

# MIRRI clusters of expertise

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## MIRRI – Background



Launched in 2012, the pan-European Microbial Resource Research Infrastructure (MIRRI) is part of the BioMedical Research Infrastructure (RI) ESFRI landscape. Currently, more than 30 public biorepositories and research institutes from 19 European countries (Figure 1) collaborate to establish MIRRI as a European Research Infrastructure Consortium (ERIC) under EU law.

The vision of MIRRI is to be a unique pan-European high-performance platform adding value to known and yet unknown microbial biodiversity and exploiting unknown sources and knowledge to discover and disclose for the bioeconomy and bioscience. MIRRI will generate solutions to societal challenges by stimulating interaction between academia and bioindustry.

Figure 1. Current MIRRI partners and collaborating parties

The MIRRI-ERIC will be managed by a Central Coordinating Unit (CCU) and connected to National Nodes (NNs) in each Member country. Partners of the MIRRI-ERIC (Microbial Biological Resource Centers – mBRCs –, service providers, public institutions, experts) are linked to the MIRRI-ERIC via the NNs.

The expertise available at different partner and non-partner institutions will be brought together in the form of Expert Clusters to respond to concrete demands of the MIRRI stakeholders.

To design the content, composition and rules of operation of the clusters, the relevant stakeholders have been consulted (face to face meetings, workshops and surveys). An analysis of the comparable RIs of the ESFRI 'Food and Health' group was performed to bridge the gap between information sharing and facilitating a collaboration landscape.

The Expert Clusters are part of the MIRRI offer and are envisaged as a unique service model enriching bioindustry, bioscience and mBRCs.

## MIRRI Clusters of Expertise

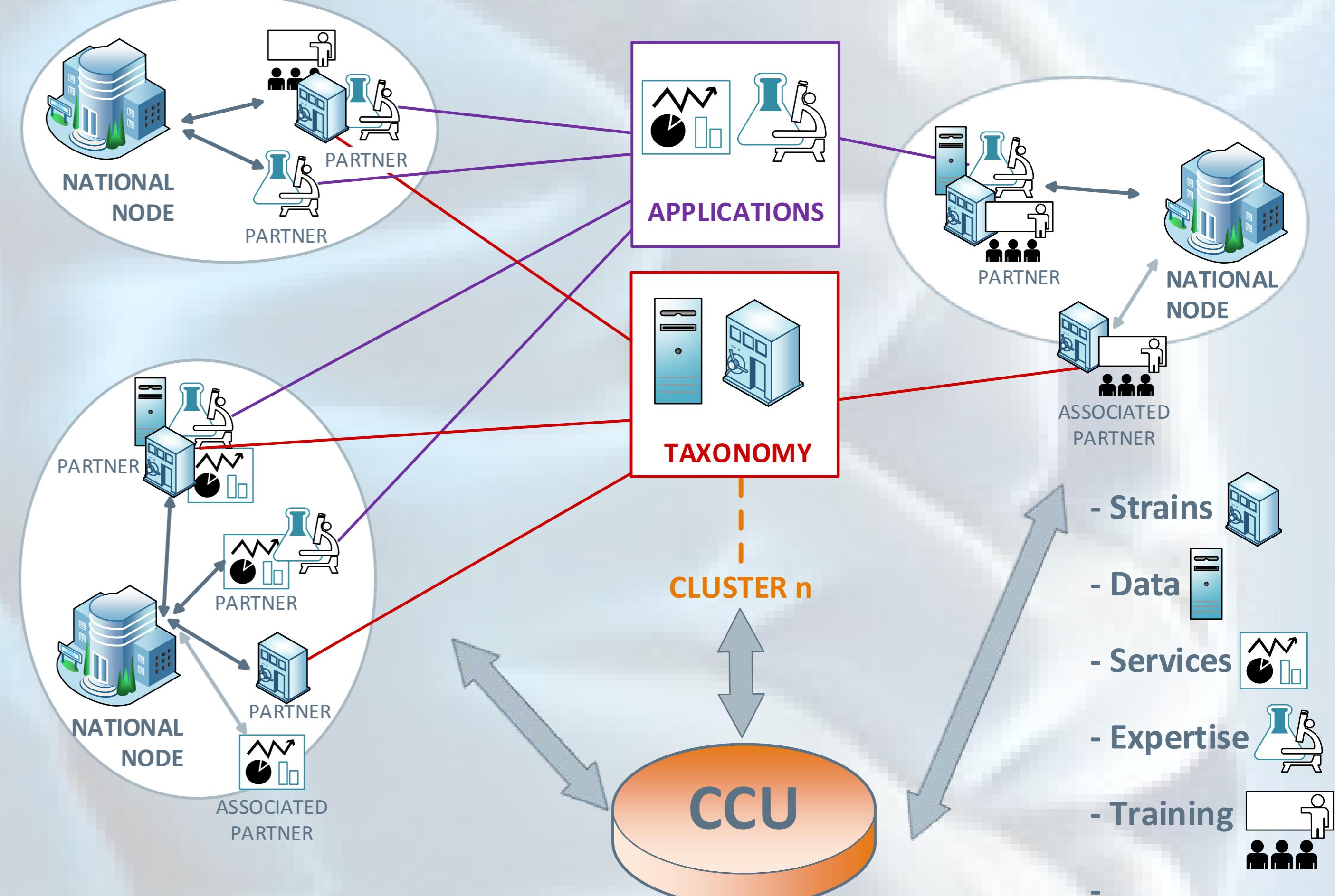


Figure 2. MIRRI-ERIC operational structure (CCU, National Nodes, Partners and Clusters)

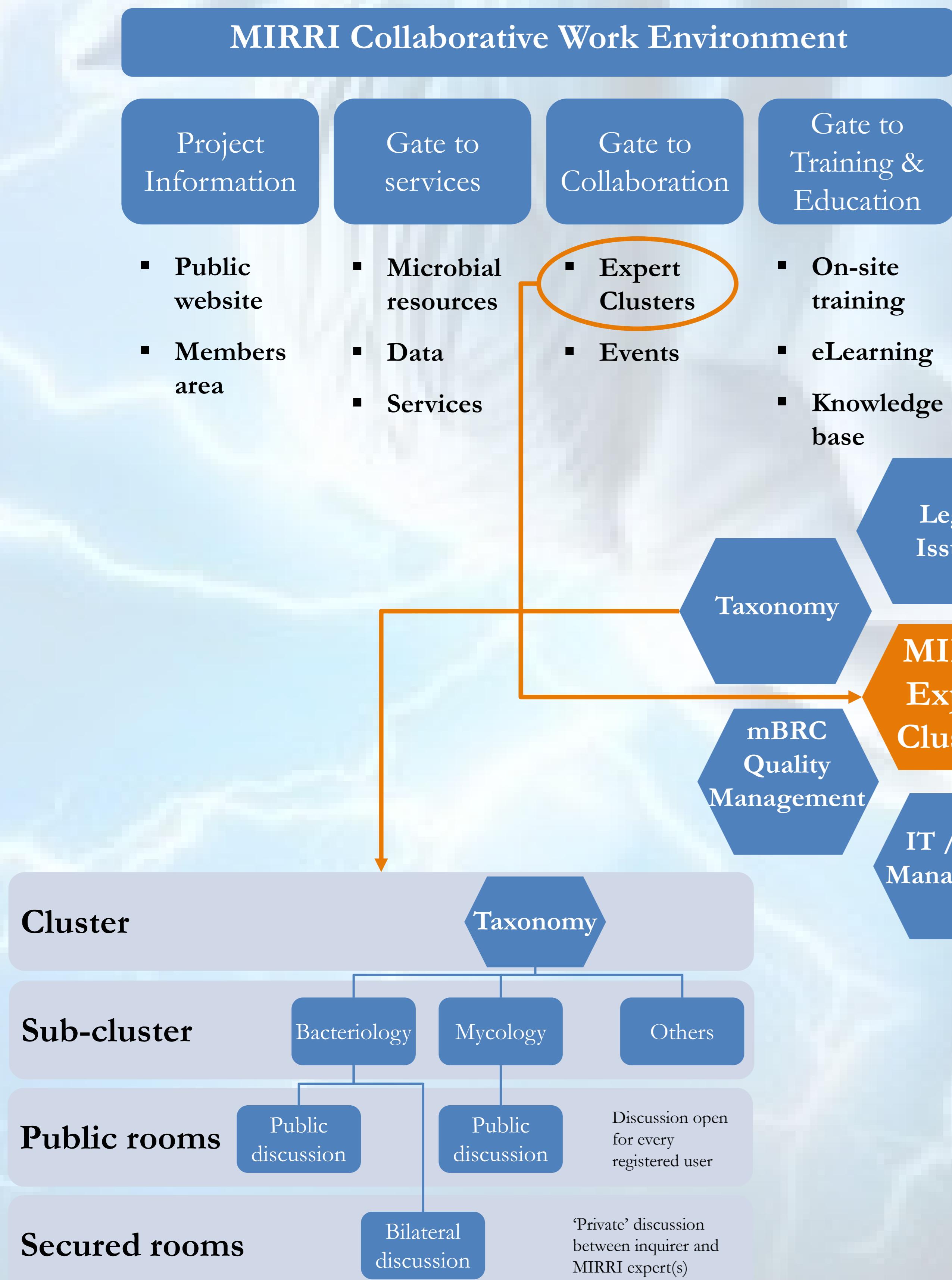


Figure 3. MIRRI Collaborative Working Environment

MIRRI Clusters of expertise will constitute one pillar of the MIRRI Collaborative Working Environment (CWE) which aims to provide a virtual platform for the MIRRI stakeholders where they can communicate and access information in a time-efficient way.

The virtual CWE will be based on four main pillars, namely the Project Information, the Gate to Services, the Gate to Collaboration and the Gate to Training and Education. While the first two pillars will be freely accessible, the latter ones will require the payment of charges or at least a formal registration. Users of the MIRRI CWE will be able to use different tools within this virtual platform, e.g. access to online catalogues, messaging or webinars.

MIRRI Clusters will serve different functions inside the MIRRI community. On the one hand, they will help MIRRI partners to operate under high quality and up-to-date standards, on the other hand, they will serve the user community giving consultancy and working on project proposals to answer specific research programme calls.

Several MIRRI Expert Clusters will be permanent and constituted from the beginning, providing solutions in aspects such as regulatory framework (e.g. biosecurity, ABS, IPR), managerial best practices, taxonomy or microbial applications, whilst others might be created *ad-hoc* to address specific needs.

## Concluding Remarks & Acknowledgments

Here, we present the concept of the MIRRI Clusters of expertise as a tool to share and generate knowledge within the MIRRI stakeholder community (culture collections, policy makers, scientists, bioindustry, etc.) to foster innovation within science, research and development. The authors gratefully acknowledge the contribution of the MIRRI consortium and the consulted persons to this work.