

## The EMbaRC Training and Outreach Programme

Transnational access and approaches for training in Microbial Resources Centres

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The EMbaRC<sup>1</sup> Training and Outreach Programme (TOP) has two parts:

- A present programme of **Transnational Access** Grants that proposes working and training stays to scientists working in Europe. This programme is based on existing possibilities offered by the EMbaRC partners.
- A future **Education and Training Scheme** that will be developed during the project to offer continuing education to professional working in Biological Resources Centres.

The EMbaRC **Transnational Access programme** proposes short combined training and research stay grants to qualified scientists working in an EU Member State or an Associated Country to the 7<sup>th</sup> Framework Programme<sup>2</sup>, inviting them to work in one of the 12 EMbaRC research teams for a short period.

An open call for candidates is organised, and the selected scientists will be provided access to one of the 15 different training and work modules in collection management, identification of bacteria and fungi or phenotypic screening of a collection of strains. The costs will be covered by EMbaRC, with the financial support of the 7<sup>th</sup> Framework Programme<sup>2</sup>. The sessions will take place in the frame of ongoing research activities organised by the EMbaRC partners. Information regarding these programmes, the related research projects, units and promoters is available at <http://www.embarc.eu/infonote.html>.

The ultimate aim is to establish lasting scientific & technical connections between the research host teams and the visitors.

The **Education and Training scheme** will be the backbone of the EMbaRC “knowledge based training network”. The objectives of the programme are:

- to transfer knowledge and best practices in management and study of microbial resources,
- to support organisations in operating globally,
- to improve and coordinate regional and international research connections in the research community from both public and private sectors.

Considering the outcomes and evaluation of the Transnational Access Programme and building on their experience, the EMbaRC partners intend to implement continuing education schemes for professionals working in Biological Resources Centres, establishing an educational community cemented through workshops, seminars and training courses. In parallel, multimedia materials like models, videos, virtual laboratory activities, etc., will be developed as teaching support for E-learning programmes intended to reach a maximum of users.

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<sup>1</sup> <http://www.embarc.eu>

<sup>2</sup> The European Commission Directorate General Research' 7<sup>th</sup> Framework Programme.

Through these short-term and long-term actions of continuous capacity building of the personnel working in BRCs, the EMbaRC Training and Outreach Programme aims at contributing to develop the Global Biological Resources Centres Network.