On March 10th, 2016 EMSO was recognized by The European Strategy Forum for Research Infrastructures (ESFRI) as an ESFRI Landmark. The announcement was made during the launch of the 2016 ESFRI Roadmap hosted by the Royal Netherlands Academy of Arts and Sciences (KNAW) at its headquarters in Amsterdam. "It is a great honour and reward for the constant effort of the EMSO participating countries to receive such an important recognition" said Paolo Favali, current coordinator of the programme EMSO and EMSODEV project. "The upcoming launch of EMSO ERIC will soon seal this huge collaborative engagement" - Paolo Favali added - "The Research Infrastructures environmental landscape is the fundamental prerequisite for running marine science at top level in Europe."

(ESFRI identifies research facilities of pan-European importance that are necessary to strengthen scientific excellence and competitiveness in the EU. The updated Roadmap now consists of 29 “ESFRI Landmarks”, listing projects that are being implemented or have been completed and 21 “ESFRI Projects”, which are research infrastructures in the development phase.)
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