



EMbaRC: European Consortium of Microbial Resource Centres

The properties of microorganisms have been harnessed by man for thousands of years, particularly in brewing and baking but their uses continue to expand not just in food and healthcare but in almost all areas of industry and environmental maintenance. Their authentication, characterisation, stable storage and supply are a major contribution to the knowledge-based bioeconomy. The EMbaRC project is working to coordinate these microbial resources so that researchers in Europe and around the globe have better access to and can take full advantage of Europe's microbial resource centres.

● EUROPE TAKING THE LEAD

EMbaRC will create a self-sustainable community of European Microbial Resource Centres. These centres will offer immense bio-diversity and a wide range of biological resources as well as expert services. Together this will encourage the development of new partnerships between public and private organisations which will not only generate revenue but also better microbial research. The project is further collaborating with the Global Biological Resource Centre Network (GBRCN) project, strengthening Europe's leading role on the global microbial scene. Part of this is providing better access to biological resources and associated information and services. This benefits researchers as they will be able to take advantage of previous results and other resources for their research.



● COORDINATION ACROSS CENTRES

For EMbaRC to be a successful project, quality, standards and access need to be harmonised across all partner organisations. As such, an important element of the project is sharing best practices between all involved research institutes and ensuring the best operational standards are being used in all microbial research centres.

EMbaRC researchers are also working on creating a code of conduct for biosecurity for European microbial biological resource collections. This will ensure that all specimens

contained in any of the microbial resource centres will not, intentionally or unintentionally, be used in the creation of biological weapons.

Furthermore, microbial collections that have either been abandoned or are endangered will receive support from the EMbaRC project. They will be invited to join the larger EMbaRC community network, adding value to the project while these smaller centres benefit from the resources and expertise of the larger centres.

Over the long term, EMbaRC aims to bring together biological resource centres to find complementary sources of funding and ensure their continued existence. Moreover, joint research will improve the quality of strain- and DNA-storage, and explore new microorganism identification methods. A greater number of users will have access to these resource centres and their research through improved dissemination methods, including the creation of an extensive web portal and information database as well as regular publication of results to the wider scientific community.



Project acronym: EMbaRC

Funding scheme (FP7): Integrated Activities (IA)

EU financial contribution: €4 million

EU project officer: Jean-Emmanuel Faure

Duration: 36 months

Start date: 1 February 2009

Completion date: 31 January 2012

Partners:

Institut National de la Recherche Agronomique, INRA: Centre International de Ressources Microbiennes, CIRM (FR)

Institut Pasteur: Centre de Ressources Biologiques de l'Institut Pasteur, CRBIP (FR)

DSMZ – German Collection of Microorganisms and Cell Cultures (DE)

CAB International, CABI (UK)

Universitat de València: Colección Española de Cultivos Tipo, CECT (ES)

Universidade do Minho: Micoteca da Universidade do Minho, MUM (PT)

Koninklijke Nederlandse Akademie Van Wetenschappen: Centraalbureau voor Schimmelcultures, CBS (NL)

Belgian Co-ordinated Collection of Micro-organisms, BCCM: Service Public Fédéral de Programmation – Politique Scientifique, Universiteit Gent and Université Catholique de Louvain (BE)

Coordinator: Sylvie Lortal, Institut National de la Recherche Agronomique, Sylvie.Lortal@rennes.inra.fr

Deputy Coordinator: Chantal Bizet, Institut Pasteur, EMbaRC@pasteur.fr

Project webpage: www.embarc.eu

