



## **Fifth AQUAEXCEL<sup>2020</sup> Call for Access Now Open: Fully EC-Funded Access to Top-Class Aquaculture Research Infrastructures Across Europe**

**Press release:** March 2017

The fifth **AQUAEXCEL<sup>2020</sup>** (AQUAculture infrastructures for EXCELlence in European fish research towards 2020) Call for Access is now open, with a **deadline of 17 April 2017**.

On a regular basis the **AQUAEXCEL<sup>2020</sup>** project invites proposals from European research groups for scientific research that utilises the facilities of any of the participating aquaculture research infrastructures. The **AQUAEXCEL<sup>2020</sup>** project unites major aquaculture experimental facilities who have the capacity to undertake experimental trials on a selection of commercially important aquaculture fish species and system types. These installations are made available to the research community for Transnational Access (TNA) with the support of the European Union's Horizon 2020 Research and Innovation Programme.

Transnational Access involves a research group in one country collaborating with one or more **AQUAEXCEL<sup>2020</sup>** Infrastructures that are located in a different country to the applicant, and which offer facilities and expertise not available in their own country.

The available facilities cover the entire range of aquaculture production systems (cage, pond, recirculation, flowthrough, hatchery and disease challenge); environments (freshwater, marine and cold, temperate and warm water); production scales (small, medium and large industrial); fish species (salmonids, cold and warm water marine fish, freshwater fish and artemia); and fields of expertise (nutrition, physiology, health and welfare, genetics, engineering and monitoring and management technologies).

Interested researchers can propose projects that involve visits of one or two people to the chosen research infrastructure for a period of up to three months. Access to the research infrastructures and associated travel and subsistence expenses will be covered by **AQUAEXCEL<sup>2020</sup>**. The establishment of new transnational collaborations is strongly encouraged, as well as the participation of SMEs.

For more information on Transnational Access and how to apply please visit: [www.aquaexcel2020.eu](http://www.aquaexcel2020.eu).

### **Notes for the Editor**

**AQUAEXCEL<sup>2020</sup>** is a research and innovation action funded under the EU's new Framework Programme for Research and Innovation, Horizon 2020. The project will run for five years from 2015 to 2020, with a total budget of €9.7 million funded by the European Union.

The **AQUAEXCEL<sup>2020</sup>** consortium includes 22 partner organisations (with 39 top level aquaculture facilities) in 12 European countries. The project is coordinated by the Institut National de la Recherche Agronomique (INRA) in France. AquaTT is the project dissemination partner.



Nofima Centre for Recirculation in Aquaculture (NCRA)©Nofima, one of the 39 available **AQUAEXCEL<sup>2020</sup>** Aquaculture Research Infrastructures from 11 countries across Europe. See: [www.aquaexcel2020.eu/transnational-access/research-infrastructures](http://www.aquaexcel2020.eu/transnational-access/research-infrastructures).