

**Formal session**

**Agenda Item F8: Executive Board elections**

**Meeting Document F8.2: Candidate – Branko Čermelj**

## Biography

Branko Čermelj was born on July 12, 1962 in the coastal town of Koper in Slovenia. Even as a child, he was interested in nature and the secrets it holds. This fascination led him to pursue an academic path at the interface of geology, marine biology and environmental sciences.

His academic journey began at the Faculty of Natural and Engineering Sciences at the University of Ljubljana, where he graduated with a Bachelor's degree in 1990. In 1992, he continued his studies and obtained a Master's degree in Geology in 1995, followed by a PhD in the same field in 1998. His doctoral thesis focused on the intricate processes of marine sedimentology and early diagenesis of sediments, laying the foundation for his future endeavours.

In 1991, Branko began his professional career at the National Institute of Biology, Marine Biology Station in Piran, Slovenia, an institution that has been dedicated to the scientific study of marine ecosystems for 55 years. Over the years he has held various positions of increasing responsibility and is currently Research Counsellor. His work covers a wide range of research areas, with a particular focus on sedimentological processes, chemical oceanography and data management.

From 2000 to 2018, Branko was the Head of the Marine Biological Station (MBS) Instrument Centre. This included the management, maintenance and promotion of the main research infrastructure of MBS (research vessels, oceanographic buoy and HF radar)

Throughout his career, Branko has been actively involved in numerous research projects, both at national and European level. He has contributed to pioneering initiatives such as SeaDataNet and EMODnet Chemistry, SMS (Sensing toxicants in Marine waters makes Sense using biosensors), HAZADR (Strengthening common reaction capacity to fight sea pollution of oil, toxic and hazardous substances in Adriatic Sea), which aim to improve our understanding of the marine environment and facilitate data-driven decisions for sustainable marine management. His expertise in data management and analysis has been instrumental in advancing marine research and conservation.

## Curriculum vitae

**Name:** Branko Čermelj

**Affiliation:** National Institute of Biology, Marine Biology Station Piran, Slovenia

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### PERSONAL DATA

**Date of birth:** 12.7.1962

**Place of birth:** Koper, Slovenia

**Languages:** English, Italian

### EDUCATION

- I graduated in 1990 at the Faculty of Natural sciences and Engineering, University of Ljubljana.
- I have earned a Master's degree in geology in 1995 and obtained a PhD in geology in 1998.
- A year after the graduation I started working at the National Institute of Biology, Marine Biology Station (MBS) in Piran, where I still work.

### ACADEMIC TITLE: PhD Geology

- From 2002 to 2009 I was Assistant at the University of Nova Gorica, School of Environmental Sciences, Slovenia
- From 2009 to 2012 I was Assist. Profesor at the University of Ljubljana, Faculty of Maritime Studies and Transport, Portorož, Slovenia,

**PRESENT POSITION:** Research Counsellor at the National Institute of Biology, Marine Biology Station Piran

### PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

- Present position - from 1.4.1991 (ongoing) - National Institute of Biology, Marine Biology Station, Piran, Slovenia
- Current work areas and research:
  - Sedimentology: Physical and chemical properties of recent sediments.
  - Early diagenetic processes at sediment-water interface. My main research field of interest is the study of early-diagenetic processes in recent freshwater and marine sediments. The emphasis is on the sedimentary organic matter decomposition and the production of dissolved inorganic species by the use of various electron acceptors at the sediment-water interface. The study involves processes caused by either natural or anthropogenic nature.
  - Data management of physical oceanography data (marine SST, salinity, oxygen distribution in marine environment, HF radar data.)

### CURRENT AND RECENT RESEARCH PROJECT INVOLVMENT

EU projects:

- **EMODnet Chemistry 5** provides easy access to marine chemical data, standardized harmonized validated data collections and reliable data products, which are highly relevant to assessing ecosystem status according to the Marine Strategy Framework Directive, for all European marine regions.
- **EMODnet Data Ingestion 3** facilitates data managers to ingest their marine datasets for further processing, publishing as open data and contributing to applications for society.
- **SeaDataNet** (2006-2011) and **SeaDataNet2** (2012-2016), **SeaDataCloud** (2012-2016), were the EU projects designated to develop a distributed Marine Data Infrastructure for the management of large and diverse sets of data deriving from in situ of the seas and oceans. The task of NIB-MBS under the aforementioned projects is to provide the metadata that describe the data held by NIB-MBS, as well the descriptions NIB-MBS research programs, projects, cruises with the research vessel and oceanographic buoy. On the other hand, NIB-MBS also provides access to the data described by the metadata themselves.

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National projects and programs:

- **Record of environmental change and human impact in Holocene sediments, Gulf of Trieste** (2018-2023)
- **Developing a sustainable 'green port' growth model** (2019-2022) - study the nautical and coastal characteristics of the Gulf of Trieste and the Port of Koper in terms of the potential for further dredging of waterways, expansion of berths, impact on the seabed and coastal area, and threats to the sea and land.
- **Coastal Sea Research** (2020-2025) – Slovenian marine research program.

**PUBLICATIONS:** Authored/coauthored over 170 scientific and expert works.