

MIRRI: where microbial biodiversity meets biotechnology and the bioeconomy

What is MIRRI and what does it do?

The Microbial Resource Research Infrastructure – European Research Infrastructure Consortium (MIRRI-ERIC) is the pan-European distributed Research Infrastructure for the preservation, systematic investigation, provision and valorisation of microbial resources and biodiversity.

MIRRI-ERIC serves the bioscience and the bioindustry communities by facilitating the access, through a single point, to the broadest range of high-quality microorganisms, their derivatives, associated data and services, with a special focus on the domains of Health & Food, Agro-Food, and Environment & Energy.

By serving its users, by collaborating with other research infrastructures and by working with public authorities and policy makers, MIRRI-ERIC contributes to the advancement of research and innovation in life sciences and biotechnology, as well as for a sustainable, competitive and resilient bioeconomy.

MIRRI-ERIC has been set up by the Commission Implementing Decision (EU) 2022/1204 of 16 June 2022, and is a 'Landmark' in the Health & Food domain of the European Strategy Forum on Research Infrastructures (ESFRI) Roadmap.

MIRRI's key facts & figures

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| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ 10 countries
(Founding Members: Belgium, France, Latvia, Portugal and Spain. Prospective Members: Greece, Italy, Netherlands and Poland. Prospective Observer: Romania) ✓ 50 partner biorepositories and research institutes ✓ 2,800+ combined years of activity ✓ 2/3 organisations with QMS
(quality management system implemented or in implementation) ✓ 7 strategic areas in the domains of Health & Food, Agro-Food and Environment & Energy | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ 8 European projects ongoing, with €7.2M funding for MIRRI partners ✓ 400,000+ microbial resources ✓ 20,000+ strains identified/characterised /year ✓ 90+ types of general services ✓ 30+ application-specific services/workflows ✓ 6,000+ users /year ✓ 20,000+ samples supplied /year |
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What does MIRRI offer?

To its users (researchers, innovators and industries)

- Single point of access to ~50 world-class microbial domain Biological Resource Centres (mBRCs) and culture collections.
- Broad catalogue of 400,000+ high-quality microbial resources and data.
- State-of-the-art facilities and technological platforms.
 - Cutting-edge services, techniques and technologies.
- Top-level scientific/ technical expertise.
 - Training opportunities.
- Tailor-made, flexible and cost-competitive/ cost-free solutions.

To its Partner organisations (mBRCs, culture collections and research institutes)

- Become more competitive and provide improved harmonised services as a result of the exchange of knowledge.
- Improve sustainability, enlarge holdings in a coordinated, standardised and coherent manner, in line with their major expertise.
 - Improve the standardised data offer associated to the microbial resources, by connection to the MIRRI Information System.
- Increase the accessibility to their capacities, taking advantage of the higher profile conferred by the MIRRI brand.

To its Members/Observers (countries or intergovernmental organisations)





- Coordinate and mutualise a comprehensive set of resources and services for the benefit of its scientific and entrepreneurial communities.
 - Stimulate the scientific and technological development of its regions.
- Boost the competitiveness of product and service development in the different sectors of biotechnology.
 - Foster investment and job creation.
- Obtain key insights for strategic planning and policy making.

More information: www.mirri.org | <https://www.linkedin.com/company/microbial-resource-research-infrastructure/> | info@mirri.org



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MIRRI's key activities/achievements in 2020-2022

 STRATEGY	Research & Innovation <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Publication of "MIRRI's Strategic Research & Innovation Agenda 2021-2030 – Microbial Resources for a Green, Healthy and Sustainable Future" (https://www.mirri.org/about/repository/communication-materials/). ▪ Participation in several strategy groups and public consultations supporting policymaking at European and national levels.
	Intelligence & Business Development <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Set up of the business model and business plan for MIRRI-ERIC. ▪ User survey "How can we help delivering the maximum value from your projects, technologies or products?" ▪ Set up and implementation of the strategic plan "Broadening MIRRI's partnership with the private sector". ▪ Launching the foundations for the study "Microbial resources for an innovative, competitive and resilient bioeconomy".
 ACCESS	Resources, Data & Services <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Development/update of MIRRI's catalogues (microbial resources, services and workflows) and expert clusters. ▪ Set up and implementation of two TransNational Access (TNA) Calls, offering to researchers, from academia and the private sector, free-of-charge access to selected facilities, resources and services, with a total of 26 applications and 11 awardees, from Europe, Africa and Latin America. ▪ Development and implementation of the MIRRI Collaborative Working Environment (CWE) Platform.
	Education & Training <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Development/update of MIRRI's catalogue of training and education. ▪ Set up of the European Specialisation Course on Microbial Resource Centres (EuroMiRC). ▪ Set up and implementation of the Biotechnology Business Mentoring Support (BBMS) Programme, in collaboration with the British Embassy Lisbon, to support life science and biotechnology researchers on taking innovations to market, with 4 awardees/mentorees. ▪ Development of videos to promote literacy in microbial-related topics.
 OPERATION	Operations & Quality <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Establishment of the new headquarter premises, in Braga (Portugal), and hiring of the Management Backoffice staff. ▪ Development of the MIRRI Rules of Operation. ▪ Development and implementation of the MIRRI Dashboard. ▪ Development of an agreement on transnational field collections, and common procedures and standards for strain characterisation. ▪ Development of reports, checklists and guidelines on ABS, biosecurity and ISO 20387:2018. ▪ Attribution to MIRRI of the "European Research Infrastructure Consortium" (ERIC) status by the European Commission. ▪ Awarding of MIRRI with the "Landmark" status on the ESFRI Roadmap 2021. ▪ Granting of MIRRI-PT with a regional (Norte) €2.5M funding, and MIRRI-IT with a €17M national funding for capacitation activities.
 OUTREACH	Partnerships & Enlargement <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Establishment of a working group and promotion of dedicated events and multiple bilateral meetings for attracting new Members/ Observers and Partners, from Europe and beyond. ▪ Interaction and/or formal partnerships with other Research Infrastructures and organisations, including the signature of two Memoranda of Understanding with the ERIC Forum and the US Culture Collection Network. ▪ Participation in 3 Horizon 2020 (IS_MIRRI21, RI-VIS, EOSC-Life) and 6 Horizon Europe (BY-COVID, ISIDORe, AgroServ, canSERV, BIOINDUSTRY 4.0, MICROBE) projects, in collaboration with other Research Infrastructures, with a total funding for MIRRI / MIRRI partners of over €7M.
	Branding & Communication <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Strengthening of the online presence: new MIRRI webportal (www.mirri.org) and IS_MIRRI21 website (www.ismiri21.mirri.org) reaching several thousand users, and 5 social media accounts with 3,900+ followers. ▪ Production of communication materials – e.g. institutional presentation, brochures, newsletters, etc. ▪ Organisation of promotional/networking events, directly reaching 600+ participants, and participation (with booths, oral presentations or posters) in external events targeting MIRRI's different stakeholders and audiences.

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