

The ERICs in Horizon Europe

A successful case



www.eric-forum.eu



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On the **ERICs** and the **ERIC Forum**

The European Research Infrastructure Consortium (ERIC) is a specific legal form that facilitates the establishment and operation of Research Infrastructures with European interest.

The ERIC model

It provides a legal capacity recognised in all EU Member States, a faster process to create an international organisation, and exemptions from VAT and excise duty. This makes the ERIC model a fundamental tool for the establishment and operation of common research infrastructures.

The ERIC Forum

The ERIC Forum strategically contributes to the development of ERIC related policies by sharing best practices, tackling common challenges, fostering visibility, impact and sustainability of ERICs and contributing to the European science policies and research context.

With 32 ERICs established, the ERIC Forum has become one of the leading voices in European science policy.

ADVANTAGES OF BEING AN ERIC



A legal capacity recognized in all EU Member States



Flexibility to adapt to specific requirements of each infrastructure



A faster process than creating an international organisation



Exemptions from VAT and excise duty

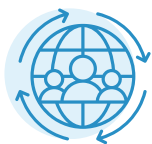
Advantages for Research

ERICs provide the European research community with access to high-quality data and cutting-edge technologies to support scientific excellence and respond to global challenges.

Moreover, they support mobility of researchers and knowledge across the ERA, promote collaboration between countries and favour a European coordination of national infrastructure capacities and capabilities.

More in details

ACCESS TO RIs



- Provide access to state-of-the-art research facilities and services for researchers from Europe and beyond, including universities, industries, SMEs, and incubators.
- Experts provide technical and scientific support to users accessing the RIs.
- ERICs offer predefined access processes, ensuring efficient and transparent use of resources.
- Researchers can access facilities either through funded projects (free access) or with their own funds (subject to capacity).

DEVELOPMENT & SERVICES



- Potential upscaling of research from TRL1 to higher TRLs (e.g. TRL7,8,9) in several research infrastructures facilities.
- Direct contribution to technological development.
- Promote the mobility of researchers and knowledge across the European Research Area, fostering international collaboration.

LifeWatch ERIC

<https://www.lifewatch.eu>

LifeWatch ERIC is Europe's only e-Science biodiversity and ecosystem research infrastructure, offering FAIR-compliant data and analytical services dedicated to research in both areas. Covering a specific and unique niche in the European and international landscape, it provides access to biodiversity content, services, and communities to promote science-based and reliable answers to global ecosystem challenges. Through LifeWatch ERIC researchers can discover, access, harmonise, standardise, integrate, and analyse data, enabling advanced modelling of biodiversity and ecosystems.

SERVICES

Data discovery, analysis, and modelling within a single integrated research infrastructure, accelerating time-to-results, enabling joint search and access to biodiversity data federated from 18+ distributed providers, avoiding fragmented manual data harvesting.

Research products, such as FAIR-compliant data, analytical workflows, simulation tools, and others.

Multidisciplinary and cross-domain research services, from molecular biology to ecosystem services.

Advanced Virtual Research Environments for hypothesis testing and predictive modelling.

Large-scale computing and storage resources, openly accessible to individual research groups.

HORIZON EUROPE - FUNDING

Pillar I



Pillar II



Pillar III



Marine SABRES – A SUCCESSFUL CASE

<https://www.marinesabres.eu>



The main goal of Marine SABRES is to co-design, co-produce, and co-deliver a straightforward Social-Ecological Systems framework (simple SES) to analyse, understand and solve marine environmental management problems in simple situations in which there are few activities and which are ideal for demonstrating systems approaches. In this, Marine SABRES will demonstrate bespoke interventions for the restoration and protection of coastal and marine biodiversity and ecosystem services.

GENERAL INFORMATION

Acronym: Marine Systems Approaches for Biodiversity Resilience and Ecosystem Sustainability

Grant Agreement Number: 101058956

Funded under: HORIZON-CL6-2021-BIODIV-01

Starting date: 01/09/2022

Ending date: 28/02/2027

PROJECT PARTNERSHIP

Coordinated by MaREI, University College Cork, Marine SABRES brings together an interdisciplinary team of 21 leading experts (from eleven European countries) in the environmental, social, and physical sciences, stakeholder engagement, and science communication. The full list of partners is available here:

<https://www.marinesabres.eu/partners>

OTHER INFORMATION

Marine SABRES has issued several Policy Briefs, Reports, and Peer-reviewed papers, covering topics such as marine ecosystem-based management, tourism management to support biodiversity conservation, resilient fisheries, SES Frameworks, assessment of Social-Ecological System models, and many others. You can read them here:

<https://www.marinesabres.eu/results>



The project recently launched “Tides of Balance”, a video documentary on the importance of protecting the delicate balance between marine biodiversity and the communities that depend on it. The documentary is set across three regions, the Tuscan Archipelago, the Arctic Northeast Atlantic and Macaronesia. More info:

<https://www.lifewatch.eu/2026/07/31/tides-of-balance>

BMD – A SUCCESSFUL CASE

<https://bmd-project.eu/>



The BMD Project aims to enhance access to high-throughput biodiversity monitoring tools, analyses, and data to support evidence-based conservation efforts across Europe.

The project will support key initiatives such as the EU Biodiversity Strategy for 2030, the Birds and Habitats Directives and the Nature Restoration Law, by providing a Single Access Point (SAP) for natural resource managers and policymakers, offering access to:

- Biodiversity monitoring tools including image, sound, e-DNA and AI taxon identification services;
- Co-designed Virtual Research Environments (VREs) for terrestrial, freshwater and marine realms;
- A Web-GIS Map Viewer for data exploration.

The Virtual Research Environments (VREs) will build on the expertise of eLTER (terrestrial and freshwater domains) and LifeWatch ERIC (marine domain), combining biological data with environmental, climatic, and remotely sensed datasets.

These integrated platforms will bridge knowledge gaps through predictive modelling, supporting the identification of drivers of change and enabling analysis of climate and land cover impacts on species and habitats.

In addition to its role in the marine VRE, LifeWatch ERIC will also contribute to the data visualisation engine and the design of the Single Access Point, and lead learning, training, and capacity-building initiatives for biologists, managers of Natura 2000 sites and other natural sites and resources, policy makers and interested third parties.

The project's tools and services will be co-designed and co-developed with stakeholders, ensuring user input guides every stage. BMD will help turn biodiversity data into actionable insights for conservation and policy, thanks to the collaboration of 14 partner institutions.

GENERAL INFORMATION

Acronym: Biodiversity Meets Data
Grant Agreement Number: 101181294
Funded under: HORIZON-CL6-2024-BIODIV-01
Starting date: 01/03/2025
Ending date: 28/02/2029

PROJECT PARTNERSHIP

Coordinated by Naturalis Biodiversity Center, the project involves 14 European partners and an External Expert Advisory Board.

The full list is available here: <https://bmd-project.eu/about#who-we-are>

OTHER INFORMATION

Key projects results include

- Data capture, mobilisation, and access tools;
- Data harmonisation tools;
- Data storage, visualisation & computing tools;
- Biodiversity Analysis Tools.

A key result is the BMD's Biodiversity Explorer, a one-stop digital platform designed for natural resource managers and policymakers. The BMD Biodiversity Explorer will be fully co-designed with the stakeholder communities, and it will provide access to Plug-n-play deployment, Baseline biodiversity dataset, Data Catalogue, Biodiversity Analysis Tools, and Web-GIS data viewer.

MARBEFES – A SUCCESSFUL CASE

<https://marbefes.eu>

MARBEFES (MARine Biodiversity and Ecosystem Functioning leading to Ecosystem Services) aims to evaluate and characterise the links between marine biodiversity, ecosystem functioning, ecosystem services and the resulting societal goods and benefits in coastal communities. The results will be captured in easy-to-use tools to help practitioners and policy to maximise the ecological value and optimise a sustainable socio-economic use of the marine system for current and future generations.

GENERAL INFORMATION

Acronym: MARine Biodiversity and Ecosystem Functioning leading to Ecosystem Services

Grant Agreement Number: 101060937

Funded under: HORIZON-CL6-2021-BIODIV-01-03

Starting date: 01/09/2022

Ending date: 28/02/2027

PROJECT PARTNERSHIP

MARBEFES is led by The Institute of Oceanology of the Polish Academy of Sciences (IO PAN) and involves an interdisciplinary consortium of 22 partners. The full is available here:

<https://marbefes.eu/articles/partners>.

OTHER INFORMATION

The project will produce a marine ecosystem valuation handbook and integrate scenarios that assess human and natural dynamics. MARBEFES actively involves stakeholders across international, regional, and local levels, ensuring that findings reach policymakers, managers, and the public. Through accessible outreach, the project communicates biodiversity's value, fostering societal engagement in ecosystem health and policy.

The MARBEFES Consortium integrates six innovative concepts, methods, and products that, while previously applied in limited areas, have never been combined on such a large scale. This interdisciplinary approach is designed to bridge existing gaps across fields, fostering advancements that go beyond current methods and creating a foundation for



future innovations. Currently, MARBEFES operates at a Technology Readiness Level (TRL) of 2, and the project aims to elevate it to TRL 6 upon completion.

You can consult the list of 37 publications issued so far here:

<https://marbefes.eu/uploads/files/DOI%20list%20aug%2026.pdf>