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## ASSEMBLE:

# Association of European Marine Biological Laboratories

Europe has a very long history in marine biology and its coastal marine biological stations are some of the oldest in the world. For example, Stazione Zoologica in Naples (IT), Station Biologique in Roscoff (FR) and Kristineberg Marine Research Station in Fiskebäckskil (SE) were all established in the late 19th century. Even at that time these stations acted as international infrastructure sites to serve, enhance and develop collaborative marine research worldwide. Today, the EU-funded ASSEMBLE project is developing an integrated infrastructure to optimise research possibilities so that European scientists and marine biologists can conduct and share the best and most cutting-edge research.

### ● CONNECTING MARINE BIOLOGISTS

The major marine research stations in Europe are developing and applying new technologies and facilities that allow a higher quality of service, not only for the marine biology community but also for other disciplines. This includes increasing number of scientists that are turning to marine organisms as models with which to investigate fundamental questions in biology.

ASSEMBLE comprises the following marine research centres:

- Sven Lovén Centre for Marine Sciences  
– Kristineberg & Tjärnö (SE)
- Dunstaffnage Marine Laboratory, Oban (UK)
- Station Biologique de Roscoff (FR)
- Observatoire Océanologique de Banyuls (FR)
- Stazione Zoologica Anton Dohrn, Naples (IT)
- Algarve Marine Sciences Centre, Faro (PT)
- Interuniversity Institute for Marine Sciences in Eilat (IL)
- Estación Costera de Investigaciones Marinas, Las Cruces (CL)



ASSEMBLE's integrated infrastructure will create more possibilities for European scientists to conduct excellent research on marine ecosystems and biological models using the most advanced approaches in modern biology. The project involves three main activities: networking, research and transnational access.



Efforts are being taken to enhance complementarity and interoperability within the network and externally with similar marine centres around the globe. These goals are being pursued through the organisation of workshops as well as establishment of a virtual toolbox of best practice guidelines and a common database for marine organisms open to everyone.

## ● ASSEMBLE-ING DATA FOR RESEARCHERS



Also focusing on research, ASSEMBLE is taking steps to enhance the quality of provisions of marine organisms with particular emphasis on models for marine genomics. This includes whole, multi-cellular organisms, unicellular eukaryotic organisms and cell lines as well as genetic and molecular resources. With improved access to these models, researchers across Europe can conduct better research.

Finally, to provide access to a comprehensive set of marine ecosystems, a wide variety of marine organisms, and state-of-the-art experimental facilities, technological platforms, research vessels, etc., ASSEMBLE is creating links among the various marine biological laboratories across Europe. As a result, these laboratories will be better able to share information and provide an improved service to European researchers.

The main objectives of ASSEMBLE are to:

- enhance transnational access to the existing key infrastructures for marine biology and ecology in Europe
- improve these infrastructures with respect to the provision of marine model organism
- enhance complementarity and interoperability between these infrastructures
- eventually, lay the plans to build a European Marine Resources Centre, with the aim of giving the European scientific community with integrated access to a representative set of coastal environments and model organisms.

## ASSEMBLE

ASSOCIATION OF EUROPEAN MARINE BIOLOGICAL LABORATORIES

**Project acronym:** ASSEMBLE

**Project type:** Integrating Activities (IA)

**EU financial contribution:** €8.7 million

**EU project officer:** Jean-Emmanuel Faure

**Duration:** 48 months

**Start date:** 1 March 2009

**Completion date:** 28 February 2013

### Partners:

University of Gothenburg (SE)

Scottish Association for Marine Science (UK)

Centre National de la Recherche Scientifique (FR)

Stazione Zoologica Anton Dohrn (IT)

Centro de Ciências do Mar do Algarve (PT)

Hebrew University of Jerusalem (IL)

Pontificia Universidad Católica de Chile (CL)

Max-Planck-Gesellschaft (DE)

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