

AQUA-TNET

Aquaculture, Fisheries & Aquatic Resource Management TN

The Challenge

In the Maritime sector, a critically important area for Europe, the strategic significance of fisheries and aquaculture has long been recognised. Both of these high-value industries face serious challenges, indicating the need for strong European transnational policies aimed at securing their sustainability. One of the priorities set out in the Europe 2020 Strategy to promote sustainable growth puts education in a pivotal position, having as one of its seven Flagship Initiatives “Youth on the move”. The aim is to enhance the performance and international attractiveness of Europe’s higher education institutions and raise the overall quality of all levels of education and training in the EU, combining both excellence and equity, by promoting student mobility and trainees’ mobility, and improve the employment situation of young people.

The continuous process of educational reforms needs to be underpinned by a strong dynamic network aware of and responsive to the far-reaching implications of the changes. Aqua-tnet has taken up the task of addressing this need with respect to educational affairs in the Aquaculture, Fisheries and Aquatic Resource Management sectors, endeavouring not only to create curricular harmonisation (Bologna reforms) but also to minimise overlapping by revealing complementarities of European players in this field, focussing on key issues such as mobility, innovation in teaching, language skills, PhD and MSc Programmes.

Project Objective

Overall, Aqua-tnet aims to contribute to the realisation of the European Higher Education Area (EHEA) and the Bologna priorities, bringing together the academic and vocational aspects of the Bologna reforms in an effort to create greater compatibility and comparability of the systems of higher education in Europe.

Key Points

- Aqua-tnet aims to support increased cooperation in European Masters programmes by updating and maintaining a Master database which contains information about available Master programmes within the Aqua-tnet domain in Europe. Similarly, the network works towards increased cooperation in respect of Ph.D. curriculum development.
- Aqua-tnet aims to contribute to the updating of skills and qualifications of the workforce in the Aqua-tnet domain by devoting a Work Package exclusively to lifelong learning.
- The objective of the Work Package dedicated to Innovation in

EATiP Thematic Area of Relevance

TA1: Product Quality, Consumer Safety and Health
TA2: Technology and Systems
TA3: Managing the Biological Lifecycle
TA4: Sustainable Feed Production
TA5: Integration with the Environment
TA6: Knowledge Management
TA7: Aquatic Animal Health and Welfare
TA8: Socio-Economics and Management

Key Words

Education, teaching, network, platform, aquaculture, fisheries, aquatic resource management, lifelong learning, mobility, innovation in teaching, language, Europe 2020 strategy, Bologna, Lisbon

Project Information

Contract number:
142245

Contract type:
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Action line:
Lifelong Learning Programme

Duration:
36 months (10/2008 – 09/2011)

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teaching is to enhance the quality of teaching through identification and promotion of best practice and enabling further innovation through collaboration and use of ICT. Focus is primarily on supporting the EU strategy for sustainable development of aquaculture by improving capacity for innovation through human resource development.

- Aqua-tnet also aims to develop new approaches and online support tools for promoting student exchanges and Lifelong Learning through language skills.
- The network aims to encourage a substantial increase in general student and staff mobility throughout Europe, by providing information and resources to increase the mobility opportunities within the network domain.
- The network aspires to be a multi-disciplinary and multi-stakeholder forum, drawing together education and research, which should strengthen communication between teaching and research in order to transfer ideas, knowledge and skills.

Output Highlights

European Master of Science Database

An online database where European MSc Programmes and Courses in the fields of Aquaculture, Fisheries and Aquatic Resource Management are listed.

Useful for students who wish to carry out a portion of their studies abroad. It provides a good starting point for students with specific interests that want to find Master programme opportunities

End users: MSc. applicants/students and academic institutions

PhD Database

An online database of European PhD courses in the fields of Aquaculture, Fisheries and Aquatic Resource Management, as well as an online repository of PhD Thesis Defences.

Offers PhD students a structured overview of available courses

End users: MSc holders/PhD applicants and academic institutions

Mobility platform

An online mobility platform with mobility resources which includes an online database of courses and work experience placements, and good practice for mobility.

It helps to facilitate and increase mobility opportunities for students and staff within Europe.

End users: students at all levels (vocational and academic), teaching staff

Publications

Several publications are released via the network, such as Training News, the Aqua-tnet newsletter, BibMail and Information of Interest.

Training News is a free monthly e-newsletter, highlighting training developments, collaboration opportunities, upcoming events, a students' corner and more, related to the marine sector; the Aqua-tnet newsletter is a free e-mail news service published monthly to highlight network events; BibMail is a biweekly updated overview of the content tables of the major aquaculture relevant scientific journals; Information of Interest is a biweekly updated overview of interesting publications, reports, and manuals relating to aquaculture in a broad sense, with links to the respective files or information points.

Educators benefit by learning about new learning concepts and competencies that they gain through increased quantity and improved quality of multilateral cooperation between the different higher education institutions all over Europe within the Aqua-tnet domain and cooperation between higher education institutions and research stakeholders and also Industry stakeholders within the Aqua-tnet domain. Students benefit from a better education system that has incorporated input from all stakeholder groups and so will be better prepared for the labour market, and immediate needs of the industry. All stakeholders in the Aquaculture, Fisheries and Aquatic Resource Management (Industry & Research) sector have improved access to information and events.

The Full Report:

For a description of the project, visit www.aquatnet.com

Next Steps – Suggested Actions/Follow On



Policy

- Continuation of an educational network in the aquaculture and related sciences, after the current funding period, to support further implementation of the Europe 2020 Strategy by bringing together all stakeholders to ensure that a) existing training and education resources contribute to creating a sustainable sector; b) there is a flow of information and knowledge transfer between all stakeholders in the European aquaculture and related sectors.

Related Publications/Projects

www.aquatnet.com