



ECCO XXXIII

Molecular Taxonomy: from Biodiversity to Biotechnology



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ABSTRACT BOOK

Training and Education Provided by Microbial Culture Collections in Europe (I): Panorama on Tools, and Contents Produced and Used within the MIRRI Consortium

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Biological Resource Centers are fundamental in harnessing and preserving the world's biodiversity, and play a vital role in driving innovation, and supporting the bioeconomy [1]. MIRRI (the Microbial Resource Research Infrastructure: www.mirri.org) is an EU-ESFRI project involving a total of 33 partners and collaborating parties, aiming to provide facilitated access to microbial resources, associated data and expertise, and promote knowledge transfer. The importance of training and education activities towards reaching the goals of MIRRI is widely recognized, and emphasized by the inclusion of a dedicated work package focusing on these issues.

In order to assess the current panorama of education and training offer within MIRRI, a survey, via questionnaire, was elaborated and distributed within the consortium. The goal of this survey was to obtain a snapshot of training, current tools, and contents being used and produced within MIRRI. The questionnaire contained 11 multiple-choice questions, and a final, open-ended section for details and comments.

Here we present and analyze some of the results of this survey, and provide a first glimpse on the current setting, challenges, and possible solutions. The majority of MIRRI participants already provides training as part of their services or plans to implement it in the near future. Most noticeably, despite current trends and benefits in increased use and production of contents in new formats (e.g. video, interactive), and use of new tools and technologies (e.g. e-learning, b-learning), training within MIRRI still has an overwhelming dominance of classic content types and delivery methodologies. Adopting new technologies would bring clear benefits to members of MIRRI and better serve the needs of our costumers.

References:

[1] OECD, *Biological Resource Centres. Underpinning the future of life sciences and biotechnology*. 1-66 (OECD, 2001).