

MIRRI receives its ERIC plate from the European Commission

Braga (Portugal) and Valencia (Spain), 21 October 2022 – The **Microbial Resource Research Infrastructure (MIRRI)**, the pan-European distributed Research Infrastructure for the preservation, systematic investigation, provision and valorisation of microbial resources and biodiversity, receives today from the European Commission (EC) the MIRRI-ERIC plate, which signifies the formal recognition of its European Research Infrastructure Consortium (ERIC) status. The handing of the MIRRI-ERIC plate follows up the Commission Implementing Decision (EU) 2022/1204, of 16 June 2022, setting up MIRRI-ERIC (https://eur-lex.europa.eu/eli/dec_impl/2022/1204/oj).

The ceremony takes place during the International Conference on Research Infrastructures, ICRI 2022, in Brno, Czech Republic. The plate is handed over by Joanna Drake, Deputy Director-General at the EC's Directorate-General for Research and Innovation, and by Francisco Colomer, Chair of the ERIC Forum. Receiving the plate, on behalf of MIRRI, is Marta Abrantes, from the Portuguese Foundation for Science and Technology (FCT).

Portugal and Spain jointly co-host MIRRI-ERIC, with the former hosting the statutory seat. The other founding Members are Belgium, France and Latvia. In addition, Greece, Italy, Netherlands and Poland are prospective Members, and Romania a prospective Observer. Other countries are considering their participation.

Marta Abrantes, who is one of Portugal's Delegate to the MIRRI-ERIC Assembly of Members, says that *"receiving the ERIC plate marks a significant moment for MIRRI, but also for Portugal, since the country now hosts, for the first time, the statutory seat of an ERIC. Moreover, this recognition also highlights the role of the Portuguese Foundation for Science and Technology in supporting research infrastructures of strategic interest that sustain scientific and technological advancements and strengthen the research and innovation ecosystem"*.

Rosa Aznar, Spanish representative in the National Coordinators Forum of MIRRI-ERIC, adds that *"receiving the ERIC plate is a symbolical moment and a reward for MIRRI's significant progress over the years, from its first appearance as a 'Project' in the ESFRI Roadmap, back in 2010, to being awarded with the 'Landmark' status in the Roadmap 2021. Spain has been deeply committed with this endeavour, and is proud to co-host such a relevant research infrastructure as MIRRI-ERIC is"*.

The MIRRI-ERIC plate will travel to Portugal to be unveiled during the inauguration ceremony, to take place soon, of the new headquarter premises of MIRRI-ERIC, located at the University of Minho, in Braga.

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. MIRRI 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 contributes to the advancement of research and innovation in life sciences and biotechnology, as well as for a sustainable, 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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