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KEYWORDS

ABSTRACT


IMPLEMENTATION

To implement the QMS, MUM established and followed a defined schedule (Table 1). The implementation of the QMS occurred for almost one year during which three main steps were developed. The first step was the planning of the QMS, followed by the design of the system and documental development and the third step was the implementation of the QMS with the achievement of the certification in May 2011. From this date on MUM will keep on performing a QMS revision and pursuing a continuous improvement.

Table 1: Schedule for the implementation of the QMS.

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<tr>
<th>QMS Area</th>
<th>Plan</th>
<th>Design</th>
<th>Development</th>
<th>Value Chain</th>
<th>Processes</th>
<th>Documents and Communication</th>
<th>System Approval and Subsystem</th>
<th>System Revision and Continuous Improvement</th>
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INTRODUCTION

The mission of MUM is to provide the highest quality services to our customers, collecting, maintaining and supplying fungal strains and their associated information for teaching and research in biotechnology and life sciences. MUM intends to be a centre of knowledge, information and training in mycology, operating at a global level and under national and international regulations.

MUM has defined three processes, those being: Material Reception Process (MRP), Material Preservation Process (MPP) and Material Supply Process (MSP). MUM has also developed a documental base for all the QMS including proceedings, standard operating procedures (SOPs), forms, as well as quality objectives and goals for a continuous improvement.
Fungi from the independent assessment agency (Portuguese Association for Certification - APCER with the International Certification Network - IQNet). Of the 590 culture collections from 68 countries registered in the World Federation of Culture Collections, MUM is the 1st Portuguese and the 23rd culture collection in the world to obtain this important qualification.

CONCLUSIONS

The new obtained certificate will enhance further the reputation of MUM as a culture collection that pursues the goals of excellence and leadership implicit in these new and exacting standards. Additionally, MUM will become an even more relevant partner of the Global Biological Resource Centre Network (www.gbrcn.org) and European Consortium of Microbial Resources Centres (www.embarc.eu) projects. MUM is fully committed to the (a) recently-published OECD best practices guidelines relating to quality management for Biological Resource Centres, and (b) Microbial Resource Research Infrastructure (MIRRI) project. MIRRI proposes an European infrastructure for microbial culture collections as described in the European Strategy Forum on Research Infrastructures - ESFRI “Road Map” which was unanimously approved by the 27 participating European Union countries.

REFERENCES


OECD Best Practice Guidelines for Biological Resource Centres (2007) - http://www.oecd.org/document/36/0,3343,en_2649_34537_38777060_1_1_1_1,00.html.

Acknowledgements

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AUTHORS’ BIOGRAPHIES

Marta Filipa Simões graduated in Biotechnological Engineering, has a Master degree in Clinical Microbiology and is now a PhD student in Biological and Chemical Engineering at Minho University and his developing her work in the facilities of Micoteca da Universidade do Minho (MUM). Her e-mail address is: mfilipa@deb.uminho.pt.