

## MIRRI-ERIC at ECCO 2024



**Braga (Portugal), 20 of September 2024** - Ana Portugal Melo, Executive Director of the Microbial Resource Research Infrastructure - European Research Infrastructure Consortium (MIRRI-ERIC), participated as an invited speaker at the European Culture Collections' Organisation (ECCO) annual meeting held in Bari.

In Session 8, themed "Networking, Services, Quality, and Data Management of Microbial Culture Collections," Portugal Melo shared insights on the pivotal role of microbial culture collections in advancing scientific research through effective collaboration, data management, and quality control.

Portugal Melo's presentation, titled "MIRRI-ERIC as a Microbial, Genetics, and Data Resources Hub to Advance Scientific Discovery," emphasised the transformative potential of MIRRI-ERIC's integrated approach. The organisation serves as a centralised hub for microbial resources and genetic data, promoting scientific advancements by providing access to a diverse array of high-quality bioresources. As a European Strategy Forum on Research Infrastructures (ESFRI) Landmark,

MIRRI-ERIC fosters collaboration among its members and partners, contributing to the advancement of bioscience and bioindustry sectors.

The presentation highlighted the ongoing efforts to develop and implement FAIR principles (Findable, Accessible, Interoperable, and Reusable) within microbial culture collections, ensuring efficient and innovative data management that supports research reproducibility. She also stressed the importance of international collaboration and infrastructure synergy in driving scientific discovery and safeguarding microbial biodiversity for future generations.

Other key representatives from the MIRRI-ERIC community were also in attendance at the ECCO meeting, including members from MIRRI-PT (Portugal), MIRRI-ES (Spain), MIRRI-FR (France), MIRRI-BE (Belgium) and MIRRI-GR (Greece). Their collective presence reinforced MIRRI-ERIC's commitment to fostering global cooperation in microbial research and resource management.

Through these efforts, MIRRI-ERIC continues to solidify its position as a leader in microbial and genetic resource management, contributing to the advancement of scientific research 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](http://www.mirri.org) and <https://www.linkedin.com/company/microbial-resource-research-infrastructure/>.

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