

22 activities successfully run in 22 months and new ones to come

MIRRI opens 2022 reporting its key results and unveils future strategic lines






Braga (Portugal), 04 January 2022 – The **Microbial Resource Research Infrastructure (MIRRI)**, a pan-European research infrastructure that brings together over 50 scientific institutions, from 11 countries, has reported today on the key implementation and operational advances it has achieved over the past two years. These results have been on the basis of MIRRI's recent distinction with the "Landmark" status on the European Strategy Forum on Research Infrastructures (ESFRI) Roadmap 2021, among the leading European research infrastructures in several scientific domains, as well as sustaining MIRRI's application to obtain the European Research Infrastructure Consortium (ERIC) status, for which a decision is expected very soon.

According to the Executive Director of MIRRI, Luís Soares, *"the years of 2020 and 2021 have been decisive for MIRRI's growth, 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"*. He adds that *"the year of 2022 marks the entry of MIRRI on its 'adulthood', as an ESFRI Landmark and, hopefully, as an ERIC, and we are now on the process of further developing our strategic planning for the longer-term, as a fully-operational and sustainable research infrastructure. We will work over four strategic axes of intervention, namely 'Strategy', 'Access', 'Operation', and 'Outreach', which, in turn, include a total of seven strategic lines, each one comprising its own set of activities and targeting distinct goals. Altogether, they will make MIRRI a better research infrastructure every day and, with that, the best possible partner for our users and stakeholders on our joint journey 'from microbial collections to real-life innovations'"*.

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 its kick-off, in March 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 which are critical for MIRRI to efficiently operate as a distributed, yet centrally coordinated research infrastructure, so it can make all its resources, services and expertise every time more accessible to its diverse communities of users"*. He adds that *"the project is still ongoing and, until its end, in 2023, further important results are still to be achieved"*.

A summary list of MIRRI's 22 key activities/achievements over the last 22 months (from March 2020 to December 2021) is provided on the table below. For better systematisation and comprehension, they are retroactively distributed by the four strategic axes and seven lines that will make the framework for MIRRI's work in 2022-2026.



 MIRRI MICROBIAL RESOURCE RESEARCH INFRASTRUCTURE		22 KEY ACTIVITIES / ACHIEVEMENTS IN THE LAST 22 MONTHS
	Research & Innovation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Publication of MIRRI's Strategic Research & Innovation Agenda 2021-2030 (https://www.mirri.org/about/repository/communication-materials/). ▪ Participation in several strategy groups and public consultations supporting policymaking at European and national levels.
 STRATEGY	Intelligence & Business Development	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Set up of the business model and business plan for MIRRI-ERIC. ▪ Launching of the 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 the 1st TransNational Access (TNA) Call and preparation of the 2nd call. ▪ Development and implementation of the MIRRI Collaborative Working Environment (CWE) Platform.
	Education & Training	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Set up of the European Specialisation Course on Microbial Resource Centres (EuroMiRC). ▪ Set up of the Biotechnology Business Mentoring Support (BBMS) Programme. ▪ 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 and hiring of the Management Backoffice staff. ▪ Application of MIRRI to the "European Research Infrastructure Consortium" (ERIC) status. ▪ Awarding of MIRRI with the "Landmark" status on the ESFRI Roadmap 2021. ▪ Development of the "MIRRI agreement on transnational field collections" and the "MIRRI common procedures and standards for strain characterisation".
 OUTREACH	Partnerships & Enlargement	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Establishment of a working group and promotion of dedicated events for attracting new Members/Observers and Partners, from Europe and beyond, including a mission to Brazil and Chile. ▪ Interaction and (preparation of) formal partnerships with other Research Infrastructures and organisations. ▪ Participation in 3 Horizon 2020 projects and application to 4 Horizon Europe calls (2 projects already approved) in collaboration with other Research Infrastructures.
	Branding & Communication	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Strengthening of the online presence: new webportal www.mirri.org and website www.ismirri21.mirri.org reaching several thousand users, and 5 social media accounts with 2,500+ followers. ▪ Production of communication materials – e.g. institutional presentation, brochures, newsletters, etc. ▪ Organisation of promotional/networking events, directly reaching 600+ participants, and participation in external events targeting MIRRI's different stakeholders and audiences.

About MIRRI:

The **Microbial Resource Research Infrastructure (MIRRI)** 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 and one associated country, namely: Belgium, France, Greece, Italy, Latvia, Netherlands, Poland, Portugal (headquarters), Romania, Russia and Spain. 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



###

