

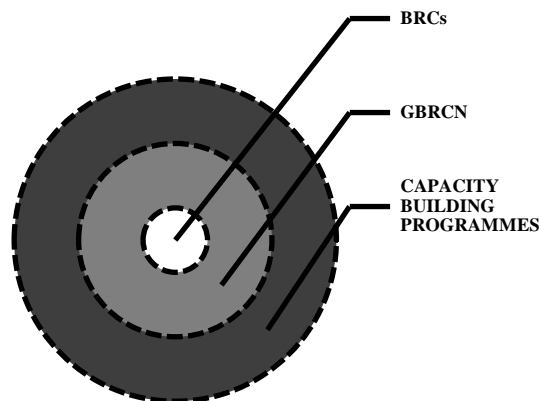
Capacity Building in Culture Collections: The GBRCN and EMbaRC Projects

Nelson Lima

IBB/Institute for Biotechnology and Bioengineering, Centre of Biological Engineering, Micoteca da Universidade do Minho (MUM), University of Minho, Braga, Portugal

Capacity building for culture collections means activities which strengthen the knowledge, abilities, skills and behaviour of individuals. Institutional structures and processes are improved such that the network collections can efficiently meet their missions and goals in a sustainable way. Additionally, capacity building is also viewed as a long-term, continuing process in which all stakeholders can participate in order to create an enabling environment with appropriate policy and legal frameworks, institutional development, human resources development and strengthening of managerial systems of collections.

The demonstrative Global Biological Resource Centre Network (GBRCN) project aims to enhance the efficiency of culture collections to meet user needs by establishing 1) well define policy and legal frameworks at all levels; 2) a quality management and control programme; 3) data sharing mechanisms; 4) sustainability (governmental and/or public support); and 5) the best practices supported by capacity building programmes. The diagram shows the relation between Biological Resource Centres (BRCs) with capacity building programmes.



The European Consortium for Microbial Resource Centres (EMbaRC) project, running in parallel with the GBRCN project, will establish a self-sustainable community of BRCs to offer a wide-range bio-resources and services. The EMbaRC has extensive and ambitious training and outreach programmes to challenge culture collections to provide services beyond their conventional limits. The GBRCN and EMbaRC programmes will be presented here to encourage complementarities and collaborative work.