

Job Announcement

Data Steward

Horizon Europe Project MIRRI-FIRM

Grant Agreement No. 101292674

Microbial Resource Research Infrastructure – European Research Infrastructure Consortium (MIRRI-ERIC)

Position Details

Application deadline: 14 August 2026

Starting date: 1 October 2026

Contract duration: Up to 4 years or until 30 September 2030, subject to project duration and budget availability.

Contract type: Uncertain term contract, funded by the Horizon Europe project MIRRI-FIRM (Grant Agreement No. 101292674)

Working time: Full-time

Location: MIRRI-ERIC Headquarters (Braga, Portugal), with the possibility of hybrid work within Portugal

Salary range: 30.000€-56.000€: TRU¹ 28 - TRU 62, according to academic record and experience in the role

Applicable legislation: Portuguese Labour Code and applicable Portuguese legislation.

Work Authorisation & Relocation: Applicants must possess current and unrestricted authorisation to work in the country of employment. Please note that the employer will not provide visa sponsorship or assistance of any kind to obtain work authorisation. Additionally, this position does not offer relocation assistance. The applicant is solely responsible for all

¹ Single Remuneration Table - Tabela Remuneratória Única - (TRU) of the Portuguese Public Administration

relocation logistics and ensuring that they hold the necessary legal authorisation to work in Portugal before the start date.

About MIRRI-ERIC

The Microbial Resource Research Infrastructure – European Research Infrastructure Consortium (MIRRI-ERIC) is a pan-European distributed Research Infrastructure that connects leading microbial domain Biological Resource Centres (mBRCs), culture collections, universities and research organisations.

MIRRI-ERIC provides coordinated access to high-quality microbial resources, associated data and expertise, supporting research and innovation in biotechnology, health, agriculture, food systems, environmental sustainability and the circular bioeconomy. By promoting harmonised standards, quality management and FAIR data principles, MIRRI-ERIC contributes to scientific excellence and Europe's competitiveness in biotechnology.

About MIRRI-FIRM

MIRRI-FIRM is a Horizon Europe project that will strengthen and expand MIRRI-ERIC as Europe's reference Research Infrastructure for microbial resources.

The project will modernise the European microbial resource landscape by:

- strengthening the operational capacity and governance of MIRRI-ERIC and its national nodes;
- improving interoperability and FAIRness of microbial resource data and catalogues;
- harmonising quality management across microbial Biological Resource Centres;
- promoting environmentally sustainable operations;
- expanding collaboration with new Member States, Associated Countries and international partners;
- increasing engagement with industry and other stakeholders;
- reinforcing user services, long-term sustainability and resilience.

Position Summary

MIRRI-ERIC is seeking a motivated and experienced **Data Steward** to support the implementation of the Horizon Europe project **MIRRI-FIRM**.

The Data Steward will play a central role in improving the quality, interoperability and FAIRness of microbial resource data across the MIRRI network. Working closely with microbial

Biological Resource Centres (mBRCs), data curators and software developers, the successful candidate will support the annotation, harmonisation and integration of microbial resource data into the MIRRI Catalogue according to MIRRI standards and international best practices.

The Data Steward will also contribute to the implementation of FAIR data principles and Open Science practices throughout the project, support interoperability with other European and international research infrastructures, and develop capacity-building activities in research data management for MIRRI partners.

The position combines expertise in life sciences, data stewardship and stakeholder engagement within a highly collaborative international environment.

The Data Steward will report directly to the Executive Director of MIRRI, who is the Project Coordinator of MIRRI-FIRM.

Main Responsibilities

The successful candidate will:

- support MIRRI partner culture collections in the annotation, curation and harmonisation of microbial resource data according to MIRRI standards;
- contribute to the implementation and continuous improvement of the MIRRI Catalogue and associated data services;
- collaborate with software developers and IT specialists to ensure that MIRRI services comply with FAIR data principles and Open Science best practices;
- support the interoperability of MIRRI data with external catalogues, repositories and European research infrastructures;
- contribute to the implementation of metadata standards, controlled vocabularies and semantic interoperability approaches;
- provide guidance to MIRRI partners on research data management, FAIR data practices and data quality;
- participate in the preparation and implementation of Data Management Plans and related project documentation;
- design, organise and deliver training activities and capacity-building programmes on research data management and FAIR principles;
- contribute to project deliverables, reports and dissemination activities;
- support coordination between MIRRI-FIRM activities and MIRRI-ERIC operations.

Essential Qualifications

Applicants should have:

- a Master's degree in Bioinformatics, Data Science, Computer Science, Life Sciences or another relevant discipline;
- demonstrated knowledge of research data management and FAIR data principles;
- experience working with biological or life science data;
- excellent written and spoken English (minimum C1 level);
- excellent organisational and communication skills.

Desirable Qualifications

Preference will be given to candidates with experience in one or more of the following:

- research data stewardship within Life Sciences;
- metadata standards, ontologies and semantic interoperability;
- annotation, curation and integration of biological data;
- Data Management Plans and research data lifecycle management;
- FAIR data assessment tools and FAIR implementation methodologies;
- the European Open Science Cloud (EOSC) ecosystem and related policies;
- biodiversity, microbiology or microbial culture collection data;
- databases, APIs and data exchange standards;
- planning and delivering training or capacity-building activities;
- Horizon Europe or other European collaborative research projects.

Knowledge of programming or scripting languages (e.g. Python, R or SQL) and version control systems (e.g. Git) will be considered an advantage.

Personal Skills

The successful candidate will demonstrate:

- integrity and professionalism;
- excellent written and verbal communication skills;
- strong analytical and problem-solving abilities;
- attention to detail while maintaining a practical and solution-oriented approach;
- initiative, autonomy and adaptability;
- ability to work effectively in multidisciplinary and multicultural teams;

- enthusiasm for promoting FAIR data and Open Science practices across an international research infrastructure.

What We Offer

MIRRI-ERIC offers:

- the opportunity to contribute to one of Europe's leading Research Infrastructures for microbial resources;
- participation in an ambitious Horizon Europe project with significant scientific and societal impact;
- an international, collaborative and multidisciplinary working environment;
- opportunities for professional development in FAIR data, research data management and European Research Infrastructures;
- flexible working arrangements, including hybrid work within Portugal;
- competitive salary package according to qualifications and experience.

How to Apply

Applications should be submitted as a **single PDF file** and include:

- a motivation letter explaining the candidate's suitability for the position;
- a detailed Curriculum Vitae;
- copies of academic qualifications;
- contact details of two professional referees.

Applications should be sent by email to:

info@mirri-eric.eu

with the subject:

Data Steward – MIRRI-FIRM 2026

Application deadline:

14 August 2026

Applicants who are not citizens of an EU Member State must demonstrate their legal right to work in Portugal before appointment. MIRRI-ERIC does not provide visa sponsorship, work permit assistance, or relocation support.

Selection Procedure

Applications will be evaluated based on:

- academic qualifications;
- relevant professional experience;
- demonstrated competencies;
- motivation for the position.

Shortlisted candidates will be invited for an interview, which may take place online or at the MIRRI-ERIC Headquarters. At this stage, soft skills will also be assessed.

Data Protection

MIRRI-ERIC processes applicants' personal data solely for the purposes of managing this recruitment procedure and in accordance with the applicable data protection legislation, including the General Data Protection Regulation (EU) 2016/679 (GDPR). Personal data will be accessed only by individuals involved in the recruitment process and will be retained only for the period necessary to complete the recruitment procedure and fulfil any applicable legal obligations.

Hearing of the candidates

After notification of the results, all the candidates will have 10 working days to comment.

Equal Opportunities

MIRRI-ERIC is an equal opportunity employer committed to diversity and inclusion. Applications are welcome from all suitably qualified candidates regardless of gender, nationality, ethnic origin, religion, disability, age, sexual orientation or any other protected characteristic.

In accordance with Portuguese legislation (Decree-Law No. 29/2001), candidates with disabilities will be given preference in cases of equal ranking. Applicants wishing to benefit from this provision should indicate the degree of disability and any specific requirements for the recruitment process.