

New Biotechnology Business Mentoring Support (BBMS) Programme launched

MIRRI and British Embassy Lisbon join to support life science and biotechnology researchers on taking innovations to market

Braga and Lisbon, Portugal, 02 February 2022 – The pan-European Microbial Resource Research Infrastructure (MIRRI) and the British Embassy Lisbon have announced today the launch of their new Biotech Business Mentoring Support (BBMS) Programme. Resulting from a partnership between these two organisations, and counting on the technical expertise from a UK-based consultancy firm, this pilot programme intends to provide tailored support for life science and biotechnology researchers, implementing a mentorship scheme to cover crucial research-to-market topics.

The BBMS Programme will offer to the participants, who are selected by MIRRI, an initial one-to-one idea/business diagnostic (initial discussion and review status of value proposition, financials, business plan, pitch deck, etc.), followed by structured mentoring (focused on key strategy or management challenges). By the end of the programme, the aim is for the researchers to have defined their value proposition, further validated their idea and have an understanding of their innovation's route to market.

According to its Executive Director, Luís Soares, *“MIRRI has a pivotal role to play on translating the potential of microbial resources and collections into real-life innovations, and we have found on British Embassy Lisbon a great partner to work with on that mission”*. He adds that *“for this pilot programme, MIRRI has selected, based on the scientific excellence and feasibility of their projects, six researchers among those who have applied in the past for our TransNational Access (TNA) Programme, so besides having the access to our resources, services and facilities, they can also obtain additional support from experts who will help them structuring their projects in order to better address the challenges they will face on taking their innovations to market”*.

According to Hugo Marques, Head of Economics & Prosperity at British Embassy Lisbon, *“It is a pleasure to join forces with MIRRI to launch this support programme. Turning ideas into research, research into innovation and innovation into new products, new services and new processes, is crucial. Through this programme, participants will have an opportunity to learn from the UK experience in getting the best research in health and life sciences into the market. The UK remains committed to deepening international R&D collaborations in order to address the greatest challenges of our times. Our partnership with MIRRI and this mentorship programme is a great example of that ambition”*.

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



About British Embassy Lisbon:

The British Embassy in Portugal is responsible for developing and maintaining bilateral relations between the United Kingdom and Portugal. Its mission is to promote the aims and policies of the British Government in Portugal, supporting British companies to do business in Portugal, encouraging Portuguese investment in the UK, strengthening scientific links between the two countries, and providing consular assistance to British residents and visitors to Portugal whenever necessary. The two countries have been united for over six hundred years by the oldest diplomatic alliance in the world.

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