

Important advances achieved by one of the newest European Research Infrastructure Consortia

MIRRI starts 2023 with a balance of its key results over the past two years

Braga (Portugal), 05 January 2023 – The **Microbial Resource Research Infrastructure (MIRRI)**, the pan-European distributed Research Infrastructure for the preservation, study, provision and valorisation of microbial resources and biodiversity, has reported today on the key implementation and operational advances it has achieved over the past two years.

MIRRI, which brings together about 50 microbial domain Biological Resource Centres (mBRCs), culture collections and research institutes from 10 European countries, serves the bioscience and the bioindustry communities by facilitating the access, through a single point, to a broad 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.

According to its Executive Director, Luís Soares, “MIRRI had a significant progress over the years of 2021 and 2022, and today we are very proud on reviewing, together with our partners, our users and other stakeholders, some of the most relevant activities and achievements that we have successfully accomplished during that period. For instance, in 2021, MIRRI has become a 'Landmark' in the Health & Food domain of the European Strategy Forum on Research Infrastructures (ESFRI) Roadmap, which lists leading European research infrastructures in several scientific domains and, in 2022, it has been granted the legal status of European Research Infrastructure Consortium (ERIC) by the European Commission. Step-by-step, MIRRI is strengthening its position as a hotspot where microbial biodiversity meets biotechnology and the bioeconomy”.

About the essential role of the project “IS_MIRRI21 – Implementation and Sustainability of Microbial Resource Research Infrastructure for the 21st Century” for MIRRI’s growth, its Coordinator, Nelson Lima, says that “since it has been launched, in February 2020, the IS_MIRRI21 project and the correspondent funding from the European Commission has made possible the development and implementation of a comprehensive set of resources and tools that are critical for MIRRI to efficiently operate as a distributed, yet centrally coordinated research infrastructure”. He adds that “the project has now entered its last months and some other relevant activities will be concluded and important results delivered”.

A list of MIRRI’s key activities/achievements in 2021-2022 is provided in the table below.



2021

- Jan** ▪ Launching of the 1st MIRRI/IS_MIRRI21 Transnational Access (TNA) call, offering to researchers, from academia and the private sector, free-of-charge access to selected facilities, resources and services.
- Mar** ▪ 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/>).
▪ New MIRRI webportal launched (www.mirri.org).
- Apr** ▪ MIRRI-PT granted with €2.5M by the CCDR-N’s NORTE2020 programme for acquiring cutting-edge equipment and setting up new services.
- Jun** ▪ MIRRI receives a delegation from the European Commission.
▪ Four researchers, from Europe and Africa, awarded in the 1st TNA call.
▪ MIRRI online events on matchmaking for Horizon Europe opportunities and MIRRI membership, with a total of 120 participants.
- Sep** ▪ Launching of the MIRRI survey “How can we help delivering the maximum value from your projects, technologies or products?”
- Oct** ▪ Launching of the €12M Horizon Europe project “BY-COVID – Beyond COVID” (coordinated by ELIXIR).
- Nov** ▪ MIRRI online webinars “Microbial resources for a green, healthy and sustainable future” and “Cutting-edge technologies for 2030 microbial Culture Collections”, with a total of 390 participants.
- Dec** ▪ MIRRI wins the ‘Landmark’ status on the ESFRI Roadmap 2021.

2022

- Feb** ▪ Launching of the 2nd MIRRI/IS_MIRRI21 TNA call.
▪ Launching of the Biotech Business Mentoring Support (BBMS) Programme, in collaboration with the British Embassy Lisbon, to support life science and biotechnology researchers on taking innovations to market.
▪ Launching of the €21M Horizon Europe project “ISIDORe – Integrated Services for Infectious Disease Outbreak Research” (coordinated by ERINHA).
- Apr** ▪ Upgraded MIRRI Service Catalogue launched (www.mirri.org/services/).
- May** ▪ Upgraded MIRRI Training & Education Catalogue launched (www.mirri.org/training-education/).
- Jun** ▪ MIRRI workshops on access and benefit-sharing (ABS), biosecurity and ISO 20387:2018.
▪ MIRRI granted the European Research Infrastructure Consortium (ERIC) status by the European Commission.
- Jul** ▪ Signing of a Memorandum of Understanding for MIRRI to become part of the ERIC Forum, to advance operations of ERICs and to strategically contribute to the development of ERIC related policies.
▪ Seven researchers, from Europe and Latin America, awarded in the 2nd TNA call.
- Aug** ▪ Approval of the €10M Horizon Europe project “BIOINDUSTRY 4.0 – RI services to promote deep digitalization of Industrial Biotechnology - towards smart biomanufacturing” (coordinated by IBISBA/ INRAE).
▪ Approval of the €10M Horizon Europe project “MICROBE – MICRObiome Biobanking (RI) Enabler” (coordinated by AIT).
- Sep** ▪ Launching of the €14.9M Horizon Europe project “canSERV – Providing cutting edge cancer research services across Europe” (coordinated by BBMRI).
- Oct** ▪ Participation in the EU Bioeconomy Conference and in the International Conference on Research Infrastructures (ICRI 2022).
▪ Launching of the €15M Horizon Europe project “AgroServ – Integrated SERVICES supporting a sustainable AGROecological transition” (coordinated by AnaEE/ CNRS).
▪ MIRRI receives its ERIC plate from the European Commission at ICRI 2022.
- Nov** ▪ MIRRI and the US Culture Collection Network sign a Memorandum of Understanding to enhance their cooperation to promote the valorisation of microbial resources and innovation in biotechnology.
▪ MIRRI-IT granted by Italy’s National Recovery and Resilience Plan with €17M to strengthen its activities in line with the country’s participation in MIRRI-ERIC.
- Dec** ▪ Participation in the exclusive, invitation-only event “EIC Ecosystem Partnerships: focus group & networking”.
▪ Inauguration of the new MIRRI headquarters premises.



About MIRRI:

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. It brings together ~50 microbial domain Biological Resource Centres (mBRCs), culture collections and research institutes from ten European countries – Belgium, France, Latvia, Portugal (headquarters) and Spain are founding Members, while Greece, Italy, Netherlands and Poland are prospective Members, and Romania is a prospective Observer. 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 2021, which lists leading European research infrastructures in several scientific domains. MIRRI-ERIC serves the bioscience and the bioindustry communities by facilitating the access, through a single point, to a broad range of 400,000+ 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 competitive and resilient bioeconomy. More information and contacts: www.mirri.org | <https://www.linkedin.com/company/microbial-resource-research-infrastructure/> | info@mirri.org

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