



ECCO XXXIII

Molecular Taxonomy: from Biodiversity to Biotechnology



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33rd Annual Meeting of the European Culture Collections' Organisation

Valencia from 11 to 13 June 2014

ABSTRACT BOOK

Training and Education Provided by Microbial Culture Collections in Europe (II): Overview on Current Demand and Needs of Customers of the MIRRI Consortium

A. Antunes¹, V. Piessens², A. Zuzuarregui³, I. Perugini⁴, M. Fischer-Le Saux⁵, E. Helloin^{6,7}, N.Lima^{1*}, The MIRRI consortium

¹ Micoteca da Universidade do Minho, Centre of Biological Engineering, University of Minho, Braga, Portugal

² BCCM/LMG Bacteria Collection, Faculty of Sciences, Ghent University, B-9000 Ghent, Belgium

³ Spanish Type Culture Collection (CECT), University of Valencia, Paterna, Spain; ⁴ MUT-Mycotheca Universitatis Taurinensis, University of Turin, Turin, Italy

⁵ INRA, UMR 1345 Institut de Recherche en Horticulture et Semences, F-49000 Angers, France

⁶ INRA, UMR 1282 ISP Infectiologie et Santé Publique, F-37380 Nouzilly, France

⁷ Université François Rabelais de Tours, UMR1282 Infectiologie et Santé Publique, F-37000 Tours, France

nelson@ie.uminho.pt

The currently ongoing boom in the bioeconomy is fueled by Biological Resource Centers, which play a vital role in harnessing and preserving the world's biodiversity [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 and foster innovation. In order to achieve these goals, it is crucial to properly define our stakeholder community and identify their current and future needs.

MIRRI conducted a wide-scoped survey targeting current and potential users of microbial resources and services. The survey aimed to identify trends in current and future demand and needs for our services, and pinpoint possible gaps in our offer. It also included a specific section on education and training. Replies from a total of 1146 individual users were collected and further examined, processed and analyzed.

Here we present and analyze some of the results of this survey, focusing on training and education. We identified a much wider untapped market for education and training within our customer base, which is expected to expand in the next five years. Indeed, there is a wide gap between training that our customers outsourced to third parties and to culture collections, but this gap is expected to decrease in the next five years. This expected spike in demand of training from culture collections is particularly pronounced in replies from the profit sector

One should note that additional efforts are clearly required in adjusting our offer, adapting contents and content delivery and focusing on cost-efficiency and proper advertising to increase visibility, harness this potential growth, and better serve the needs of our customers.

References:

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