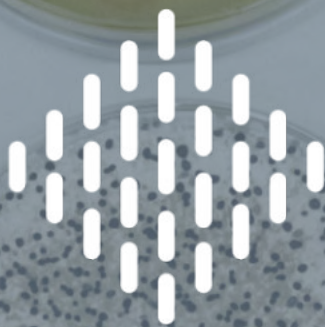




2025

Annual Report



MIRRI

**MICROBIAL RESOURCE
RESEARCH
INFRASTRUCTURE**

ERIC

MIRRI-ERIC Microbial Resource Research Infrastructure — European
Research Infrastructure Consortium

Annual Report 2025

Headquarters

Universidade do Minho, CP3, Braga (Portugal)



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MIRRI-ERIC at a Glance

MIRRI-ERIC is the European research infrastructure dedicated to enabling a greener, healthier, and more sustainable world by responsibly preserving, characterising, providing, and valorising microbial resources.

By offering access to harmonised, high-quality microbial resources and services, as well as scientific and regulatory expertise in a single access point, MIRRI-ERIC accelerates research and innovation in the biosciences and bioindustry while supporting users through tailored expert guidance.

We have



Microbial
Resources and
Data Catalogue

180.000+ Strains
6.000+ Plasmids



Strains Book

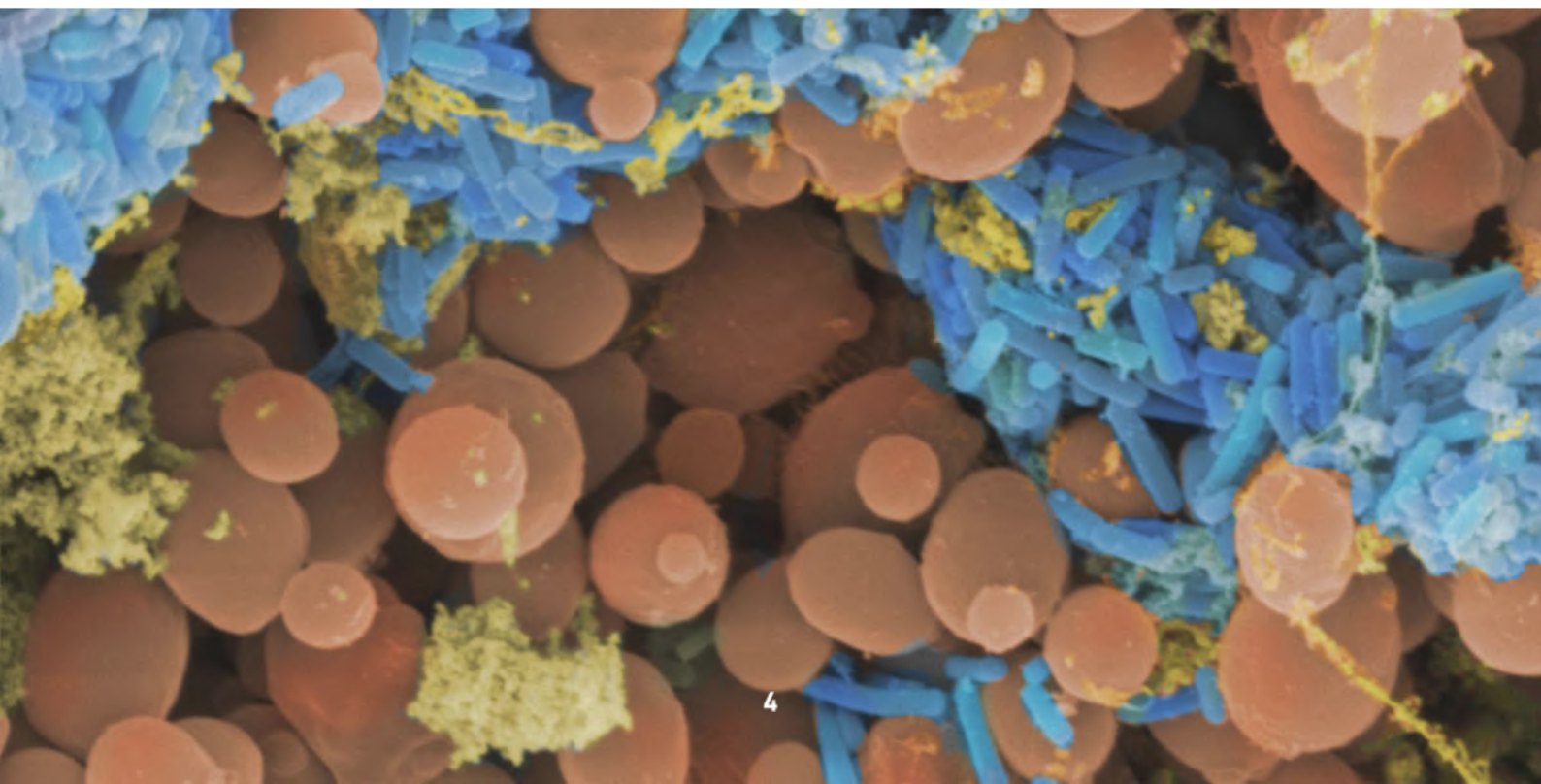


Services
Catalogue

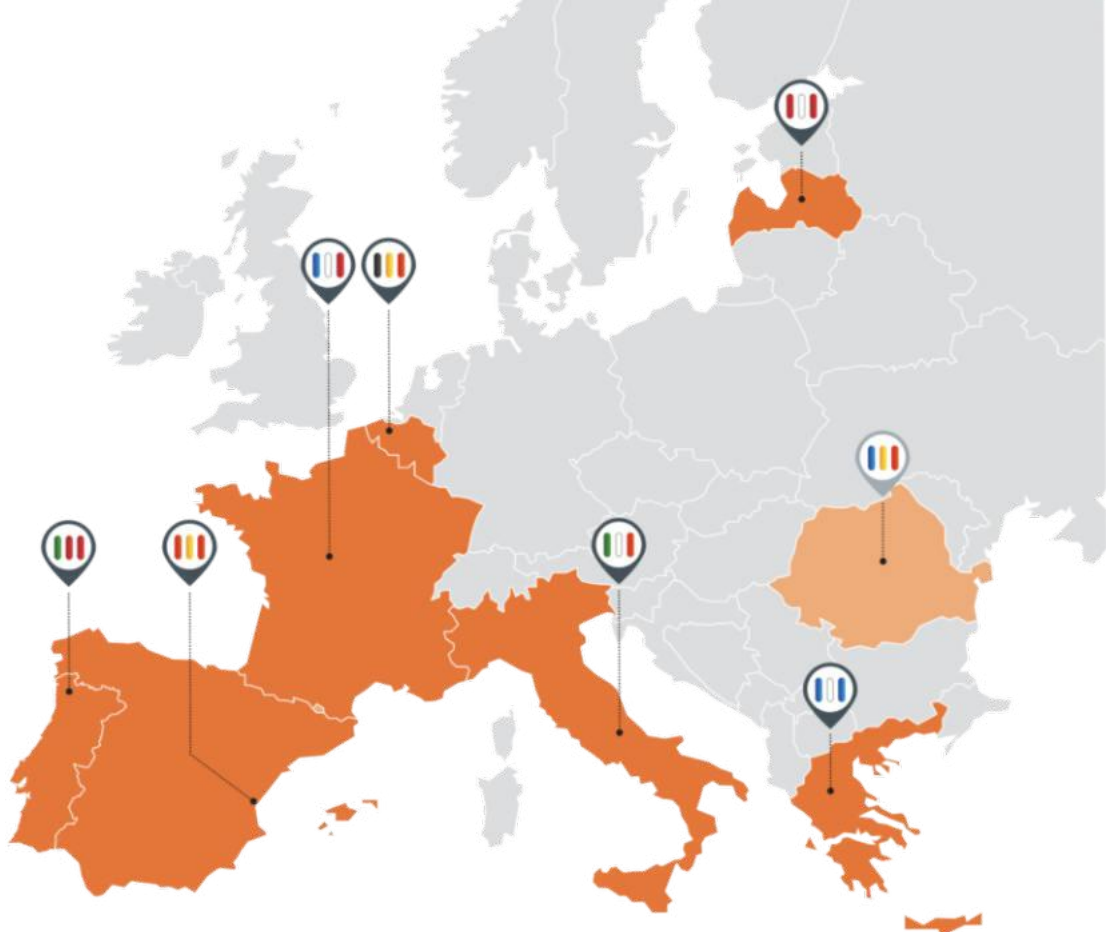
90+ Services



Training &
Education
Gateway



We are



7 Members
1 Observer



46 Partners



Headquarters
(Braga, Portugal)

About us

In 2025, MIRRI-ERIC had



5 Central Coordinating Unit (CCU) staff members



6 H-E Projects participated by our partners



2 H-E Projects coordinated by MIRRI-ERIC

Governance and People

Central Coordinating Unit



Ana Portugal Melo
Executive Director



Ashley Novais
Chief of Operations
Officer



Dalila Fernandes
Project and
Financial Manager



Elisabete Machado
Secretary



Sara Sofia Gonçalves
Communication and
Impact Officer



MIRRI-ERIC is a distributed European Strategy Forum on Research Infrastructures landmark. Its governance structure ensures effective decision-making and strategic oversight, comprising several decision-making and operational bodies.

This governance structure ensures that MIRRI-ERIC operates transparently and efficiently to support research and innovation in microbiology and biotechnology.

On the right, two moments highlight the work of the Assembly of Members and the National Coordinators Forum during 2025.



The National Coordinators Forum (NCF) meets remotely between six to eight times a year. In 2025, this governance body met in person in Riga, Latvia (top left). The NCF is composed of the Executive Director (ED), National Coordinators, and up to two experts from each National Node. This group supports the ED, contributes to the Work Programme and budget, and ensures interaction between MIRRI-ERIC and partners.

The Assembly of Members (AoM) is the decision-making body of MIRRI-ERIC, composed of delegates from each Member and Observer country. It determines MIRRI-ERIC's strategy, governance, and development as a research infrastructure. In 2025, the AoM held two in-person ordinary meetings: one in June, in Riga, Latvia, and another in December in Braga, Portugal.



About us

Foreword

Chair of the AoM



2025 marked the consolidation and strategic growth of MIRRI-ERIC. Across the organisation, we strengthened our CCU, supported the internal governance of our National Nodes, and initiated a major step forward in the professionalisation of our service provision. These efforts reinforce MIRRI-ERIC as a key European research infrastructure for microbial resources and associated data.

We were proud to welcome Italy as a new Member. Romania renewed its observership, while Spain expanded their National Node. With 46 partners now spanning eight European countries, our scientific and geographic footprint continues to grow, broadening capacity to serve Europe's research and innovation.

Our CCU team also expanded significantly, with the recruitment of a Chief Operations Officer and a Communication and Impact Officer, and with the secondment of a Secretary and an Access Officer from the University of Minho. The strengthening of operational capacity is essential as we develop and implement our services.

Through discussions on data

management, FAIR principles and open science, we prepared a roadmap that will shape our digital infrastructure for years.

Looking ahead, 2026 will bring opportunities for community building. The launch of the MIRRI-ERIC Voices webinar will give the floor to our partners to showcase their work in the European research landscape, and foster knowledge exchange. Continued support of the Assembly of Members (AoM) and the National Coordinators Forum will enhance excellence, innovation, socioeconomic impact and industry engagement.

For the first time in its history, MIRRI-ERIC will undergo a scientific evaluation in 2026, and preparations will begin for the ESFRI assessment scheduled for early 2027. These milestones demonstrate our maturity as a research infrastructure.

In 2026, a new leadership will take over the AoM: Dr Michel-Yves Mistou (France) as Chair, and Mr Adil Ennaji (Belgium) and Prof. Paula Morais (Portugal) as Vice-Chairs. It has been an honour to serve as Chair and I wish the new team success.

Marleen Bosschaerts
Assembly of Members Chair



Statement Executive Director

Annual Foreword

MIRRI-ERIC advanced in consolidating its structure and scientific and technological capabilities, expanding the role as a pan-European research infrastructure. Guided by 2024–2028 Work Programme, and despite financial constraints, our efforts centred on reinforcing CCU, supporting National Nodes (NN) development, and accelerating consolidation of the MIRRI Information System and Collaborative Working Environment. We also devoted significant attention to coordinating the H-E projects Microbes-4-Climate and MALDIBANK, both showing strong early impact.

A major milestone in our enlargement strategy was Italy joining MIRRI-ERIC, expanding our membership to eight countries and bringing microbial resources, expertise, and IT capacity into a single access point. We launched a new website, strengthened our presence in international fora, actively contributed to scientific and policy discussions, and had several peer-reviewed articles authored across MIRRI-ERIC community published. These achievements denote a maturing organisation gaining traction.

The year highlighted ongoing challenges. Stable funding remains insufficient to fully meet MIRRI-ERIC's statutory mission, limiting our ability to recruit key staff, such as a dedicated Access Officer, and constraining delivery of a comprehensive service portfolio. Despite reinforcing CCU, the increasing workload shows the need for further specialised roles and clearer in-kind contribution mechanisms. National culture collections also require adequate investment to harmonise quality and data management practices, enabling MIRRI-ERIC to evolve from a network into a dynamic infrastructure. For 2026, MIRRI-ERIC must sustain momentum while taking steps to secure long-term sustainability and scientific impact.

My appreciation to the AoM, NN, partners, CCU, Advisory Board, users, and citizens supporting and benefiting from our mission. Together, we build a robust infrastructure to advance research and innovation in microbiotechnology, contributing to Europe's strategic priorities and sustainability goals.

Ana Portugal Melo, PhD
Executive Director

2025 Highlights



ERIC Forum
Annual Meeting

COO joined
MIRRI-ERIC

CIO joined
MIRRI-ERIC

General Assembly
1 year of M4C

MIRRI-IS
Retreat

Italy as new
Member



Study Visit
EU-LAC Resinfra
Plus Project

Secretary
joined
MIRRI-ERIC

3 partners
joined MIRRI-ES

MALDIBANK
Kickoff Meeting



AoM and NCF
in Riga

January
February
March
April
May
June



LifeWatch ERIC
BEeS Conference

July August September October November December



ECCO XLIII
Conference



IFIB
Conference

ERIC Forum
Annual Meeting



AoM
in Braga



Food System
Microbiomes
Conference

New website

Socioeconomic
impact strategy
started



MIRRI-ERIC's activities in 2025 were guided by the Strategic Objectives and activities defined in the MIRRI-ERIC Work Programme 2024–2028, presented on the page on the right.

These objectives are shaping the development of the infrastructure, structuring its operations and services, and strengthening engagement with users across the scientific and industrial communities.

These ensure alignment between MIRRI-ERIC's annual activities and its long-term mission as a European research infrastructure dedicated to microbial resources, supporting users with access to high-quality biological materials, data integration, and scientific expertise.

In the following pages, highlights of MIRRI-ERIC's achievements in 2025 are presented, organised by Strategic Objective.

S01

Consolidating and Growing MIRRI-ERIC Network

Expansion of the infrastructure through new members and partners, strengthening governance and increasing the visibility of MIRRI-ERIC activities.

S02

Strengthening Scientific and Digital Infrastructure

Development of MIRRI-ERIC catalogues, integration of microbial resources and support to research through high-quality biological material and data.

S03

Empowering Users and Building Capacity

Access to services, support to researchers and industry, and reinforcement of the operational capacity of the Central Coordinating Unit and National Nodes.

S04

Leveraging Partnerships and Positioning MIRRI-ERIC

Engagement with European initiatives, research infrastructures and strategic partnerships to strengthen MIRRI-ERIC's role in the research infrastructure ecosystem.

S01 Consolidating and Growing

The S01 – Consolidating and Growing the MIRRI-ERIC Network guides efforts related to the **expansion of the infrastructure** through new members and partners, strengthening governance, and **increasing the visibility of MIRRI-ERIC** and its activities.

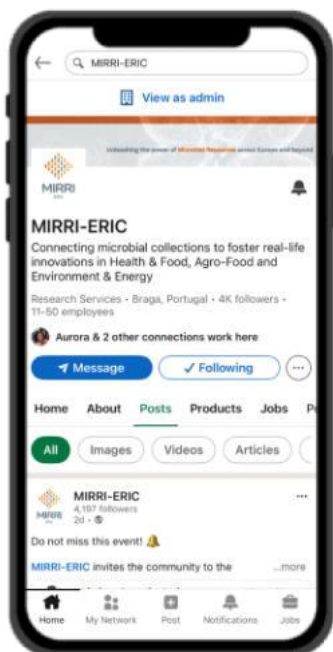
In 2025, MIRRI-ERIC welcomed Italy as a new Member, bringing the infrastructure to eight European countries and adding TUCC – Turin University Culture Collection, DBVPG – Industrial Yeasts Collection of the University of Perugia, UMCC – UNIMORE Microbial Culture Collection, Interlab Cell Line Collection (ICLC) of HSM, and PLAVIT and ITEM from the National Research Council (CNR) as MIRRI-ERIC partners.

Alongside the Italian partners integrated through the new National Node, MIRRI-ERIC and MIRRI-ES welcomed additional partners: IFAPA – Instituto Andaluz de Investigación y Formación Agraria, Pesquera, Alimentaria y de la Producción Ecológica; Fundación MEDINA; and ISCIII – Instituto de Salud Carlos III. MIRRI-ERIC now totals 46 partners.

This year, MIRRI-ERIC strengthened internal cohesion, communication, and coordination across the infrastructure. Regular interactions between the Central Coordinating Unit (CCU) and National Nodes ensured alignment of activities and supported the effective delivery of services.



In 2025, MIRRI-ERIC was featured in 135 public presentations across conferences, meetings, scientific events, and other activities. Of these, **14 were delivered by the Central Coordinating Unit**, while **121 were delivered by National Nodes**, reflecting strong engagement, coordinated communication, and support to Nodes in requests across the infrastructure.



4.064 Followers on LinkedIn
+19% when compared with 2024

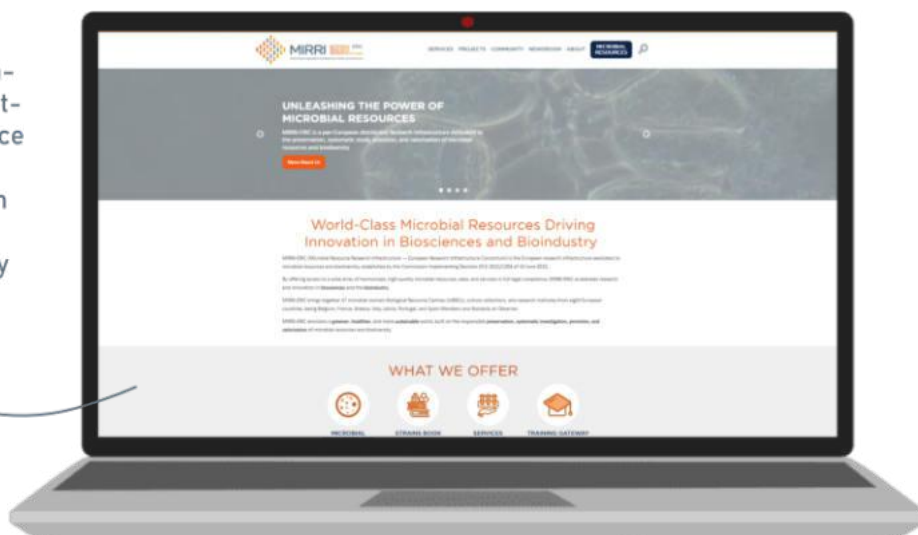
66.658 Impressions on LinkedIn

1.475 Page Views on LinkedIn

Website users **15.965**
+67% when compared with 2024

Website Page Views **65.247**

In October 2025, MIRRI-ERIC launched its new website. The new platform prioritises the user experience and offers a modern and clean overview of consortium's mission and values, activities and news, bringing the microbial community closer to MIRRI-ERIC



The numbers mentioned above were collected on 31st December 2025



S02

Strengthening ■

The S02 – Strengthening the Scientific and Digital Infrastructure focuses on the **consolidation and continuous improvement of MIRRI-ERIC's catalogue of microbial resources and catalogue of services**, to support microbiotechnology academic and industrial research and innovation through world-class biological material, data and services.

At the onset of 2025, MIRRI-ERIC organised the **MIRRI Information System (MIRRI-IS) Retreat**, bringing together representatives from National Nodes and the Data Management and Computing Support Group (DM&C SG). The meeting aligned the near-future development of the MIRRI-IS and defined a shared vision for microbial data annotation, submission and update to MIRRI database, to enhance its usability and the users' experience.

Participants identified common challenges across collections and agreed on practical solutions and a common direction. As a result, MIRRI-ERIC defined a roadmap to improve how data is prepared, validated, and shared across the network.

The retreat strengthened collaboration across MIRRI-ERIC, ensuring all collections, regardless their technical capacity, contribute to and benefit from the development of a shared European data infrastructure.

The MIRRI-IS Retreat happened in Braga (Portugal) in January 2025



7.051 Page Views on the Catalogue
+57% when compared with 2024

2.151 Active Users on Catalogue
+56% when compared with 2024

2025 was a year of great growth for the MIRRI-ERIC Catalogue, with user access to it sizing more than 50% in comparison with 2024

In 2025, MIRRI-ERIC partners' publications have grown more than 50% when compared with the previous year

Publications 1.037
+57% when compared with 2024

MIRRI-ERIC involvement in projects such as Microbes-4-Climate or MALDIBANK, among others, contributes to SO2 by strengthening MIRRI-ERIC's infrastructure, services and data capacity. They enable the development of MIRRI-IS and data workflows, expand access to services and facilities, and integrate complementary expertise across RIs. They drive the adoption of FAIR data principles, improve service delivery and user access and reinforce interoperability and RI visibility. For more information, [consult pages 32-35](#).

Driving Quality and Trust through Standardisation

Engagement with ISO/TC 276, particularly within Working Group 2 (WG2) on biobanks and bioresources, continued in 2025 through MIRRI-ERIC's longstanding role as a Category A liaison. In this capacity, MIRRI-ERIC contributes to the development of international standards by reviewing draft documents and sharing them with its community to gather input.

A new connection with ISO emerged in 2025 within the MALDIBANK project, regarding the establishment of a second Category A liaison with ISO/TC 276/SC1 (Analytical methods). MALDIBANK proposal on the identification of microbial species by MALDI-TOF-MS is expected to be discussed in 2026, offering an additional opportunity for MIRRI-ERIC to contribute to standardisation efforts in analytical methods.



S03.

Empowering

The S03 – Empowering Users and Building Capacity frames MIRRI-ERIC's work on **access to services, support to researchers and industry, and strengthening the operational capacity** of the Central Coordination Unit and the National Nodes.

The year started with the arrival of a Secretary, Elisabete Machado, replacing Ana João Ferreira, as an in-kind contribution of the University of Minho. During the year, MIRRI-ERIC strengthened its Human Resources by recruiting a Chief of Operations Officer, Ashley Novais, in March, and a Communication and Impact Officer, Sara Sofia Gonçalves, in May, reinforcing coordination, improving communication, and increasing support to users and National Nodes.

In December, MIRRI-ERIC opened a vacancy for a Science Officer under the MALDIBANK project. This role is expected to strengthen both operational and scientific capacity in 2026.

Service provision and user engagement remained central. In 2025, MIRRI-ERIC distributed 13.300 biological material samples and supported 5.048 granted proposals for access to facilities. Training and education activities reached 7.021 participants. In some partners, users from non-EU countries represented up to 78% of total users. **Engagement with industry continued to grow.** For some partners, users associated with industry were up to 67% of total user base. MIRRI-ERIC held 1.210 meetings with users and delivered 330 support sessions to researchers.

Up to **67%** Share of users associated with industry

1.210 Meetings with users

330 Support sessions with researchers



13.300

Samples of biological material distributed

5.048

Granted proposals for access to facilities

7.021

People in training and education opportunities

Up to 78%

Share of users from non-EU countries

Strengthening Industry engagement

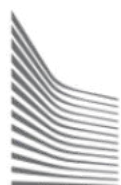
MIRRI-BE strengthened collaboration with the private sector through structured contractual models. These enabled repeated access to services, secure material management, and scalable collaboration pathways. The Belgian National Node of MIRRI-ERIC established nine framework contracts, five TPM contracts, one safe deposit contract, and one distribution agreement.

S04.

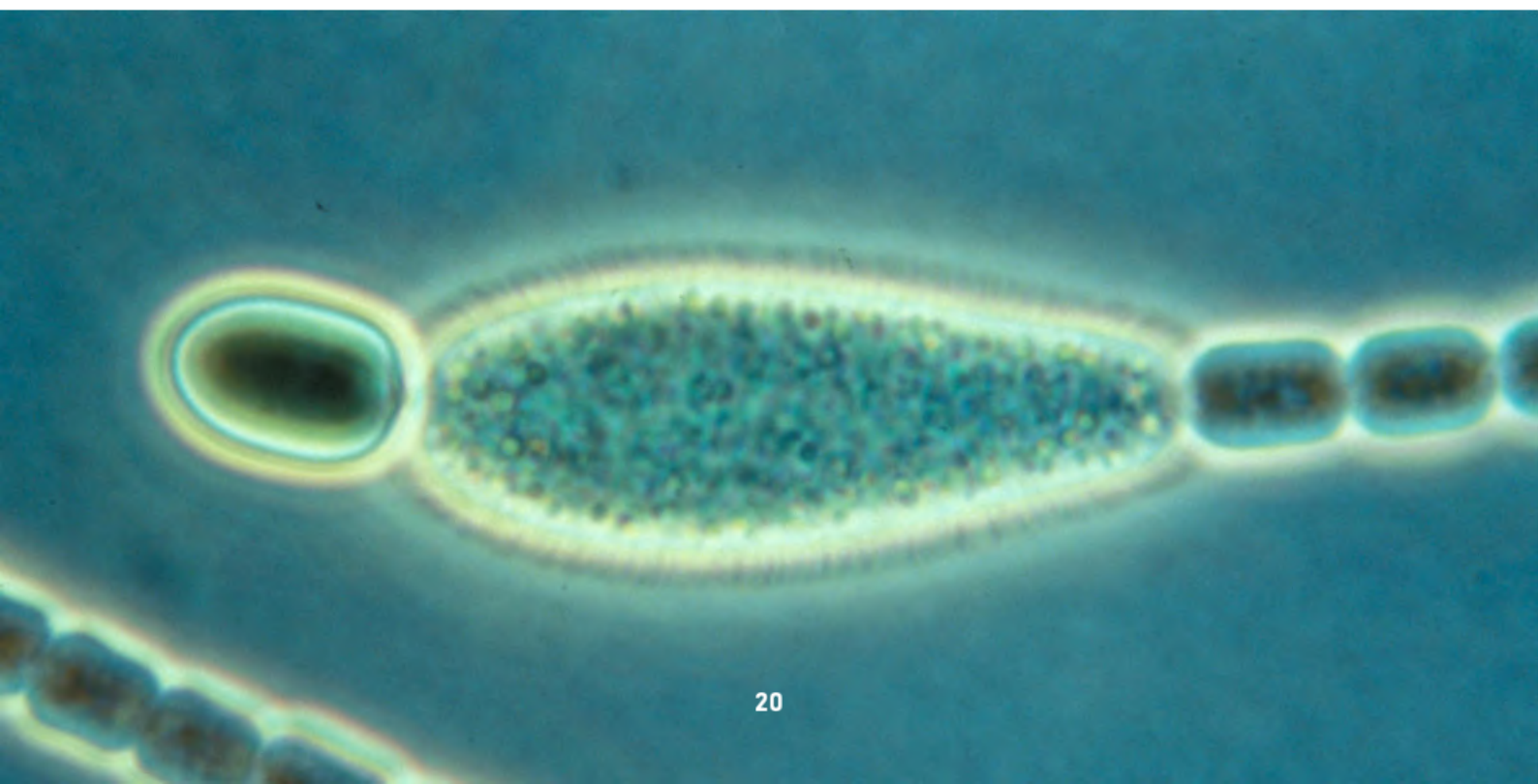
Leveraging

The S04 — Leveraging Partnerships and Positioning MIRRI-ERIC foresees the **engagement with European initiatives, research infrastructures and strategic partnerships** to strengthen MIRRI-ERIC's role in the research infrastructure ecosystem.

In 2025, MIRRI-ERIC contributed to key European policy initiatives through coordinated responses developed with its National Nodes. Four major policy-making surveys counted with MIRRI-ERIC inputs, namely the **EU Biotech Act**, coordinated by EuropaBio; the **Circular Economy Act (CEA)** and the **European Research Area (ERA) Act**, both consultations from the European Commission (EC); and the **Public Survey on the Charter of Access for Industrial Users to Research & Technology Infrastructures**, also from the EC. MIRRI-ERIC ensured alignment of contributions across its network, strengthening its role as a representative voice for microbial resources in Europe.



European
Commission



38

Non-EU countries officially collaborating with MIRRI-ERIC

77

Participations of MIRRI-ERIC in policy-related Working Groups, committees and Advisory Boards

Maintaining Key Partnerships

In 2025, MIRRI-ERIC continued to play an active role in a broad range of European projects, reflecting MIRRI-ERIC's strategic priorities. The projects strengthen collaboration across MIRRI-ERIC's network and showcase its impact across multiple scientific and societal domains.



MIRRI-ERIC remained actively engaged in the ERIC Forum 2, contributing to regular coordination meetings, joint statements, and project activities, strengthening collaboration among ERICs, supporting alignment with ESFRI and European priorities, and reinforcing MIRRI-ERIC's role within the European Research Area. It contributes to visibility and impact of RIs.



MIRRI-ERIC continued its alignment with the European Open Science Cloud (EOSC) by advancing the FAIRification of microbial data and promoting interoperable digital services.



Aligned with ESFRI, MIRRI-ERIC contributed to strategic actions and policy priorities supporting high-quality research and innovation. Thus, strengthened coordinated access to microbial resources and reinforcing MIRRI-ERIC's role in a integrated and competitive European RI landscape.

Enhancing Access Provision and User Reach

In 2025, MIRRI-ERIC advanced discussions on the development of a coordinated **Quality Management System (QMS)**. Following the June National Coordinators Forum (NCF) meeting, partners agreed on a structured approach to assess existing quality practices across collections. A survey was identified as a key tool to map current capacities, gaps, and guide future training and harmonisation actions. This work lays the foundation for a long-term QMS service to be coordinated by MIRRI-ERIC.

The development of the MIRRI-ERIC **Scientific Work Programme 2028–2032** was launched in September 2025 through a structured and participatory process led by the NCF. This phase defined the strategic framework and core orientations of the programme, with National Nodes contributing to the identification of priorities, needs, and opportunities.

Progress from 2024 to 2025 reflects the **collective growth** of the RI. The number of biological material samples distributed increased 26,7% when compared to 2024. Training activities also expanded, going from less than 300 hours of training delivered in 2024 to reaching more than 4 thousand hours in 2025. These results reflect **continued investment in service delivery, user support, and the strengthening of the distributed network**.



Socioeconomic impact monitoring

MIRRI-ERIC recognises the social responsibility to demonstrate the socioeconomic impact of its work and to provide evidence of the use of public funding. MIRRI-ERIC continued to monitor its activities, work, and achievements through the ESFRI Performance Monitoring tool. The data collected based on ESFRI's indicators supports the assessment of performance across the infrastructure.

In 2025, MIRRI-ERIC started to work on its socioeconomic impact strategy, building it based on a collaborative and iterative dynamic, which concluded in a first draft published at the end of the year.

collective growth

Number of user requests for access to biological material	2872
Number of user requests/proposals for access to facilities	552
Number of samples of biological material distributed	13300
Number of granted proposals for access to facilities	5048
Nr of publications based on research using MIRRI-ERIC resources	1037
Number of training and education events delivered	183
Number of hours of training and education delivered	4197
Number of people using training and education opportunities	7021
Share of users associated with industry	0-67%
Number of contracts/projects with industry	163
Presentations delivered referring to MIRRI-ERIC	135
Meetings with users	1210
Number of website users	86669
Number of website page views	263995
Number of followers on social media	25096
Number of impressions through social media	236501
Number of appearances in media	38
Number of catalogue records available in MIRRI-ERIC catalogue	64367
Participation in policy-related WG, committees and boards	77
Support to researchers	330
Share of users from non-EU countries	0-78%
Share of trainees from non-EU countries	0-100%
Share of trainees from EU countries	0-100%
Number of non-EU countries collaborating with MIRRI-ERIC	38
Revenues	€7,750,535.16
Number of services available in MIRRI-ERIC portfolio	217



Belgium is a founding member of MIRRI-ERIC, with partner institutions integrated under the umbrella of the Belgian Coordinated Collections of Microorganisms (BCCM).

In 2025, MIRRI-BE continued its impactful work on the European research landscape, with 358 publications based on resources of this Node. MIRRI-BE participated in relevant international events, like World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO) meeting, Molecular Life of Diatoms, among others.



7

Facilities



4766

Samples
distributed



11

Training
events

BCCM was present at the Annual Congress of the European Society of Mycobacteriology, in Lisbon (PT)



Rudi Beyaert, director of the BCCM/GeneCorner Plasmid Collection, ranked for the fourth consecutive year among the top 1% most cited researchers worldwide according to Web of Science.

BCCM-ITM provided microbial resources used in a study showing that mycobacterial RNA remains stable in 70% ethanol at ambient temperature. The findings simplify sample handling and transport, particularly in limited infrastructure conditions or laboratories.

France is a founding member of MIRRI-ERIC and MIRRI-FR coordinates partners under two institutions: National Research Institute for Agriculture, Food and Environment (INRAE) and Institut Pasteur (IP).

All MIRRI-FR partners participated in the RARe and the corresponding Microbial Pillar General Assemblies. These meetings strengthened collaboration among microbiologists and coordination between national microbial resource centres.



8
Facilities



2700
Samples
distributed



82
Training
events

CIRM-Levures characterised a strain of *Aureobasidium pullulans* with promising properties for cosmetic applications in collaboration with an industrial partner. The results were published in *Journal of Cosmetic Dermatology*. D0 D14

CRBIP-CIP contributed to the description of new bacterial species, *Pseudoalteromonas holothuriae* sp. nov., and to research showing that freeze-dried bacteria can be identified by MALDI-TOF MS without prior culturing.

MIRRI-FR got together at the General Assembly of the Microbial Pillar of RARe, in Brest (FR). The group was captured on the photo on the right





Greece has been a MIRRI-ERIC Member since 2024 and coordinates the activities of MIRRI-GR's three partners, Benaki Phytopathological Institute Collection, Agricultural College of Athens - Dairy Collection, and Culture collections of the National and Kapodistrian University of Athens.

Partners provide services to the Hellenic Ministry of Agricultural Development and Food, local government authorities, agricultural associations, and private farmers.



3

Facilities



18

Samples distributed

Benaki Phytopathological Institute (BPI) contributed to a study demonstrating that chitosan nanoparticles loaded with jasmonic acid (JA-CNPs) activate plant defence mechanisms and reduce *Botrytis cinerea* severity. The work highlights sustainable approach to plant protection, using eco-friendly nanotechnology to enhance disease resistance.

National and Kapodistrian University of Athens (NKUA) contributed to a study screening 980 actinobacterial strains from Greek ecosystems, leading to the identification of bioactive compounds with antioxidant activity and antiaging potential.

ACA-DC – Agricultural College of Athens Dairy Collection, represented by Effie Tsakalidou, participated in the 2nd Forum on Fermented Foods (Málaga, Spain), organised under the COST Action PIMENTO



Italy entered MIRRI-ERIC in 2025. It coordinates microbial research and biotechnological innovation through the MIRRI-IT Node.

MIRRI-IT microbial collections supported several research studies during the year, providing well-characterised strains and traceable metadata for reproducible experimentation.

The participation on national and international events was high, strengthening the Node network.



6

Facilities



983

Samples
distributed



18

Training
events



Francesco Venice, researcher from Tucc, received the Best Poster Award at the 17th European Conference on Fungal Genetics (Dublin, Ireland), for work on yeasts isolated from Mediterranean Sea microplastics.

A new virus affecting mint (Mint virus C) was identified and added to the CNR collection, expanding knowledge of the Carlavirus genus and strengthening plant-health surveillance.

Komagataeibacter and *Lactiseibacillus* strains, from UMCC collection, enabled the development of bacterial nanocellulose biomaterials with wound-healing potential.



CNR-PLAVIT organised the international conference VIROID 2025 – Viroids and Viroid-like RNAs in Bari, bringing together leading experts in RNA biology from around the world.



Latvia has been a MIRRI-ERIC Member since 2022, hosting MIRRI-LV, represented by the Microbial Strain Collection of Latvia together with the Latvian State Forest Research Institute "Silava". The latter entered MIRRI-LV in 2024, bringing this 2025 new activities and achievements, as training.

The majority of microbial strains preserved in MIRRI-LV partners were isolated from samples collected in Latvia, ensuring a strong representation of local biodiversity.



2

Facilities



80

Samples
distributed



6

Training
events

The University of Latvia Microbial strain culture collection hosted a Researchers' Night event, which included a session about MIRRI-ERIC and its significance within the Latvian and European landscape



The Node hosted a MIRRI-ERIC AoM meeting together with a NCF. The event strengthened international cooperation among culture collections, and included a plenary lecture by Dārta Kļaviņa (LSFRI "Silava").

The visit strengthened the national coordination and institutional engagement, with visits to LSFRI "Silava" and the Institute of Food Safety, Animal Health and Environment (BIOR).

The MIRRI-LV events were co-funded by the project "University of Latvia and Institutes in the European Research Area — Excellence in Research and Collaboration".

Portugal hosts the statutory seat of MIRRI-ERIC and has been a Member since 2022, hosting the MIRRI-PT.

In 2025, MIRRI-PT culture collections extended their microbial catalogue. Among others, MUM received deposits of new fungal species, enabling researchers to meet international requirements, and PYCC receiving ex-type cultures associated with several new yeast species, confirming its role as a reference culture collection.



11
Facilities



684
Samples
distributed



8
Training
events



MIRRI-PT partner coordinated the plenary meeting of the Lusophone Network of Biobanks and Biological Collections, reinforcing collaboration between Portuguese-speaking countries

BIOTROP participated in several international events in 2025, including the Congress of Microbiology and Biotechnology in Ponta Delgada and MEDTROP 2025 in Brazil, contributing to scientific exchange in microbiology and global health.

Nelson Lima, from Micoteca da Universidade do Minho - MUM, was awarded the Professor Nicolau van Uden Prize, during the international Microbiotec'25 congress, held in Ponta Delgada (Portugal)





Romania has been a MIRRI-ERIC Observer since 2024, hosting MIRRI-RO, which coordinates MIRRI-ERIC activities for Partners within the country. The Romanian consortium comprises several Microbial Resource Centers from universities and research institutes, collectively maintaining approximately 4.000 microbial strains. These have been isolated from diverse Romanian environments, including soil, polluted areas, extreme habitats, and the Black Sea.



5
Facilities



61
Samples
distributed



19
Training
events

The 12th International Euro-Aliment International Symposium, in Galați, focused on "Food Sustainability Challenges and Solutions", hosted by the Faculty of Food Science and Engineering, University "Dunărea de Jos"

ICCF organised the 2nd edition of the International Conference "Medicines between Information and Life Sciences", bringing together researchers and industry representatives.



A yeast strain from CMII-ICCF was used to produce biosurfactants from waste frying oil, demonstrating antimicrobial potential with applications in the medical, pharmaceutical and food sectors.

Spain is a founding Member of MIRRI-ERIC and hosts the Collaborative Working Environment Hub, at the University of Valencia, supporting cooperation and data integration across the infrastructure. MIRRI-ES comprises the Ministry of Science and Innovation, LifeWatch-ERIC's common facility in Spain, and leading institutions in microbial biotechnology. In 2025, the Node expanded with the addition of three new partners.



5

Facilities



4008

Samples
distributed



39

Training
events



Fundación MEDINA reported several publications describing novel bioactive metabolites produced by bacterial and fungal strains. These studies include discovery of new antibiotics and antimicrobial compounds.

CECT, as MIRRI-ERIC representative at the project EU-LAC ResInfra Plus hosted a study visit in Valencia with professionals from eight Latin American countries





Coordinating

Microbes-4-Climate is a Horizon Europe INFRA-SERV project addressing the role of microorganisms in climate resilience, sustainable agriculture and ecosystem functioning. The project brings together research infrastructures and scientific partners to develop integrated services supporting research on climate-related microbial processes.

A central component of the project is the Transnational Access (TNA) programme, which provides researchers with free access to specialised facilities and services across participating infrastructures, offering 144 services organised into 9 service categories.

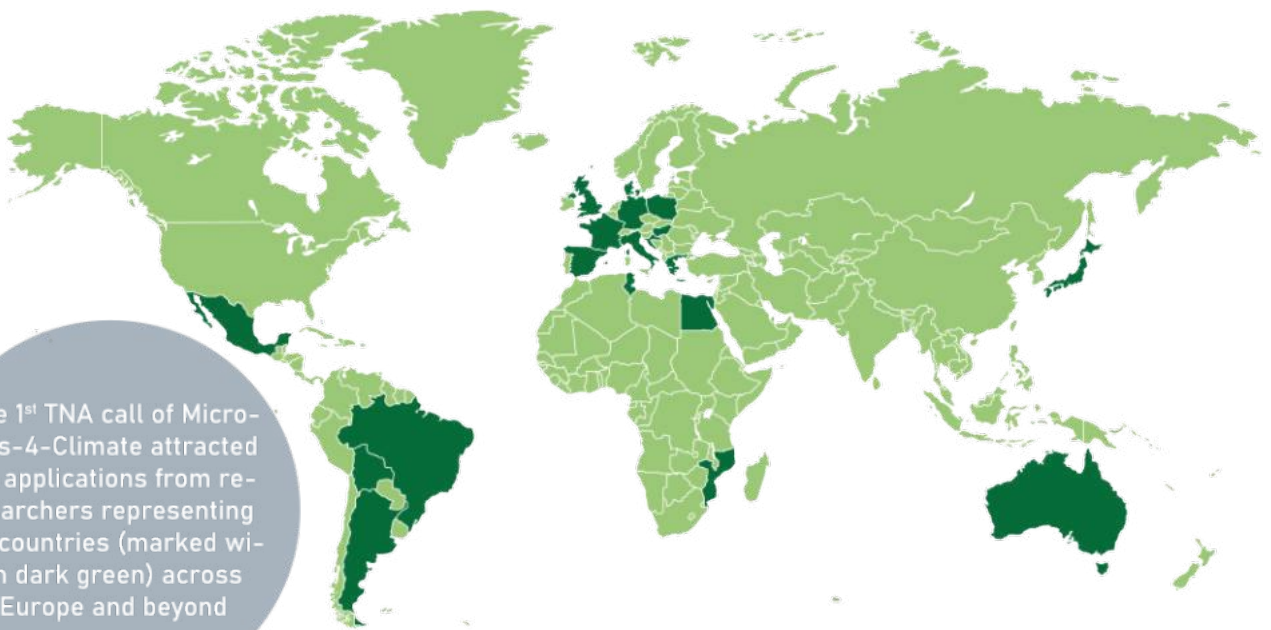
31
partners

14
countries

Until 31
January
2029

Budget
14.5M€

In 2025, the project reached a major milestone with the completion of its first reporting period and the launch of the 1st TNA call. Following eligibility checks and scientific evaluation, 23 projects were granted access to the distributed infrastructure services.



The 1st TNA call of Microbes-4-Climate attracted 26 applications from researchers representing 20 countries (marked with dark green) across Europe and beyond

H-E Projects



MALDIBANK is a Horizon Europe INFRA-TECH project that aims to strengthen microbial identification capabilities in Europe through the development of an interoperable MALDI-TOF mass spectrometry reference database.

The project addresses a key challenge in microbiology: the need for reliable and standardised microbial identification across laboratories and sectors. By integrating spectral data, metadata and microbial strain information, MALDIBANK supports the development of a robust digital infrastructure for microbial identification.

**24
partners**

**12
countries**

**Until 30
April 2029**

**Budget
9.8M€**

In 2025, the project officially started with the MALDIBANK kick-off meeting (see photo). This marked the beginning of collaborative work across participating infrastructures and microbial collections.



Projects

Other projects



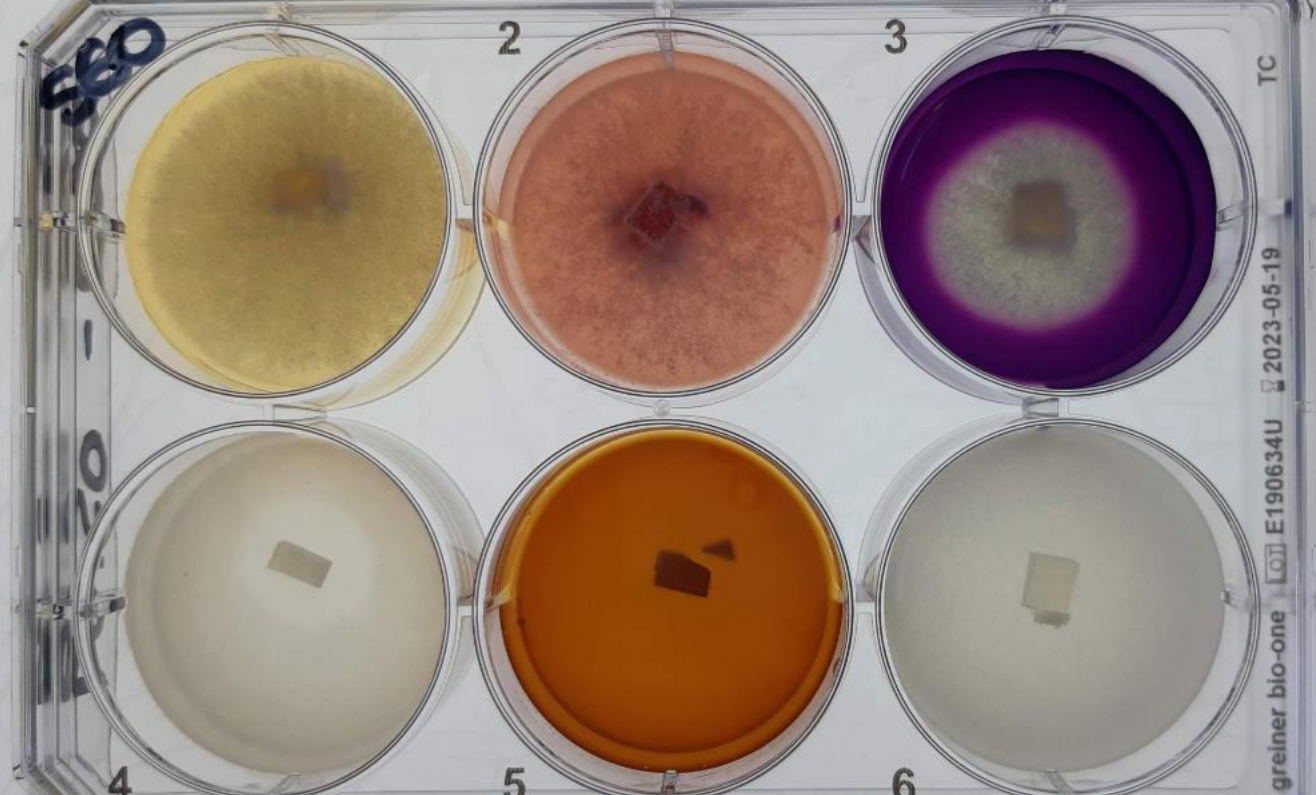
Horizon Europe – INFRA-2021-SERV-01-03
September 2022 – August 2027
Total budget: €15 million
Coordinator: AnaEE-ERIC / CNRS
MIRRI-ERIC partners involved:
BCCM-MUCL and CIRM-INRAE

In 2025, MIRRI-ERIC partners, notably **CIRM-INRAE** and **BCCM-MUCL**, strengthened their role within AgroServ through the award of nine TNA services across two competitive calls. These services supported research teams working on plant health, sustainable agriculture, and microbial-based solutions to environmental stress.

Access provided by MIRRI-ERIC partners focused on high-value microbial resources and expertise. This included fungal and bacterial strains, antimicrobial activity testing, genetic and metabolic characterisation of plant-associated microbiota, and in vitro cultivation of arbuscular mycorrhizal fungi. Several projects reached completion or near-completion, while others progressed into advanced implementation phases, including training activities.

The supported projects addressed key **agroecological challenges**. These include biocontrol of plant pathogens, improvement of crop resilience under drought and abiotic stress, development of biofertilisers, and optimisation of microbial-based agricultural inputs. Through these services, MIRRI partners enabled users to access specialised infrastructures and knowledge not available at national level.

This contribution highlights MIRRI-ERIC's capacity to translate microbial resources into applied solutions, supporting the transition towards more **sustainable and resilient agricultural systems**.



Horizon Europe – INFRA-2023-DEV01

December 2023 – December 2025

Total budget: €750,000

Coordinator: Min. de Ciencia, Innovación y Universidades

MIRRI-ERIC partners involved:

CECT-UVEG

In 2025, MIRRI-ES contributed to the EU-LAC ResInfra Plus project through two main activities. Aurora Zuzuarregui, from CECT-UVEG, participated in the activity **"Oportunidades y desafíos de la Ciencia abierta entre Europa y América Latina: los datos y las infraestructuras en el centro del ecosistema"** (Montevideo, Uruguay, May 2025), which addressed the role of research data and infrastructures, identified opportunities for EU-LAC cooperation, and highlighted key challenges.

MIRRI-ES was involved in the study visit and capacity-building programme at CECT, where expertise on microbial resource centre management, quality standards, and infrastructure practices was shared with participants from Latin America and Caribbean.

As a success example of this collaboration and participation, the researcher Sergio de los Santos Villalobos, from Colección de Microorganismos Edáficos y Endófitos Nativos (COLMENA), Instituto Tecnológico de Sonora, México, presented a Transnational Access (TNA) proposal for the 1st call of the Microbes-4-Climate project and his project has been awarded.



Horizon Europe – INFRA-2022-TECH-01-01
January 2023 – December 2027
Total budget: €9.5 million
Coordinator: INRAE
MIRRI-ERIC partners involved: CECT-UEVG

MIRRI-ES contributed to the Bioindustry 4.0 project by developing a **common microbial data structure**, including schema and validation, to improve interoperability across culture collections. It has also expanded available data by adding new physiological information from CECT-UEVG strains not yet included in the MIRRI-ERIC catalogue.

This work builds on the MIRRI-ERIC standard and aims to involve additional international culture collections towards a global reference model.

Overall, it strengthens communication between collections and supports more efficient data exchange, collaboration, and access to microbial resources through shared digital tools and standards, contributing to the FAIRification of the MIRRI-ERIC catalogue and beyond.

In February, Bioindustry 4.0 held its 2nd Annual Meeting in Barcelona (Spain)



In 2025, MIRRI-ERIC expanded its engagement across a diverse portfolio of European initiatives, reinforcing its role within the European ecosystem. The portfolio includes **key collaborations contributing to strategic domains**, such health, agriculture, biotechnology, and RI coordination.

Through these projects, MIRRI-ERIC supports access to microbial resources, expertise, and services across borders. Its contribution focuses on enabling transnational access, improving data interoperability, and aligning service provision with user needs.

Participation in these initiatives also strengthens collaboration with other European research infrastructures, fostering **alignment on standards, policies, and operational practices**. This supports the development of harmonised approaches to access, data management, and service delivery across the RI landscape.

These projects expand MIRRI-ERIC's engagement with stakeholders, including researchers, industry partners, and policymakers, shaping European frameworks in areas such as One Health, bioeconomy, and research infrastructure sustainability, while reinforcing MIRRI-ERIC's strategic focus on **leveraging partnerships, increasing visibility, and strengthening its position as a key contributor to European research and innovation**.



Horizon Europe – INFRA-2021-EMERGENCY-02

March 2022 – March 2025

Total budget: €21 million

Coordinator: ERINHA

MIRRI-ERIC partners involved:

Institut Pasteur and University of Minho



Horizon Europe – INFRA-2021-SERV-01-02

September 2022 – August 2025

Total budget: €14.9 million

Coordinator: BBMRI-ERIC

MIRRI-ERIC partners involved:

University of Minho



Horizon Europe – INFRA-2022-TECH-01-01

February 2023 – January 2027

Total budget: €5.8 million

Coordinator: AIT

MIRRI-ERIC partners involved:

CIRM-INRAE



Horizon Europe – INFRA-2023-ERIC-ARTIS-IBA

September 2023 – August 2027

Total budget: €3 million

Coordinator: BBMRI-ERIC

MIRRI-ERIC contribution:

In-kind contribution (2024–ongoing)

Financial Statements

INCOME STATEMENT (Amount in Euros)

	31 st December	2025	2024
Sales and services rendered		267 800,00	200 400,00
Subsidies, donations and grants for operating activities		170 347,55	107 320,23
External supplies and services		-60 610,63	-40 926,39
Staff costs		-255 044,46	-135 374,19
Other income		1 568,34	390,76
Other expenses		-211,73	-147,86
Total result before depreciation, financing costs and taxes		123 849,07	131 662,55
Depreciation and amortisation expenses/reversals		-1 783,85	-579,54
Operating result before financing costs and taxes		122 065,22	131 083,01
Result before taxes		122 065,22	131 083,01
Income tax for the period		-331,92	-205,86
Net result for the period		121 733,30	130 877,15

IN-KIND CONTRIBUTIONS (amount in Euros)

	2025
Portugal	
In-kind	86.646,00
In-Cash	50.000,00
Spain	
In-kind	52.574,40



INDIVIDUAL BALANCE SHEET
(Amount in Euros)

	31 st December	2025	2024
ASSETS			
Non-current assets			
Tangible fixed assets		1 126,93	1 299,97
Intangible assets		4 833,37	
		5 960,30	1 299,97
Current assets			
Receivables		0,00	6 666,67
State and other public entities		6 460,40	1 106,55
Prepayments and accrued income		1 391,89	1 732,72
Other current assets		0,00	6 666,66
Cash and bank deposits		2 190 807,26	1 602 185,20
		2 198 659,55	1 618 357,80
Total assets		2 204 619,85	1 619 657,77
EQUITY AND LIABILITIES			
Equity			
Retained earnings		194 971,80	64 094,65
Net result for the period		121 733,30	130 877,15
Total equity		316 705,10	194 971,80
Liabilities			
Non-current liabilities		0,00	0,00
Current liabilities			
Suppliers		797,69	647,35
State and other public entities		8 118,41	4 541,97
Accruals and deferrals		622 406,87	176 578,17
Other current liabilities		1 256 591,78	1 242 918,48
		1 887 914,75	1 424 685,97
Total liabilities		1 887 914,75	1 424 685,97
Total equity and liabilities		2 204 619,85	1 619 657,77

INDIVIDUAL CASH FLOW STATEMENT (Amount in Euros)

	31 st December	2025	2024
Cash flows from operating activities			
Receipts from customers		341 533,33	187 066,67
Payments to suppliers		-84 765,95	-50 022,79
Payments to employees		-175 313,65	-99 879,32
Cash generated from operations		81 453,73	37 164,56
Payment/receipt of income tax		-205,86	-10,53
Other receipts/payments		513 818,37	1 487 223,15
Cash flows from operating activities (1)		595 066,24	1 524 377,18
Cash flows from investing activities			
Payments related to:			
Tangible fixed assets		-1 144,19	-999,98
Intangible fixed assets		-5 299,99	
Cash flows from investing activities (2)		-6 444,18	-999,98
Cash flows from financing activities			
Cash flows from financing activities (3)		0,00	0,00
Change in cash and cash equivalents (1+2+3)		588 622,06	1 523 377,20
Cash and cash equivalents at the beginning of the period		1 602 185,20	78 808,00
Cash and cash equivalents at the end of the period		2 190 807,26	1 602 185,20



Auditor's Report



G. CASTRO, R. SILVA, A. DIAS & F. AMORIM, SROC, LDA

STATUTORY AUDITOR'S REPORT

(Free translation from a report originally issued in Portuguese language. In case of doubt the Portuguese version will always prevail)

REPORT ON THE AUDIT OF THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

Opinion

We have audited the accompanying financial statements of **INFRAESTRUTURA DE INVESTIGAÇÃO DE RECURSOS MICROBIANOS – CONSÓRCIO PARA UMA INFRAESTRUTURA EUROPEIA DE INVESTIGAÇÃO - MIRRI-ERIC** (the Entity), which comprise the balance sheet as at December 31, 2025 (showing a total of 2 204 620 euros and a total net equity of 316 705 euros, including a net profit of 121 733 euros), the income statement by nature, the statement of changes in equity and the statement of cash flows for the year then ended, and notes to the financial statements, including a summary of significant accounting policies.

In our opinion, the accompanying financial statements give a true and fair view, in all material respects, of the financial position of **INFRAESTRUTURA DE INVESTIGAÇÃO DE RECURSOS MICROBIANOS – CONSÓRCIO PARA UMA INFRAESTRUTURA EUROPEIA DE INVESTIGAÇÃO - MIRRI-ERIC** as at December 31, 2025, and of its financial performance and its cash flows for the year then ended in accordance with the Accounting and Financial Reporting Standard for Non-Profit Sector Entities adopted in Portugal through the Accounting Standardization System.

Basis for opinion

We conducted our audit in accordance with International Standards on Auditing (ISAs) and further technical and ethical standards and guidelines as issued by Ordem dos Revisores Oficiais de Contas (the Portuguese Institute of Statutory Auditors). Our responsibilities under those standards are further described in the Auditor's Responsibilities for the Audit of the Financial Statements section below. We are independent of the Entity in accordance with the law and we have fulfilled other ethical requirements in accordance with the Ordem dos Revisores Oficiais de Contas code of ethics.

We believe that the audit evidence we have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our opinion.

Responsibilities of Management for the Financial Statements

Management is responsible for:



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- the preparation of financial statements that give a true and fair view of the Entity's financial position, financial performance and cash flows in accordance with the Accounting and Financial Reporting Standard for Non-Profit Sector Entities adopted in Portugal through the Accounting Standardization System;
- the preparation of the management report in accordance with applicable laws and regulations;
- designing and maintaining an appropriate internal control system to enable the preparation of financial statements that are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error;
- the adoption of accounting policies and principles appropriate in the circumstances; and
- assessing the Entity's ability to continue as a going concern, and disclosing, as applicable, the matters that may cast significant doubt about the Entity's ability to continue as a going concern.

Auditor's Responsibilities for the Audit of the Financial Statements

Our responsibility is to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial statements as a whole are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error, and to issue an auditor's report that includes our opinion. Reasonable assurance is a high level of assurance, but is not a guarantee that an audit conducted in accordance with ISAs will always detect a material misstatement when it exists. Misstatements can arise from fraud or error and are considered material if, individually or in the aggregate, they could reasonably be expected to influence the economic decisions of users taken on the basis of these financial statements.

As part of an audit in accordance with ISAs, we exercise professional judgment and maintain professional skepticism throughout the audit. We also:

- identify and assess the risks of material misstatement of the financial statements, whether due to fraud or error, design and perform audit procedures responsive to those risks, and obtain audit evidence that is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our opinion. The risk of not detecting a material misstatement resulting from fraud is higher than for one resulting from error, as fraud may involve collusion, forgery, intentional omissions, misrepresentations, or the override of internal control;
- obtain an understanding of internal control relevant to the audit in order to design audit procedures that are appropriate in the circumstances, but not for the purpose of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of the Entity's internal control;
- evaluate the appropriateness of accounting policies used and the reasonableness of accounting estimates and related disclosures made by management;
- conclude on the appropriateness of management's use of the going concern basis of accounting and, based on the audit evidence obtained, whether a material uncertainty exists related to events or conditions that may cast significant doubt on the Entity's ability to continue as a going concern. If we conclude that a material uncertainty exists, we are required to draw attention in our auditor's report to the related disclosures in the financial statements or, if such disclosures are inadequate, to modify our opinion. Our conclusions are



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based on the audit evidence obtained up to the date of our auditor's report. However, future events or conditions may cause the Entity to cease to continue as a going concern;

- evaluate the overall presentation, structure and content of the financial statements, including the disclosures, and whether the financial statements represent the underlying transactions and events in a manner that achieves fair presentation;
- communicate with those charged with governance, including the supervisory body, regarding, among other matters, the planned scope and timing of the audit and significant audit findings, including any significant deficiencies in internal control that we identify during our audit.

Our responsibility also includes the verification that the information contained in the management report is consistent with the financial statements.

REPORT ON OTHER LEGAL AND REGULATORY REQUIREMENTS

On the Management Report

In compliance with the applicable legal requirements, it is our opinion that the management report was prepared in accordance with the applicable legal and regulatory requirements and the information contained therein is consistent with the audited financial statements and, having regard to our knowledge and assessment over the Entity, we have not identified any material misstatements.

Braga, February 23, 2026

G. Castro, R. Silva, A. Dias & F. Amorim, SROC Lda.
(SROC 153; CMVM 20161463)
Represented by

Fátima Amorim (ROC 1279; CMVM 20160890)

Photo credits: Miguel Lorenzo, Parc Científic de la Universitat de València (p. 1); Cindy Slugocki, INRAE (p. 3); UNITO (p.4); Nelson Lima, MUM-UMinho (p. 7); Institut Pasteur (p.12, 15, 19, 20); MUM-UMinho (p. 22, 38); CIRM-CF (p. 35); BEA (p. 40)

Contributors

CCU, National Node Coordinators, and partners staff

MIRRI-ERIC partners



