

MIRRI-ERIC announces the new Executive Diretor

Braga (Portugal), 01 September 2023 – The Microbial Resource Research Infrastructure - European Research Infrastructure Consortium (MIRRI-ERIC), the pan-European distributed Research Infrastructure for the preservation, study, provision and valorisation of microbial resources and biodiversity, is pleased to announce the appointment of Ana Portugal Melo as its new Executive Director.

Ana Portugal Melo brings a distinguished and multifaceted background to her role as the Executive Director of MIRRI-ERIC. As a biologist with nearly two decades of experience in research, her expertise spans the fields of plant biology, mycology, and bacteriology. Over the years, she has made significant contributions to our understanding of bioenergetics in these domains.

In addition to her scientific achievements, Dr. Portugal Melo has demonstrated her adeptness in bridging the gap between science and management. She embarked on her journey in science management in 2012 when she assumed the position of Director of Cooperation and Representation at the Tropical Research Institute in Portugal (IHMT). During her tenure, she played a pivotal role in fostering cooperation and representation in the scientific community.

Since 2018, Dr. Portugal Melo has been at the helm of BioData.pt, the Portuguese Infrastructure of Biological Data. In this capacity, she has overseen critical initiatives, including the establishment of an international PhD Program in Tropical Knowledge and Management, and a pioneering Training Program in Data Management for the Life Sciences, among others.

Dr. Portugal Melo's academic achievements include a Ph.D. in Biomedical Sciences with a focus on Fungi models to study human mitochondrial diseases, as well as an Executive in Management of Research Infrastructures. Her unique combination of scientific expertise and management acumen positions her perfectly to lead MIRRI-ERIC in its mission.

MIRRI-ERIC extends a warm welcome to Ana Portugal Melo as she takes on her role as Executive Director.



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/>.

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