

MIRRI-ERIC at Empowering Biodiversity Research Conference 2024



Braga (Portugal), 25 March 2024 – MIRRI-ERIC, at EBR III 2024 Conference Leiden, Netherlands - March 25, 2024 - Ana Portugal Melo, the Executive Director of Microbial Resource Research Infrastructure - MIRRI-ERIC, participated in the Empowering Biodiversity Research conference, EBR III, at the Naturalis Biodiversity Center in Leiden, Netherlands. The conference, scheduled for March 25-26, 2024, will serve as a platform to explore the latest developments in biodiversity informatics and its intersection with policy.

Ana Portugal Melo's presentation, titled "Unlocking the Hidden Treasure: MIRRI-ERIC's Role in Facilitating Access to Culture Collection Data," shed light on MIRRI-ERIC's pivotal role in advancing bioscience and bioindustry endeavors. As an ESFRI Landmark, MIRRI-ERIC stands as a beacon for collaboration, offering a centralized platform for accessing high-quality bioresources and associated data while adhering to European-level data policies.

Established as a legal entity in Portugal and headquartered at the University of Minho, Braga, MIRRI-ERIC has rapidly evolved into a cornerstone of microbial biodiversity preservation and scientific inquiry. With membership spanning across five Member States and an additional Observer, MIRRI-ERIC exemplifies European cooperation in resource-sharing and collaboration.

Aligned with European Union Biodiversity Strategy for 2030 and the European Commission's Open Science Policy, MIRRI-ERIC's strategic objectives for 2024-2028 aim at consolidation, growth, empowerment, and leveraging of resources. The institution



spearheads the Microbes4Climate Horizon Europe project, facilitating global access to integrated services crucial for biodiversity research.

At EBR III 2024, attendees will delve into the world of biodiversity informatics, exploring tools, standards, and initiatives driving progress in the field. Alongside renowned entities such as GBIF, ELIXIR, and Lifewatch, Ana Portugal Melo introduced attendees to MIRRI-ERIC's initiatives, emphasizing the importance of bridging the gap between research and policy.

Additionally, MIRRI-Belgium, represented by Annick Wilmotte from ULiège, participated with a poster titled "BCCM - Belgian Coordinated Collections of Microorganisms at the heart of the ex situ microbial biodiversity conservation." Their contribution further enriched the dialogue surrounding microbial biodiversity preservation and highlighted the essential role of culture collections in this endeavor.

The conference, organized in conjunction with the 2024 ARISE day, promises a comprehensive program featuring keynotes, information sessions, poster presentations, and a state-of-the-art Biodiversity Informatics market. Participants will have the opportunity to engage with leading experts and explore groundbreaking advancements shaping the future of biodiversity research and conservation.

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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