



## D8.5

### FIRST REPORT ON THE NEW PROSPECTIVE MEMBERS IN MIRRI



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<b>Abstract:</b>	This is the report of the new prospect members in MIRRI. This will allow us to scope the progression towards the MIRRI RI project expansion.
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## Executive Summary

This is the report of the new prospective members in MIRRI. This will allow us to scope the progression towards the RI enlargement. Throughout this report, we explain the objectives and methodology of expansion. We also analyze the plans of workpackage 8 to integrate the new perspective members, critical risks and the key performance indicators.

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# 1. Introduction

## 1. Introduction

The WP8 is about the Consolidation & Enlargement of Membership and Partnership of MIRRI, which is crucial for MIRRI's sustainability. For this reason, WP8 will implement a well-planned approach to increase the number of countries engaged in the RI with a financial contribution, and to enlarge the mBRCs and CCs partner base. The underlying reasons for countries not willing to join MIRRI will be inquired and registered. This will allow the team to understand and analyze such motives and share experiences from engaged countries to better explain the advantages of becoming a MIRRI Member in order to attract them. A tailored plan on the ways to adapt MIRRI's offer accommodating specific country requirements (e.g. adaptation of services among others) could also be considered. This will help to bring on board the initially not committed countries in the long-term.

This deliverable reports on the new prospective members in MIRRI at month 12.

### 1.1. Objectives

WP8 (enlarge the membership of MIRRI) aims to consolidate the Members that have already signed the MoU, to strengthen, support, and consolidate existing Partners' collections, and to stimulate new engagements at all levels (Members, partners, and other stakeholders). For this, the task proposed in the frame of this WP will promote enlargement of membership, organization of activities aiming to integrate local/national collections, industrial engagement, and rising of decision-makers' awareness.

The main objective of D8.5 is about the engagement and enlargement of the new prospective members at month 12, as a successful implementation of the enlargement and consolidation plan, as the main goal of the WP8.

### 1.2. Methodology

The Assembly of prospective Members (ApM), which is the interim Governance Body established to consolidate the members of the MIRRI RI and to establish MIRRI-ERIC, has been periodically meeting on 27 March 2020, 08 May 2020, 12 June 2020, 23 June 2020, 03 July 2020, 24 July 2020, 04 September 2020, 16 October 2020, 27 November 2020, and 21 January 2021. The ApM together with the Interim National Coordinators Forum (INCF) have been working on the Statutes and the Technical & Scientific Description (TSD), to reach the 2<sup>nd</sup> step submission for MIRRI-ERIC, and to proceed with national procedures to establish MIRRI-ERIC.

On 29 June 2020, the Letter of Intent was signed by Dragos Mihael Ciuparu, the Secretary of State in the Ministry of Education and Research of Romania. With this, Romania declared its willingness to collaborate - as Observer Country - with the MIRRI Consortium, with the aim of creating a legal entity with legal personality and full legal capacity as a European Research

Infrastructure Consortium (ERIC) in terms of Council Regulation (EC) No. 732/2009 of 25 June 2009 on the Community Legal Framework for an ERIC.

On 23 October 2020 took place the IS\_MIRRI21 Workshop on “Implementation and Sustainability of Microbial Resource Research Infrastructure for 21<sup>st</sup> Century”. There were 90 participants listed, from 18 countries. The countries of the participants and the number of participants from each country are shown in Figure 1.



Figure 1 – Countries that participated in MIRRI Workshop on “Implementation and Sustainability of Microbial Resource Research Infrastructure for 21<sup>st</sup> Century”.



## **2. New prospective members in MIRRI**



## 2. New prospective members in MIRRI

Romania declared its willingness to collaborate within the MIRRI Consortium, with the aim of creating a legal entity with legal personality and full legal capacity as an ERIC, to participate as an observer in the meetings of the ApM and the Interim National Coordinators Forum (INCF) and to respect the confidentiality clauses of the MIRRI Memorandum of Understanding (MoU). The Letter of Intent has been signed for 3 years or until adherence to the MoU by the Signatory, or until the final legal structure and governance for the MIRRI research infrastructure are established as MIRRI-ERIC.

Based on the information established during the [IS\\_MIRRI21](#) Workshop, and the feedback from EU-CELAC Cooperation Workshop “Biodiversity and Climate Change”, that took place on 29 October 2020, we got in contact with the Luxembourg Microbial Culture Collection (LuxMCC) and Switzerland CCOS (Table 1).

The invitation letters were prepared with the proposition of direct contact to introduce and discuss all the issues concerning joining MIRRI-ERIC.

Table 1 – Contact list of countries that are considered to be a prospective member of MIRRI.

Country	Collection	Contact Person
<b>Romania</b>	CMII Culture Collection of Industrial Importance Microorganisms	Dr. Misu Moscovici
<b>Luxemburg</b>	Luxemburg Microbial Culture Collection (LuxMCC)	Dr. Lucien Hoffman
<b>Switzerland</b>	Culture Collection of Switzerland (CCOS)	Dr. Gottfried Dasen

The invitation letters were sent by Prof. Dr. Rosa Aznar from the Spanish Type Culture Collection (CECT), who represents Spanish Partner in the [IS\\_MIRRI21](#) project, as Chair of the MIRRI INCF. The meeting with Dr. Lucien Hoffman was scheduled for 21 December 2020. In the meeting, the MIRRI representatives were Prof. Dr. Rosa Aznar, as Chair of the MIRRI INCF, and Dr. Marleen Bosschaerts, as Chair of the MIRRI ApM. After the meeting, the Statutes and TSD were sent to Dr. Hoffman, as these documents are fundamental of the MIRRI research infrastructure. In 2021 we will proceed with the work to achieve Luxembourg as a potential MIRRI member.

We haven't received a response from Switzerland to our Invitation Letter at this moment, and we will try to contact CCOS again in 2021.

After contacting the Hungarian NCAIM Collection (National Collection of Agricultural and Industrial Micro-organisms, Corvinus University of Budapest), we received feedback stating that they do not have the necessary support of their national policy-makers, to be involved in MIRRI.

We acknowledge that the difficulties of 2020 (Covid-19 pandemic) can affect our attempts of enlargement of the MIRRI consortium on the scale that we would wish for. Nevertheless, we will proceed.

## 2.1. The plans of the enlargement for the next 2021 year

In the plans for 2021, we have the organization of the next workshops which will allow us to connect with the representatives of different countries, and enhance international cooperation and strengthen the national partnership between collections.

As a starting point, and taking into account the strong cooperation with the European Culture Collections Organisation (ECCO, [www.eccosite.org](http://www.eccosite.org)), the most active ECCO Corporate Members of different European countries that did not yet sign the MoU (Table 2) will be contacted first. These mBRCs and their country representatives will be the top priority for the engagement.

Table 2 – List of the potential countries that can join MIRRI and some of their mBRCs.

No	Country	mBRCs
1.	Austria	ACBR - Austrian Center of Biological Resources and Applied Mycology
2	Bulgaria	NBIMCC - University of Chemical Technology and Metallurgy
3.	Czech Republic	CCF - Culture Collection of Fungi, Department of Botany, Faculty of Science, Charles University CCM - Czech Collection of Microorganisms, Masaryk University
4.	Denmark	SCCAP - Scandinavian Culture Collection of Algae & Protozoa, University of Copenhagen
5.	Estonia	CELMS - Institute of Molecular and Cell Biology, University of Tartu
6.	Finland	MICCO - Finnish Microbial Resource Centre Organisation HAMBI - Helsinki Institute of Life Science VTTCC - VTT Technical Research Centre of Finland
7.	Germany	DSMZ – German Collection of Microorganisms and Cell Cultures GmbH SAG - Culture Collection of Algae, Gottingen
8.	Norway	NORCCA - Norwegian Culture Collection of Algae

9.	Slovakia	CCY - Culture Collection of Yeasts, Institute of Chemistry, Slovak Academy of Sciences
10.	Sweden	CCUG: Culture Collection, University of Gothenburg
11.	Switzerland	CCOS – Culture Collection of Switzerland
12.	International	CABI – EGHAM, UK

At the same time, we will contact the collections based in South America (e.g., Brazil, Chile, Colombia, Argentina, Ecuador, Peru). We will search for the contact and collaboration possibility with Latin American Countries through the RCCCM - Chilean Network of Microbial Culture Collections and EU-CELAC Platform and FELACC – Latin America Federation of Crop Collections activities. For which separate workshops will have to be organized due to the different time zones.

## 2.2. The critical risk for the implementation and the Key Performance Indicators

Table 3 presents the risk and mitigation measures that are envisaged in this task and Table 4 mentions the KPI defined in the [IS\\_MIRRI21](#) Grant Agreement.

Table 3 – Critical risks for implementation in WP8.

No	Description of Risk (likelihood)	Proposed risk-mitigation measures
1.	Enlargement with reduced success (medium)	Enlargement will be crucial for MIRRI's sustainability. For this reason, WP8 will implement a well-planned approach to increase the number of countries engaged in the RI with a financial contribution, and to enlarge the mBRCs and CCs partner base. In the case of country rejections, the underlying reasons for not wanting to join will be inquired and registered. This will allow the team to understand and analyze such motives and conceive a plan on the ways to adapt MIRRI's offer accommodating specific country needs (e.g. adapt services or other) and sharing experiences in other countries to better show the mutual advantages of becoming a MIRRI member. This will help bring on board in the long-term the initially not interested countries.

Table 4 – Key Performance Indicators.

No	Indicator	Enlarge the number of European and associated countries participating in the infrastructure
1.	Target	Increase the number of MoU signatories by 4 countries by the end of the project



# MIRRI IS21

IMPLEMENTATION AND  
SUSTAINABILITY FOR  
THE 21ST CENTURY

MICROBIAL RESOURCE RESEARCH INFRASTRUCTURE