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EUROPEAN CONSORTIUM OF MICROBIAL RESOURCES CENTRES - EMBARC

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EMbaRC is an EU project which aims to improve, coordinate and validate microbial resource centre (MRC) delivery to the European and International researchers. To ensure harmonisation of the quality of MRCs, EMbaRC plans to take the current OECD best practice guidelines and emerging national standards for Biological Resource Centres (BRCs) to the international level. Outreach and training activities will ensure that not only the consortium but that all European collections operate to the standards required to deliver products and services of consistent quality thus meeting customer. A one-stop access to the collections of EMbaRC and the wider European BRC community via a searchable web portal building on the outcomes of the CABRI and EBRCN is being provided. Access and high-quality support and training to research teams is provided via calls for access and selected participants can spend time at partner institutions gaining access to resources, technologies and expertise. This project is a mixture of networking, training and research. Research output will deliver new methods for strain and DNA preservation, novel techniques for identifying species. The networking elements will give better access to authentic microorganisms and validated associated data and provide a set of business models for the self-sustainability of BRCs. This project creates the European platform of the OECD envisaged Global Biological Resource Centre Network. Amongst its activities the consortium is developing strategies to protect investment in research by ensuring preservation of key biological materials and it is promoting a biosecurity code of conduct.