regarding the success of EMBRC to better understand options for our future position in Europe. A draft reply has been circulated. Any further contributions ASAP please to allow MC to reply to BEIS on 27th June.

ACTION 13.7: All to advise MC re further comments on draft reply to BEIS.

10. Nick reported that MBA was taking opportunities to publicise the work of EMBRC regionally through local councils, industry and local enterprise partnerships. There was a need for all Node members to seek similar publicity.

ACTION 13.8: All to send list to MC of any key contacts made with publicising EMBRC.

ACTION 13.9: Nick to write a paragraph for use on EMBRC UK web site to promote EMBRC benefits.

11. Ambition for UK Node – MC introduced the text developed from the Cambridge presentations. It was agreed that the summary could form the basis of text for the web site, to be subsequently developed by the Comms Group into promotional material. Stronger links were needed to the UK strategic research priorities to highlight how marine biological science can contribute to these. See page 17 of https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/387780/P_U1719_HMT_Science_.pdf

ACTION 13.10: DMP and MC to

- a. strengthen text for initial web site use and
- b. ask Comms Group to develop into promotional material.

12. Communications Group – following the last meeting nominations had been received from all UK Node members. It was agreed that David and Martyn develop Terms of Reference (ToR) for the group and circulate for comment.

ACTION 13.11: DMP and MC to develop ToR and Circulate to Node for comment.

13. Current training courses – following the Cambridge meeting a list had been started. It was now acknowledged that the UK Node would not replicate the list on the [EU Marine Training Portal](#). The EMBRC UK Node web site could link to that as well as the training pages (if available) of all UK Node members. Compilation of the current list would be stopped for now. It would be a matter for individual members to respond to any training gap needs as they thought appropriate.

ACTION 13.12: DMP to make comments at next EIB meeting about maintaining a clear focus for the EU Marine Training Portal.

ACTION 13.13: MC to add appropriate links (e.g. EU Marine Training Portal and UK Node member training pages) to EMBRC UK web site.

14. List of European contacts – MC introduced the list prepared so far. It was acknowledged that it was a good start although not yet complete. It was something the Node could keep as live document. It was also useful to include as part of the response to BEIS to demonstrate the breadth of the European network available to UK EMBRC partners.

ACTION 13.14: MC to pass list of contacts to BEIS.

15. UK Agreement – this had been signed at the Cambridge meeting. At this stage there was nothing further to discuss or action necessary. All necessary payments had been made following MAST-Scotland signing the EMBRC Finance Agreement.

AOB

16. EMBRC UK metadata and biobank database – Nick Pade introduced the idea of developing such a database which would increase the potential for future collaborations and further use of existing samples. This was work that BAS was also interested in. Making contact with MEDIN would be prudent here as much work had already been undertaken to develop metadata portals and standards for marine environmental data.

ACTION 13.15: Nick to discuss with Jon Parr (MBA, as chair of the UK wide MEDIN Data Archive Centre working group)

17. Monetary / non-monetary benefits of EMBRC – it was recognised as being important to acknowledge the non-monetary benefits of being involved in EMBRC as well as the direct monetary benefits flowing to the UK. Any such benefits should be advised to MC who would keep a record for future use.

ACTION 13.16: All to advise MC of any non-monetary benefits of EMBRC that were identified.

18. Date of Next Meeting – A date for the next UK Node meeting would be made when the next EIB meeting was scheduled.

ACTION: 13.17 – MC to issue Doodle Poll in due course.

Martyn Cox
Marine Scotland
June 2017

EMBRC Web page <https://embrc.uk/>

An updated flyer that could be used to promote EMBRC – see [here](#).