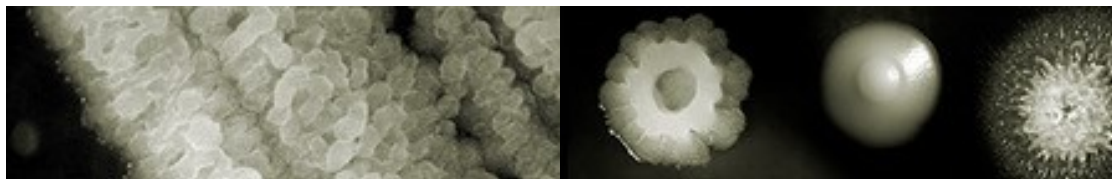


Livro de Resumos

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**Microbial Resource Research Infrastructure  
(MIRRI) and the Portuguese microBiological  
Resource Center Network (Pt-mBRCN): the  
current situation and future perspectives**

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Since the OECD initiative, started with the workshop held in Tokyo 1999, for the development of microbial culture collections (CC) into the more advanced public service microbial domain Biological Resource Centres (mBRCs) that CC are facing 1) a multitude of regulations and international protocols, 2) aspects of biosafety and biosecurity, 3) recognition the differences in CC development, 4) the fragmentation of data with difficulties of biological material access, 5) a tiny percentage of all microorganisms studied and published are well preserved, and 6) poor long-term security and funding. This scenario contrast with the intensifying demands of the scientific user communities for better microbial resources to underpinning the research and development in the field of life sciences and biotechnology. By provision of high quality microorganisms, associated data and the broad expertise of the CC partners, MIRRI ([www.mirri.org](http://www.mirri.org)) aims to support research and development changing the current situation and accelerating the innovation in the field of life sciences and biotechnology.

After the preparatory phase (2012-2016), funded by the European Union's Seventh Framework Programme under grant agreement n°. 312251, MIRRI is now entering in a construction phase. The 1<sup>st</sup> step submission for the MIRRI-European Research Infrastructure Consortium (ERIC) application is scheduled for September 2018, in view of having MIRRI legally established by the end of 2019. To accomplish this schedule, MIRRI will be established as a not-for-profit legal entity following a distributed model with a Central Coordination Unit (CCU) accommodating the operational headquarters and the national nodes bringing together the partners and stakeholders in each European member country. The MIRRI CCU will consist of two distributed sections: 1) the Statutory Seat (SS) located in Portugal (University of Minho, Braga) and 2) the Collaborative Working Environment (CWE) hub operated from Spain (University of Valencia, Paterna) and supported by LifeWatch-Spain, a closely related e-infrastructure.

At national level, the Portuguese microBiological Resource Centre Network (Pt-mBRCN, [www.mbrcn.pt](http://www.mbrcn.pt)) is foreseen as a key initiative to strengthen the public service Portuguese CC activities and, in near future, a potential embryo for the Portuguese MIRRI Node.