

First European Research Infrastructure Consortium hosted by Portugal

MIRRI inaugurates its new headquarters at the University of Minho

Braga, Portugal, 14 December 2022 – The Microbial Resource Research Infrastructure – European Research Infrastructure Consortium (MIRRI-ERIC), the pan-European Research Infrastructure for the preservation, study, provision and valorisation of microbial resources and biodiversity, inaugurates today its new headquarters premises, located at the Campus of Gualtar of the University of Minho, in Braga, Portugal. The inauguration of the headquarters 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).

As a distributed Research Infrastructure, MIRRI brings together about 50 microbial domain Biological Resource Centres (mBRCs), culture collections and research institutes from 10 European countries. 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 is a prospective Observer. Other countries and institutions are considering their participation.

The new MIRRI-ERIC premises, which is hosted by MIRRI-PT-Polo Norte, the regional hub in the Norte region of the Portuguese National Node of MIRRI-ERIC, represent a total investment of €90,000, 85% of which have been funded by the NORTE2020 programme, managed by the Norte Regional Coordination and Development Commission (CCDR-N).

The inauguration ceremony will bring to the University of Minho Elvira Fortunato, Portugal's Minister of Science, Technology and Higher Education, Madalena Alves, President of the Portuguese Foundation for Science and Technology (FCT), and the Mayor of Braga, Ricardo Rio. Over 70 representatives of the partners and governing bodies of MIRRI-ERIC and MIRRI-PT are expected at the inauguration.

The Rector of the University of Minho, Rui Vieira de Castro, who will also take part in the inauguration ceremony, said that *“the University of Minho is very pleased to host the headquarters of such a relevant research infrastructure as MIRRI is. In particular, we are very proud of all the work that UMinho developed, mostly involving the Micoteca da Universidade do Minho (MUM) and its Coordinator, Nelson Lima, on the overall development of MIRRI-ERIC and its installation in our University”*.

Madalena Alves, the President of FCT, which is the representing entity of Portugal in MIRRI-ERIC, said that *“it is a great honour for Portugal hosting MIRRI, the first ever ERIC having its statutory seat in our country. FCT is very proud of its role in this process, in line with its work on supporting research infrastructures of strategic interest that sustain scientific and technological advancements and strengthen the research and innovation ecosystem”*.



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. For more information, please visit www.mirri.org and <https://www.linkedin.com/company/microbial-resource-research-infrastructure/>.

MEDIA CONTACTS:

MIRRI

Ana Ferreira
info@mirri.org

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