

The organizations



"It is the conviction of the Council that EMBO, as a European organization, capable of drawing on the whole pool of talent and resources available in the member countries without hindrance of national boundaries and the restrictions to which national funds are often subject could accelerate the development of the field more effectively and economically than could the countries themselves as a result of independent and uncoordinated efforts."

EMBO April 1966, Dr. R.K Appleyard, Executive Secretary of EMBO

EMBO was founded in 1964 by a group of pioneering molecular biologists, among them Nobel Laureates Max Perutz, John Kendrew, Francois Jacob and Sydney Brenner

"... to promote molecular biology in Europe and neighbouring countries by fostering talents, disseminating new ideas and knowledge among European scientists and by encouraging cross-boundary collaborations."

The mission was to be achieved through two distinct but related goals:

- i. Launch of a programme to fund and promote training and fellowships;
- ii. Establishment of a central laboratory for molecular biology.

Funding and support for the former was sought from European governments and led to the establishment of EMBC in 1969. The European Molecular Biology Laboratory (EMBL) was created in 1974 as a "Special Project" of EMBC with the support of a subset of the EMBC Member States. Today, EMBL is an independent organization and has become one of the top laboratories in the world. EMBO and EMBL and their intergovernmental funding bodies work closely together and synergize their efforts to advance the molecular life sciences in Europe.

The EMBO Membership currently consists of more than 1,800 leading life scientists in Europe and worldwide. 88 EMBO Members have been honoured with the Nobel Prize. The community of EMBO Members guides the organization's activities: about half of the active members are involved every year in the evaluation processes for programmes and activities.

EMBO publishes five journals. The income from the publications is used to enhance the EMBC funded programmes and to launch new activities for the benefit of European science.

The organization is headed by the EMBO Director, an active scientist, who – in close co-operation with EMBO Council, its committees and working groups - leads a dedicated administration that is innovative, flexible and professional in the conception and delivery of the EMBO programmes.

EMBC

EMBC was established in 1969 following the model of CERN. EMBC is an intergovernmental organization.

"The Conference shall provide for co-operation among the European States for fundamental research in molecular biology as well as in other areas of research closely related thereto."

EMBC Agreement Article II, § 1

To date 30 member states have joined the Conference and contribute to and profit from the pan-European effort in the life sciences.

A president and a secretary general lead the Conference. The governments of the member states nominate EMBC Delegates. Typically, each member state appoints one delegate from a relevant ministry and one scientific delegate, frequently an EMBO Member. The Conference meets annually to monitor and discuss the General Programme of EMBC.

"The General Programme to be carried out under the responsibility of the Conference shall comprise in the first instance:

- a) provision for training, teaching and research scholarships;*
- b) assistance to universities and other institutions of higher learning that wish to receive visiting professors;*
- c) the establishment of courses and the organisation of study meetings, coordinated with the programmes of universities and other institutes of higher learning and research;*
- d) the establishment of programmes that foster the development of scientists at the early stages of their independent research careers (Added in 2000)*
- e) the provision of electronic publication and information services (Added in 2000);*
- f) the provision of advice, information and support to the Member States and their citizens on topics and actions related to the life sciences and their consequences for society (Added in 2002).*

Following the redefinition of the Science & Society Programme as Science Policy Programme, modified in 2011:

The Science Policy Programme shall provide analysis, advice, general information on science and public policies, and other support as requested, to the Member States and their citizens on topics and actions related to the governance of life sciences.

The execution of the General Programme is entrusted by the Conference to EMBO."

EMBC Agreement Article II, § 2

The EMBC comprises the following member states:

Austria, Belgium, Croatia, Czech Republic, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Iceland, Ireland, Israel, Italy, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Malta, Montenegro, the Netherlands, Norway, Poland, Portugal, Slovak Republic, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, Turkey, United Kingdom.