Romania Joins MIRRI-ERIC as an Observer Member

Braga (Portugal), 10 January 2024 - We're thrilled to announce that Romania has officially become an observer member of **MIRRI-ERIC (Microbial Resource Research Infrastructure - European Research Infrastructure Consortium)**, a significant milestone that underscores the country's commitment to advancing microbial research and biotechnological innovation.

The Romanian consortium joining MIRRI-ERIC is a powerhouse of expertise, infrastructure, and microbial collections that are poised to contribute immensely to the consortium's objectives. Comprising Microbial Resource Centers (mBRCs) from prestigious universities and research institutes, the consortium boasts an impressive portfolio of approximately 4000 microbial strains, many of which have been isolated from diverse Romanian natural sources such as soil, polluted areas, extreme environments, and the Black Sea.

An overview of the key contributors to the Romanian consortium:

- **National Institute for Chemical Pharmaceutical Research and Development (NICPF):** Home to the CMII-ICCF-Culture Collection of Industrial Importance Microorganisms, founded in 1952. Specializations include the production of pharmaceutical substances, enzymes for biotransformation, biopesticides, biosurfactants, and biostimulators for agriculture and livestock.
- **Institute of Biology Bucharest (IBB):** Renowned for its Microbiology Department, focusing on isolating microorganisms from extreme environments, probiotics, and metabolites with bio(nano) technological potential. Expertise extends to bioremediation microorganisms.
- **University of Bucharest - Microgen Center:** Houses the Microbial Collection of the University of Bucharest (MCUB), affiliated to WFCC. Specializations include bioremediation, production of biosurfactants and biopolymers, and the study of microorganisms for pathogenicity, virulence, and antibiotic resistance.
- **"Lower Danube" University - Center BioAliment-TehnIA:** Boasts the MIUG collection, focusing on probiotics, metabiotic products, food additive enzymes, selected microorganisms, and consortia of artisanal cultures in functional foods.
- **"Cantacuzino" National Medico-Military Institute for Research and Development:** Home to the CNCBC-IC collection, founded in 2021, which contains microorganisms from 66 genera. Emphasis on microorganisms isolated from Romanian clinics, studied for antibiotic resistance, and virulence.

MIRRI is partly supported by the European Union, through the project "Implementation & Sustainability of Microbial Resource Research Infrastructure for 21st Century" (IS_MIRRI21), which has received funding from the Horizon 2020 Research and Innovation programme, under the Grant Agreement no. 871129.

This collaboration not only expands MIRRI-ERIC's reach but also establishes Romania as a key player in the field of microbial research and resource management. The wealth of knowledge and diverse microbial strains within the Romanian consortium will undoubtedly enrich the consortium's collective efforts in supporting research, development, and innovation across Europe and beyond.

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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