AQUA EXCEL 2020

AQUAculture infrastructures for EXCELlence in European fish research towards 2020 - AQUAEXCEL[2020]

SCIENTIFIC RESEARCH

NETWORKING ACTIVITIES

TRANSNATIONAL ACCESS

AT A GLANCE

PROGRAMME: Horizon 2020 (INFRAIA-1-2014/2015)

TYPE OF ACTION: Research and Innovation Action

DURATION: 1 October 2015 – 31 October 2020 (61 months)

CONSORTIUM: 22 partners from 12 countries

COORDINATOR: Institut National de la Recherche Agronomique (INRA), France

THE CHALLENGE

As the global population is growing, there is an increasing need for fish. Aquaculture production is the way to meet this demand, but while the aquaculture sector is developing worldwide, it has stagnated in Europe in recent years. Sustainable growth of the European aquaculture sector, based on efficient and environmentally responsible production of high value fish products, can be achieved by ensuring excellent scientific research and by the results being translated into innovation and industrial growth.

PROJECT OBJECTIVES

European researchers need effective and convenient access to the best Research Infrastructures in order to conduct research for the advancement of knowledge and technology in the aquaculture sector. Building on the success of its predecessor AQUAEXCEL (2011-2015), AQUAEXCEL[2020] aims to bring together, integrate, and open up highly diverse key national and regional aquaculture Research Infrastructures in Europe to all European researchers, from both academia and industry, ensuring their optimal use and joint development.

AQUAEXCEL[2020] will provide Transnational Access to 39 Research Infrastructures covering:

WATER ENVIRONMENTS
Freshwater, Marine, Cold, Temperate and Warm Water Environments

SPECIES
Salmonids, Cold and Warm Water Marine Fish, Freshwater Fish and Artemia

FIELDS OF EXPERTISE
Nutrition, Physiology, Health & Welfare, Genetics, Engineering, Monitoring & Management Technologies

AQUACULTURE SYSTEMS
Cage, Pond, Recirculation, Flowthrough, Hatchery and Disease Challenge Systems

FACILITY SCALES
Small, Medium and Industrial Scales

📈 EXPECTED RESULTS

- ✅ An integrated portal providing one-stop information about and access to all 39 available AQUAEXCEL²⁰²⁰ research facilities, as well as details on the research generated.
- ✅ Standardised protocols for fish experiments, allowing high quality experimental designs and repeatability, including trait definitions, experimental conditions and procedures.
- ✅ An e-infrastructure for access to aquaculture research facilities providing both real access to running virtual experiments and remote access to actual experiments.
- ✅ Nine training courses on highly diverse relevant issues, including face-to-face and virtual activities.
- ✅ Definition of common standards and data interoperability across research infrastructures, fostering collaborative activities, including two infrastructures of the European Strategy Forum on Research Infrastructures (ESFRI): the European Marine Biological Resource Centre (EMBRC) and ELIXIR.
- ✅ Catalogues of fish lines available for Transnational Access, with reference phenotypic and genomic information.
- ✅ Innovative nano-sensors for remote logging of biological parameters of individual fish within a group.
- ✅ Access to a wide panel of more than 15 "new" fish species for Transnational Access experiments.
- ✅ Increased awareness of Research Infrastructures as innovation tools for the aquaculture sector.
- ✅ Exploitation and transfer of results from a wide variety of Transnational Access research projects in addition to the project's own networking and joint research activities.

👥 CONSORTIUM

The consortium comprises 22 partners based in 12 European countries, who are considered leaders in their respective domains of expertise.

1. Institut National de la Recherche Agronomique (INRA)
2. Havforskningsinstituttet (IMR)
3. The University of Stirling (UoS)
4. Agencia Estatal Consejo Superior de Investigaciones Científicas (CSIC)
5. Hellenic Centre for Marine Research (HCMR)
6. Nemzeti Agrárkutatási és Innovációs Központ, Halászati Kutatóintézet (NAIK HAKI)
7. Institut Francais de Recherche pour L'Exploitation de la Mer (Ifremer)
8. Nofima AS (NOFIMA)
9. Jihočeská univerzita v Českých Budějovicích (JU)
10. Norges Teknisk-Naturvitenskapelige Universitet (NTNU)
11. SINTEF Fiskeri og havbruk AS (SINTEF)
12. Universidad de Las Palmas de Gran Canaria (ULPGC)
13. Wageningen University (WU)
14. Ghent University (UGhent)
15. Stichting Dienst Landbouwkundig Onderzoek (DLO-WLR)
16. AquaTT UETP CLG (AquaTT)
17. INRA Transfert S.A. (IT)
18. Université de Lorraine (UL)
19. Danmarks Tekniske Universitet (DTU)
20. Centro de Ciências do Mar do Algarve (CCMAR)
21. Instituto Español de Oceanografía (IEO)
22. European Aquaculture Technology and Innovation Platform (EATiP)
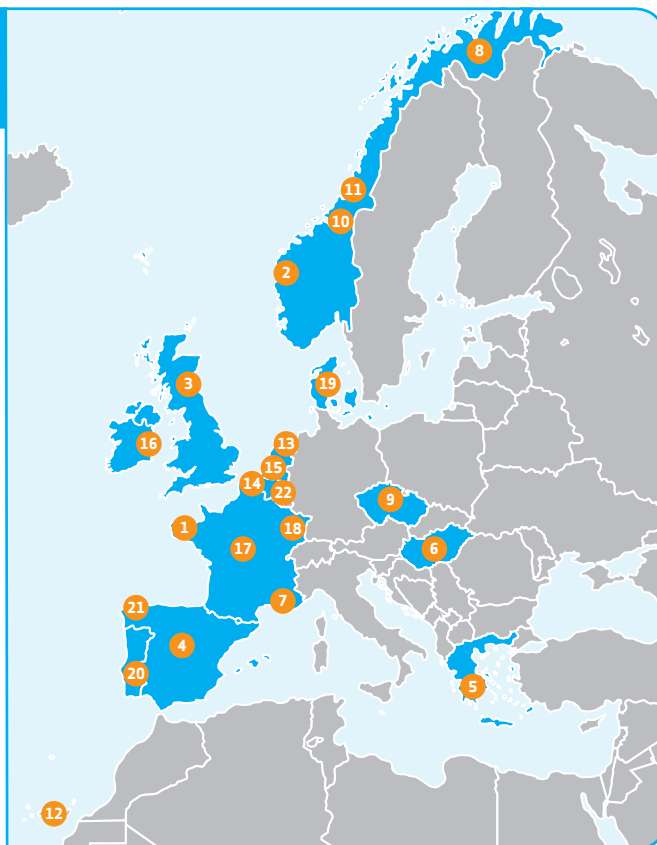
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Designed & developed by AquaTT