AQUA EXCEL 2020

AQUAculture infrastructures for EXCELlence in European fish research towards 2020 — AQUAEXCEL2020

D1.5
Final Evaluation of the Access Given
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Executive Summary

Objectives: The organisation of Transnational Access (TNA) to the 39 research infrastructures within the AQUAEXCEL^{2020} consortium is a central component of the AQUAEXCEL^{2020} project. This final report evaluates the management and delivery of TNA over the majority of the project period.

Rationale: The purpose of this report is to document the work that has been carried out and identify any problems that have arisen and consider how these have been or could be addressed. The review was carried out in July 2020, in the last few months of the project and builds on the Interim Evaluation of the Access Given (D1.4) which was conducted in 2018. The report covers all seventeen calls for access issued under the project and their associated rounds of project review and selection.

The evaluation draws on data from the application forms submitted to the project, and on feedback provided through evaluation forms provided to users and providers of the facilities, as well as those involved in the review and selection process. For reasons of confidentiality, data is aggregated, and comments are quoted anonymously.

Main Results: The AQUAEXCEL^{2020} project offered access to 39 aquaculture research installations (provided by 19 partners) under the EU Horizon 2020 Framework Access to Research Infrastructures Programme. During the 5-year project it was expected that 169 projects would be carried out, involving around 217 users. Call details were publicized on the project web site at http://www.aquaexcel2020.eu/transnational-access/call-access and leaflets, posters and other promotional materials were also distributed including networking through social media (Facebook, LinkedIn and Twitter). Researchers from any type of organisation or country could apply, although priority was given to new users with high quality proposals and there was a maximum limit of 20% of the access that could be provided to users from outside the European Union and Associated States.

The Consortium decided to manage applications for TNA through regular (quarterly) calls and deadlines which were sequentially numbered. Applications were made through an online system hosted by the University of South Bohemia in the Czech Republic (excluding the first call). The overall process and particularly the management of review and selection of proposals was the responsibility of the University of Stirling (UK).

Received applications were firstly reviewed by appropriate subject experts (target was 50% people external to the AQUAEXCEL^{2020} Consortium and the others external to the applicant or host organisations). These reviews were passed to the Selection Panel which consisted of around eight regular reviewers who considered the applications and the reviews and decided on the outcome. The Selection Panel was further supported by an external Ethics Adviser who also reviewed each application which passed the initial screening by the Expert Reviewers. If necessary, the Selection Panel requested further information or clarifications from the applicant before reaching a decision. Once a decision was reached, a summary review was prepared by the University of Stirling for transmission to the applicant(s). If the project was not approved for funding, this review usually included the reasons for this and recommendations for improvement prior to resubmission. Most commonly, the reason for withholding approval was due to weak scientific quality (methods or originality) but could sometimes be on other grounds such as limited relevance for the sector.

To July 2020 a total of 179 applications for TNA were received, of which 4 were re-submissions of earlier proposals. All TNA applications have now been considered and 136

projects involving 239 user-researchers have been approved. Seven projects had been withdrawn and 32 rejected. The average number of applications per call was 10.5 ranging from four to nineteen. Per Call, the approval rate has ranged between 38% (Call 1) and 100% (Calls 5, 15 and 16) with an average of 76% for Calls 1-17. There was a noticeable improvement in the approval rate from an average of 44% for the first three calls (2016) to 83% over the remaining 14 calls, as support for applicants from both hosts and reviewers increased.

Thirty-six of the 39 installations received applications, which is around 92%. The three installations without applications are specialist facilities for which there was little demand from elsewhere. Applications were received from organisations located in thirty-seven different countries including thirty applications from thirteen countries from outside of the EU and Associated States. The greatest number of applications have originated from Italy, Portugal, Spain and the UK. Applicants for AQUAEXCEL[2020] TNA are predominantly from Universities and secondarily from other research organisations. Eight applications have been received from SMEs (6 approved) and seven applications (6 approved) have been received from larger private organisations.

On completion of TNA projects, users were asked to complete a feedback form which includes information about key outputs and also views on their experience of TNA. As of July 2020, one hundred and twelve TNA projects had been completed and survey responses were received from seventy-seven of these users. These respondents gave an overall score of 4.62 out of 5 when rating their experience of TNA. The highest ratings concerned facilities and expertise at the host installations. Slightly lower ratings were given for administration (especially the payment of expenses), facility use guidance and in some cases for the delays in the selection process. Forty-six of the seventy-seven respondents expressed a desire to collaborate further with their host organisation and thirty-nine of these already had specific plans.

TNA hosts were similarly asked to provide feedback on their specific projects. Seventy-four responses were received (from the 112 completed projects) and these similarly gave a score of 4.7 out of 5 for their experience of TNA. The vast majority of these were positive about the approach and work of the users and expressed a keenness to continue collaborations.

The Expert Reviewers and Selection Panel Members were asked for their experience and opinions on the process. In total there were 124 Expert Reviewers registered with the project in July 2020. This included the eight Selection Panel Members. Thirty returned a questionnaire providing a score of 4.48 out of 5 for their experience of the TNA selection procedure. This group provided the most detailed responses and specific comments.

- Promotion and publicity for AQUAEXCEL[2020] should be enhanced especially through Infrastructure websites.
- Further guidance could be given to help users complete the application form in more detail.
- The internal scoring system for project evaluation now includes a criterion that helps SMEs to obtain a higher rating.
- The length of time required for application processing is still too long for some applicants and infrastructures. The possibility of a fast-track system for certain types of project could be considered.
- Better communication of outcomes to reviewers was requested (and is now being delivered) and better communication of process and status of applications
- Lack of clarity in reimbursement rates and procedures for expenses and sometimes in the rates themselves and delays in payment needs to be addressed by Infrastructure managers.

- Greater efforts are required to ensure feedback forms are returned by all users, hosts and evaluators.

Finally, it should be noted that the implementation of several TNA projects was affected by the covid-19 pandemic during 2020 and at the time of writing 16 projects were recorded as not having started.

Authors/Teams involved: This report has been prepared by John Bostock and Kirsten Strachan from the University of Stirling.

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1. INTRODUCTION

1.1. Purpose

This evaluation of the Transnational Access (TNA) provided under the AQUAEXCEL[2020] project has been carried out during July 2020, in the last few months of the project, during which time there have been seventeen calls for access and seventeen rounds of project review and selection. The purpose of this report is to identify any problems that have arisen and consider ways in which the management and execution of TNA has been improved since the interim report.

The evaluation draws on data from the application forms submitted to the project, and on an e-mail survey of users and providers of the facilities, as well as those involved in the review and selection process. For reasons of confidentiality, data is aggregated, and comments are quoted anonymously.

1.2. Summary of the application and review process

The AQUAEXCEL[2020] project offered access to 39 aquaculture research installations provided by 19 partners) under the EU Horizon 2020 Framework Access to Research infrastructures Programme. During the 5 year project it was expected that 169 projects would be carried out, involving around 217 users (from Project Description of Action). Call details were publicized on the project web site at http://www.aquaexcel2020.eu/transnational-access/call-access and leaflets, posters and other promotional materials were also distributed including networking through social media (Facebook, LinkedIn and Twitter). Researchers from any type of organisation or country could apply, although priority was given to new users with high quality proposals and there was a maximum limit of 20% of the access that could be provided to users from outside the European Union and Associated States.

The budget for each installation was calculated in relation to "Units of Access" which are defined in different ways for each installation. Guidance was provided to potential applicants through the following key documents:

- Call for access document (key information about the project and conditions and the infrastructures available)
- TNA Guide (guide to the Infrastructures and how they could be accessed – see Deliverable 1.1)
- Guideline for completing the application form
- Transnational Access Leaflet (produced by AquaTT)
- CV Template for applicants

The Consortium decided to manage applications for TNA through regular (quarterly) calls and deadlines which were sequentially numbered. Applications were made through an online system hosted by the University of South Bohemia in the Czech Republic (excluding the first call). The overall process and particularly the management of review and selection of proposals was the responsibility of the University of Stirling (UK).

Received applications were firstly reviewed by appropriate subject experts (Target was two per application (occasionally 1 or 3) of which one would normally be external to the

AQUAEXCEL[2020] Consortium and the other external to the applicant or host organisations). These reviews were passed to the Selection Panel which consisted of around eight regular reviewers who considered the applications and the reviews and decided on the outcome. The Selection Panel was further supported by an external Ethics Adviser who also reviewed each application which passed the initial screening by the Expert Reviewers. The criteria for acceptance was primarily based on the quality of the scientific work proposed, broader considerations of relevance to the aquaculture sector, quality of exploitation and dissemination plans and whether the proposed project helped to build new collaborative partnerships. Once a decision was reached, a summary review was prepared by the University of Stirling for transmission to the applicant(s).

2. METHODOLOGY FOR THIS EVALUATION

This final evaluation firstly reviews the data on TNA applications and reviews and then considers the views of applicants, hosts and reviewers on both the system and most importantly the transnational access delivered to date (July 2020).

Most of the data used in this evaluation was collected by means of PDF forms with the data then collated into spreadsheets for analysis. Some follow-up was carried out by e-mail or telephone/Skype to discuss specific issues where appropriate. However, most of the analysis is from the following sources (copies of forms provided in the Appendices):

1)   List of approved projects and access provided
2)   Membership of Expert Review Pool and Selection Panel
3)   Survey forms completed by TNA users
4)   Survey forms completed by TNA providers (hosts)
5)   Survey forms completed by members of the Selection Panel and Ethics Adviser

The survey forms were distributed periodically from August 2017 to June 2020 with requests for all stakeholders to complete them as soon as projects were completed etc. Views were only sought from successful applicants with approved projects.

The central analysis in this report was carried out on schedule prior to the planned AQUAEXCEL[2020] final AGM in September 2020. At that point, seventeen calls had been held with seventeen deadlines for applications. Call 17 was the final Call for Access.

3. APPLICATIONS RECEIVED AND EVALUATED
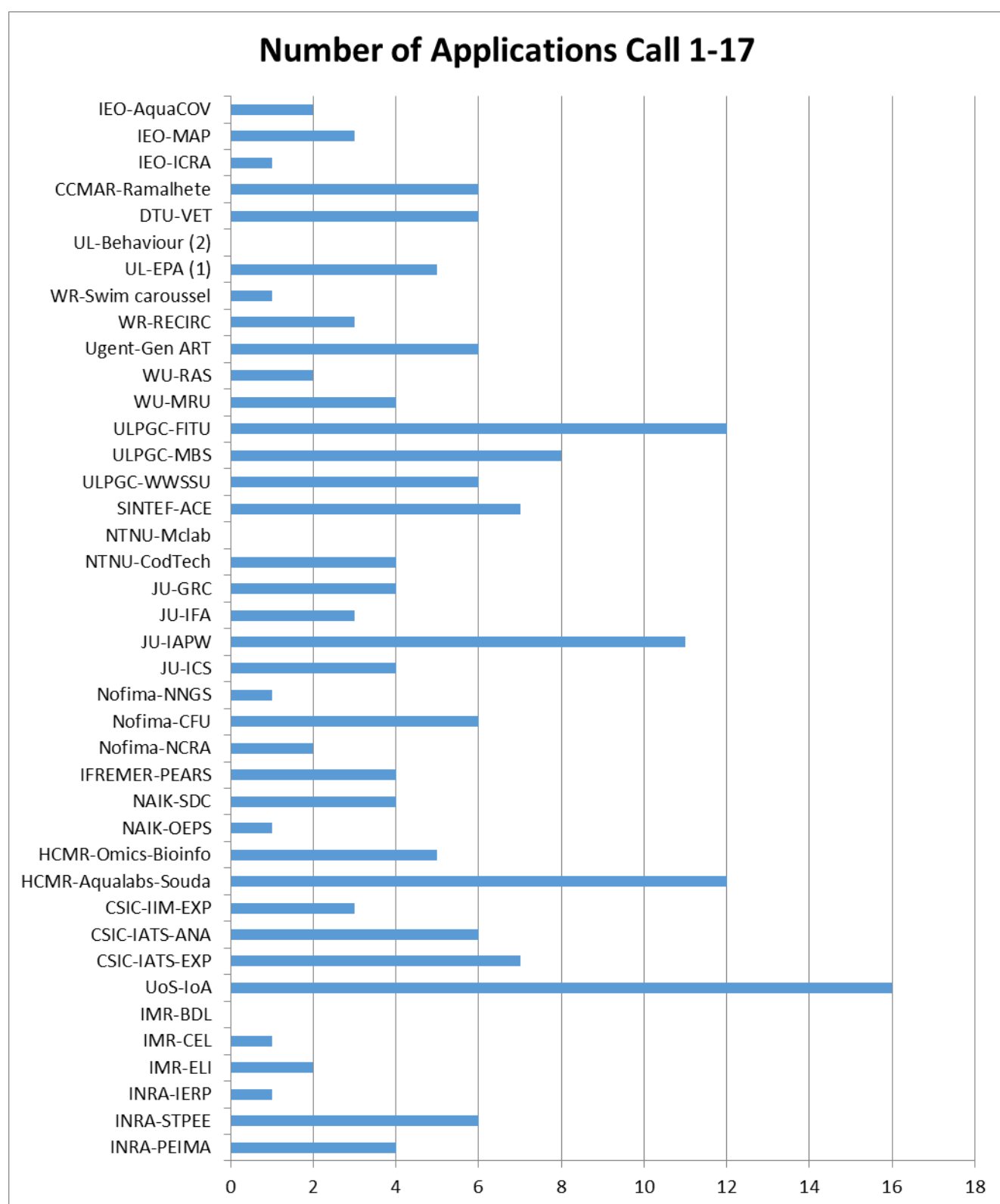
3.1. Projects and infrastructures

To July 2020 a total of 179 applications for TNA have been received, of which 4 were re-submissions of earlier proposals. All TNA applications have now been considered and 136 projects have been approved. Seven projects had been withdrawn and 32 rejected. The average number of applications per call was 10.5 ranging from four to nineteen. Per Call, the approval rate has ranged between 38% (Call 1) and 100% (Calls 5, 15 and 16) with an average of 76% for Calls 1-17. There was a noticeable improvement in the approval rate from an average of 44% for the first three calls (2016) to 83% over the remaining 14 calls, as support for applicants from both hosts and reviewers increased.

There has been no marked pattern in applications between Calls, although the highest number received was for a closing date after the Christmas and New Year holiday season in early 2017.

Call	Closing Date	No. of Applications	No. Approved	% Approved
1	11/03/2016	16	6	38%
2	08/07/2016	7	4	57%
3	14/10/2016	11	5	45%
4	13/01/2017	19	15	79%
5	17/04/2017	8	8	100%
6	12/07/2017	12	10	83%
7	25/09/2017	13	11	85%
8	08/12/2017	14	12	86%
9	09/03/2018	14	12	86%
10	14/05/2018	14	10	71%
11	10/08/2018	5	4	80%
12	16/11/2018	14	12	86%
13	08/03/2019	12	9	75%
14	07/06/2019	4	3	75%
15	13/09/2019	4	4	100%
16	06/12/2019	6	6	100%
17	06/03/2020	6	5	83%
TOTAL		179	136	76%
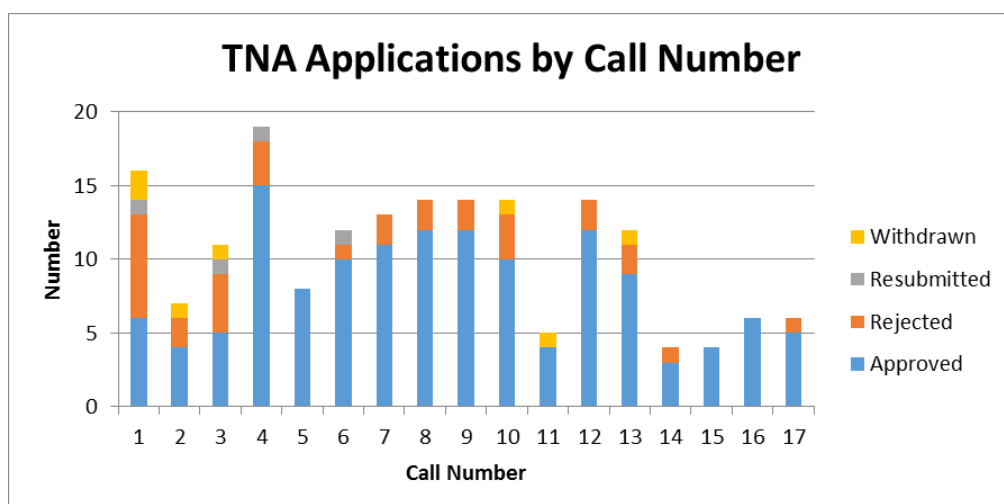
The four resubmitted applications were a result of an initial decision not to approve funding but accompanied by constructive advice from the Selection Panel as to how to improve the proposal.

Number of Applications Call 1-17

| Site	Number
IEO-AquaCOV	2
IEO-MAP	3
IEO-ICRA	1
CCMAR-Ramalhete	6
DTU-VET	6
UL-Behaviour (2)	0
UL-EPA (1)	5
WR-Swim caroussel	1
WR-RECIRC	3
Ugent-Gen ART	6
WU-RAS	2
WU-MRU	4
ULPGC-FITU	12
ULPGC-MBS	8
ULPGC-WWSSU	6
SINTEF-ACE	7
NTNU-Mclab	0
NTNU-CodTech	4
JU-GRC	4
JU-IFA	3
JU-IAPW	11
JU-ICS	4
Nofima-NNGS	1
Nofima-CFU	6
Nofima-NCRA	2
IFREMER-PEARS	4
NAIK-SDC	4
NAIK-OEPS	1
HCMR-Omics-Bioinfo	5
HCMR-Aqualabs-Souda	12
CSIC-IIM-EXP	3
CSIC-IATS-ANA	6
CSIC-IATS-EXP	7
UoS-IoA	16
IMR-BDL	0
IMR-CEL	1
IMR-ELI	2
INRA-IERP	1
INRA-STPEE	6
INRA-PEIMA	4

Projects involving mobility of the user to the host infrastructure to conduct research is limited by EC funding rules to 3 months (approximately 90 days). Most TNA projects are less than this in practice. However, some projects involve virtual access where work is carried out without the presence of the user. These projects can exceed 90 days. Analysis of average project duration (based on approved applications) is shown below with the overall average being 66 days.
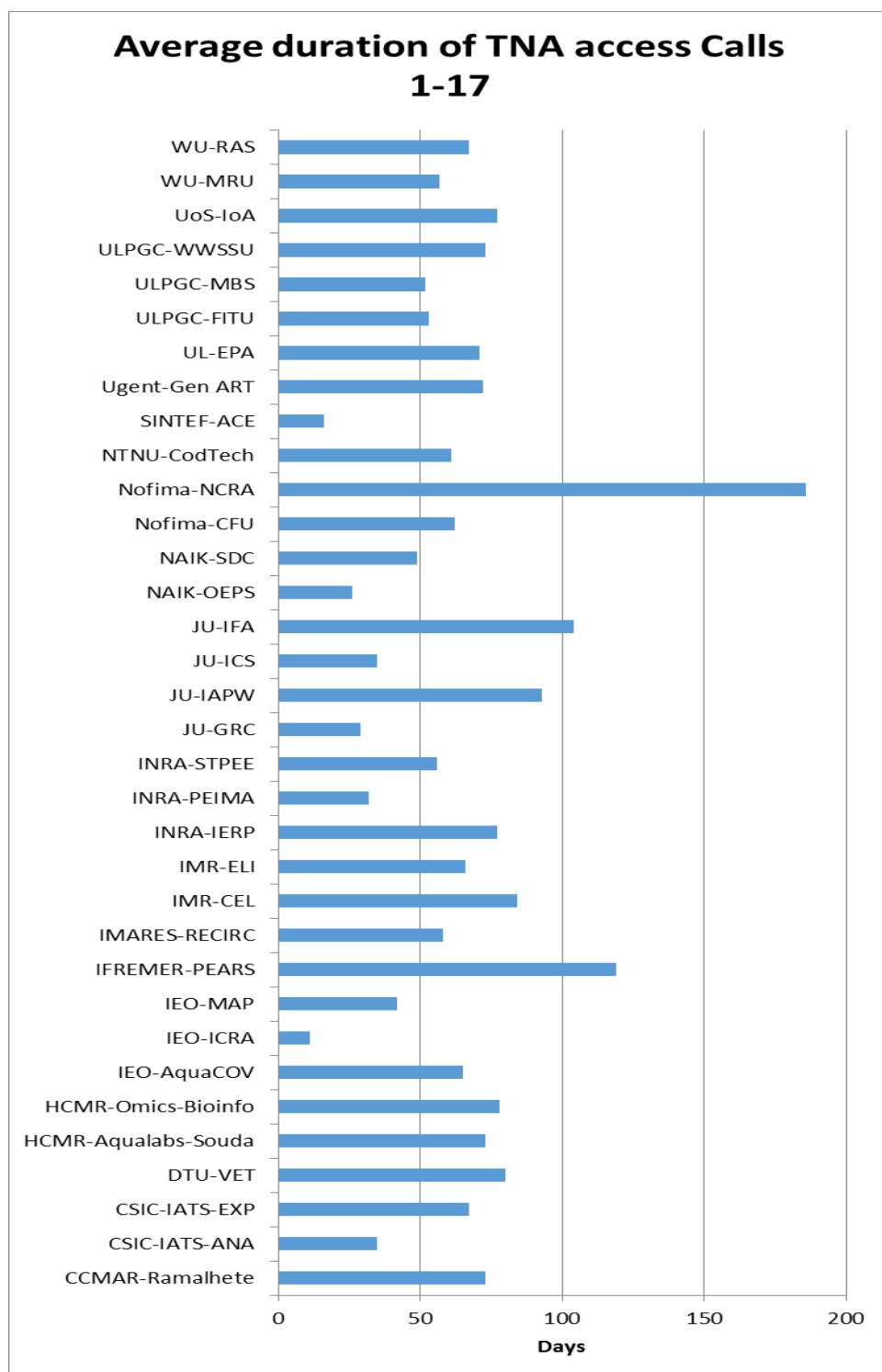
3.2. Profiles of project applicants

Applications have been received from organisations located in thirty-seven different countries including thirty applications (16.7%) from thirteen countries from outside of the EU and Associated States. The greatest number of applications originated from Italy, Portugal, Spain and the UK. The following chart shows the number of applications by country and call number.

TNA Applications by Country of Applicant Organisation (Calls 1 – 17)
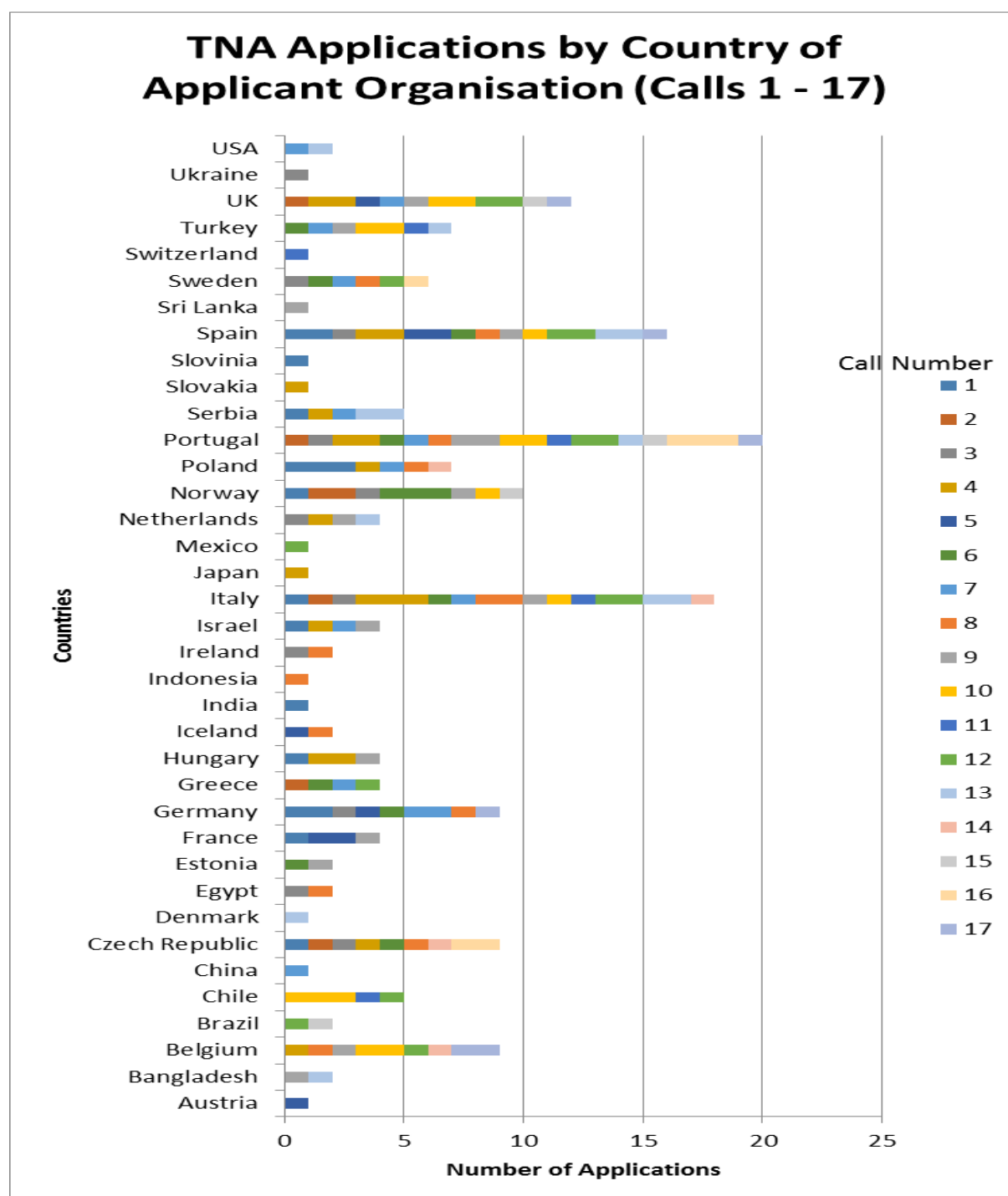
Up to Call 17 (the final Call for Access), organisations in thirty-one different countries have had approval for TNA projects.

Final Funding Decision of TNA Applications by Country of Applicant Organisation (Calls 1- 17)
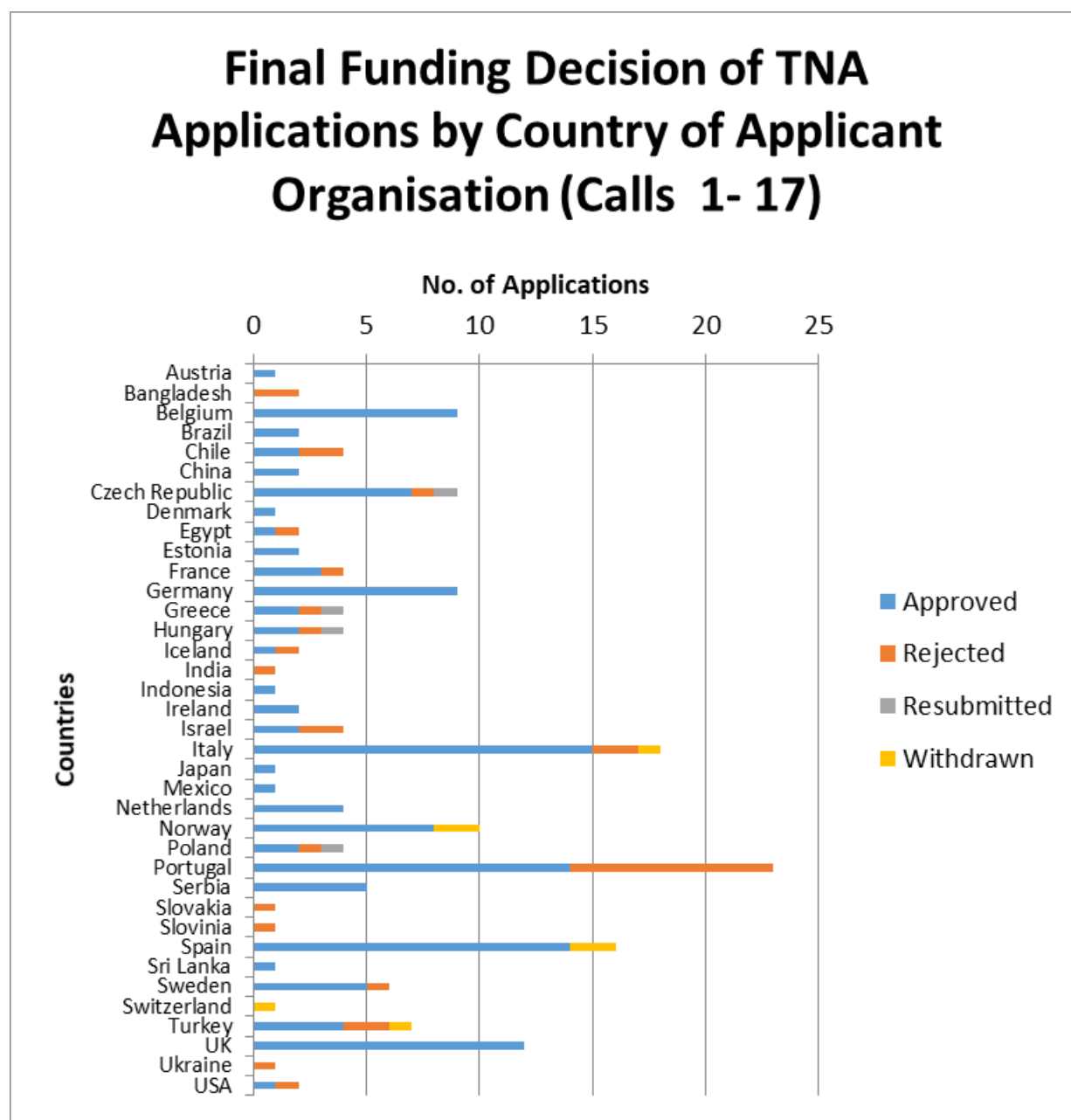
Applicants for AQUAEXCEL[2020] TNA have been predominantly from Universities and secondarily from other research organisations. Eight applications have been received from SMEs (six approved) and seven applications (six approved) have been received from larger private organisations. The "Other" category appears to have been used by several applicants from research organisations that rely on a mix of funding sources, or state authorities with other core functions.
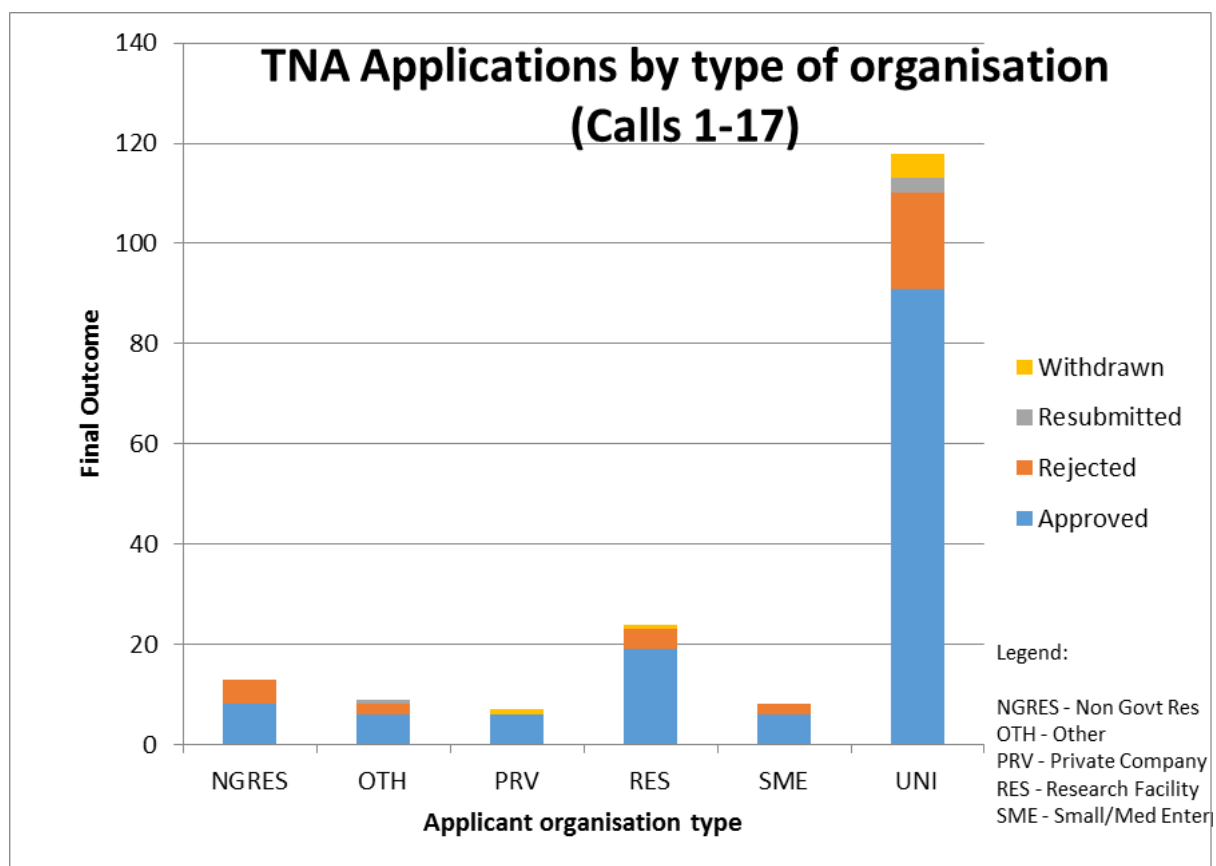
Analysis of calls 1-17 shows that 81 lead applicants (45%) were classed as "Expert" (with significant postdoctoral research experience); 51 applicants (28.5%) were at post doctorate level, 41 applicants (23%) at postgraduate level, 5 applicants were technicians (3%) and 1 applicant (0.5%) at undergraduate level. These proportions are not much changed when considering approved projects (44% expert, 28% post doctorate, 25% postgraduate, 3% technician and 0% undergraduate).
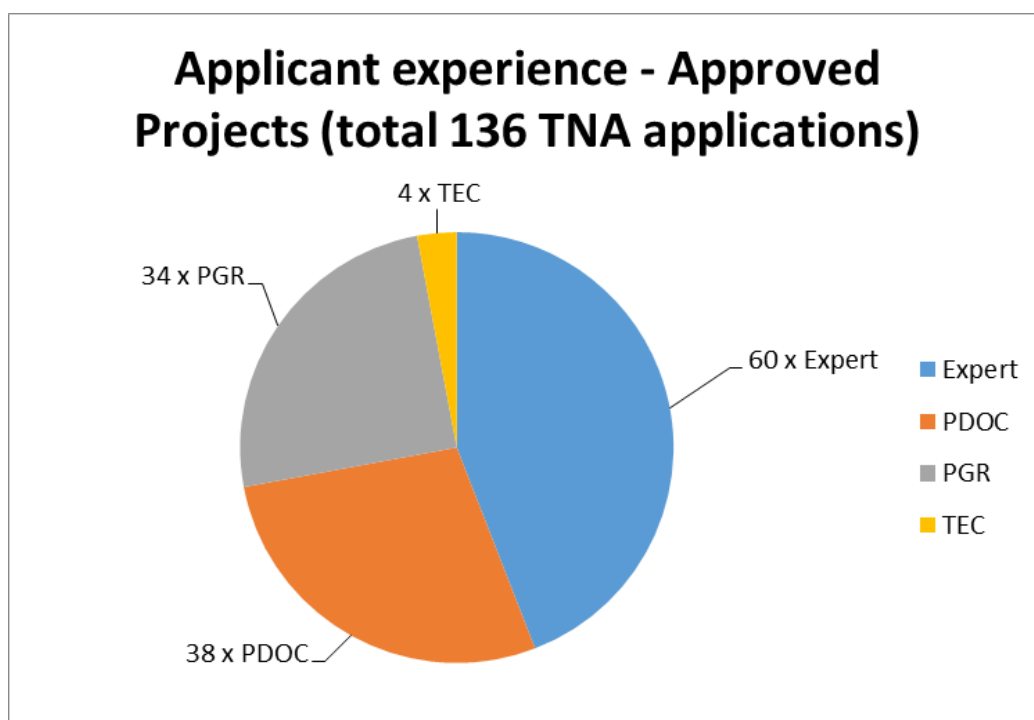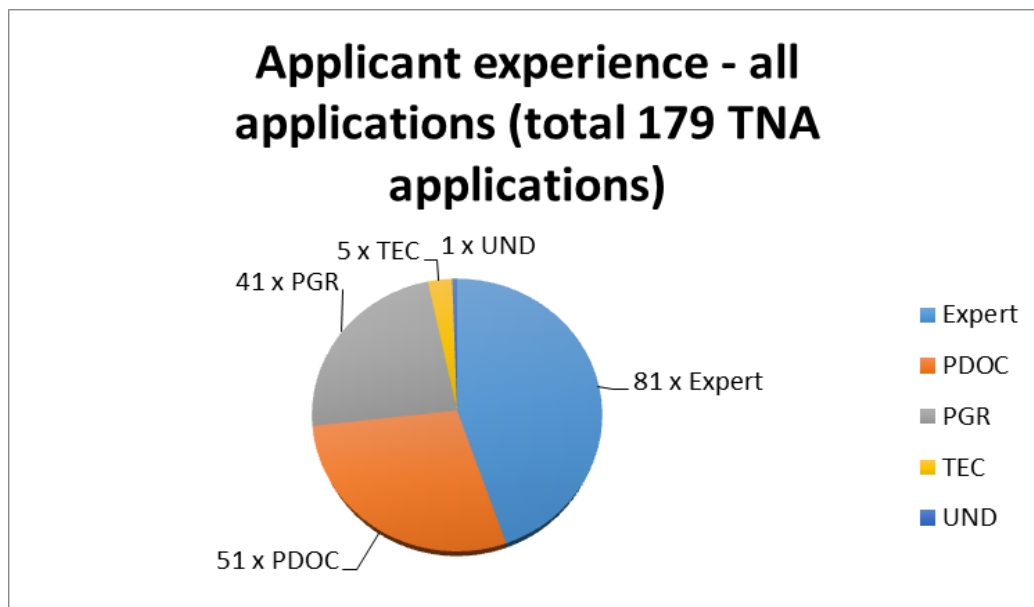
In terms of gender, 53% of lead applicants were male and 47% female in calls 1-17 whereas this ratio reversed slightly when considering approved projects (50% male and 50% female). This is probably not statistically significant but indicates a good gender balance overall.

Gender of lead applicant (All TNA applications (Calls 1-17)

Gender of lead applicant (TNA approved projects (Calls 1-17)
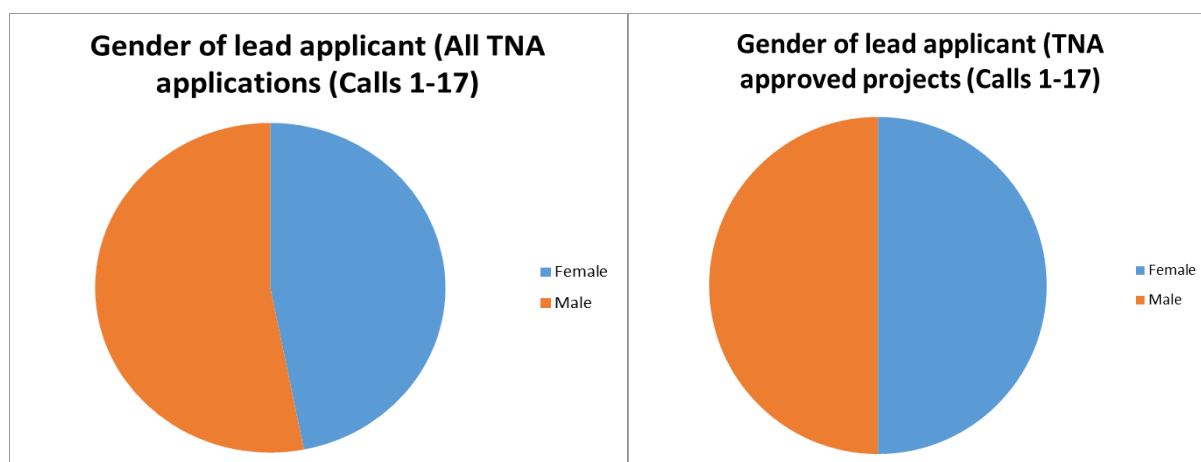
- Female
- Male

For applications with more than one applicant, there was a greater likelihood that this would be a male (45% of second applicants male to 27% female, 28% of applications had only one applicant).

Gender of 2nd applicant (Calls 1-17) with Final Outcome

- No 2nd applicant
- Male
- Female
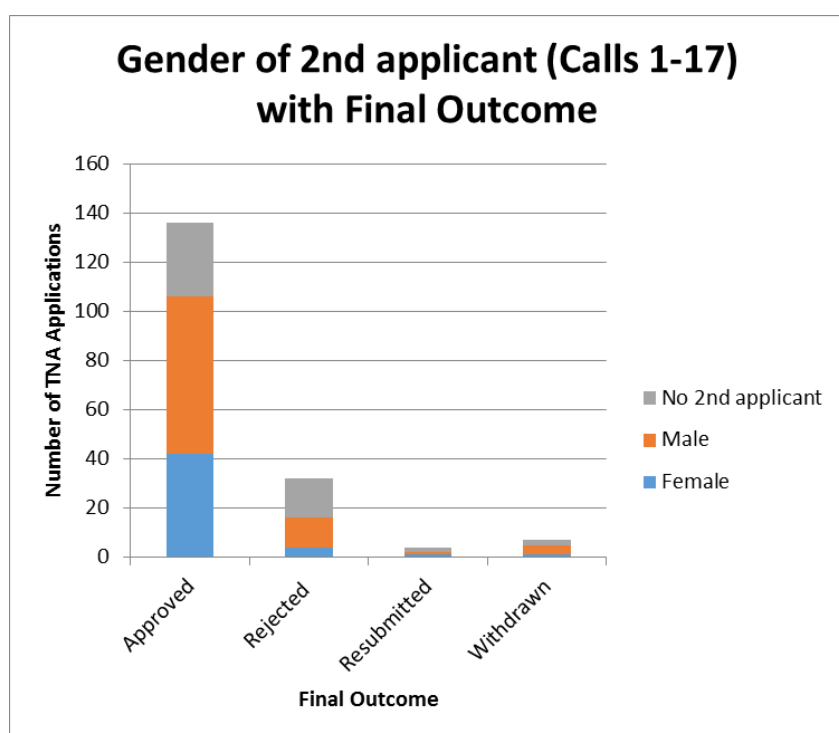
3.3. Categorisation of projects

Applicants are requested to categorise their proposal into one or more of nine thematic areas in order to help with selection of expert reviewers and to provide some analysis of the areas that are of interest and being supported.

In calls 1-17 the areas of physiology, nutrition, welfare and pathology predominated. There was no indication from the data on approvals that the subject area greatly influenced likelihood of approval.

Research Areas All TNA Applications (Calls 1-17)
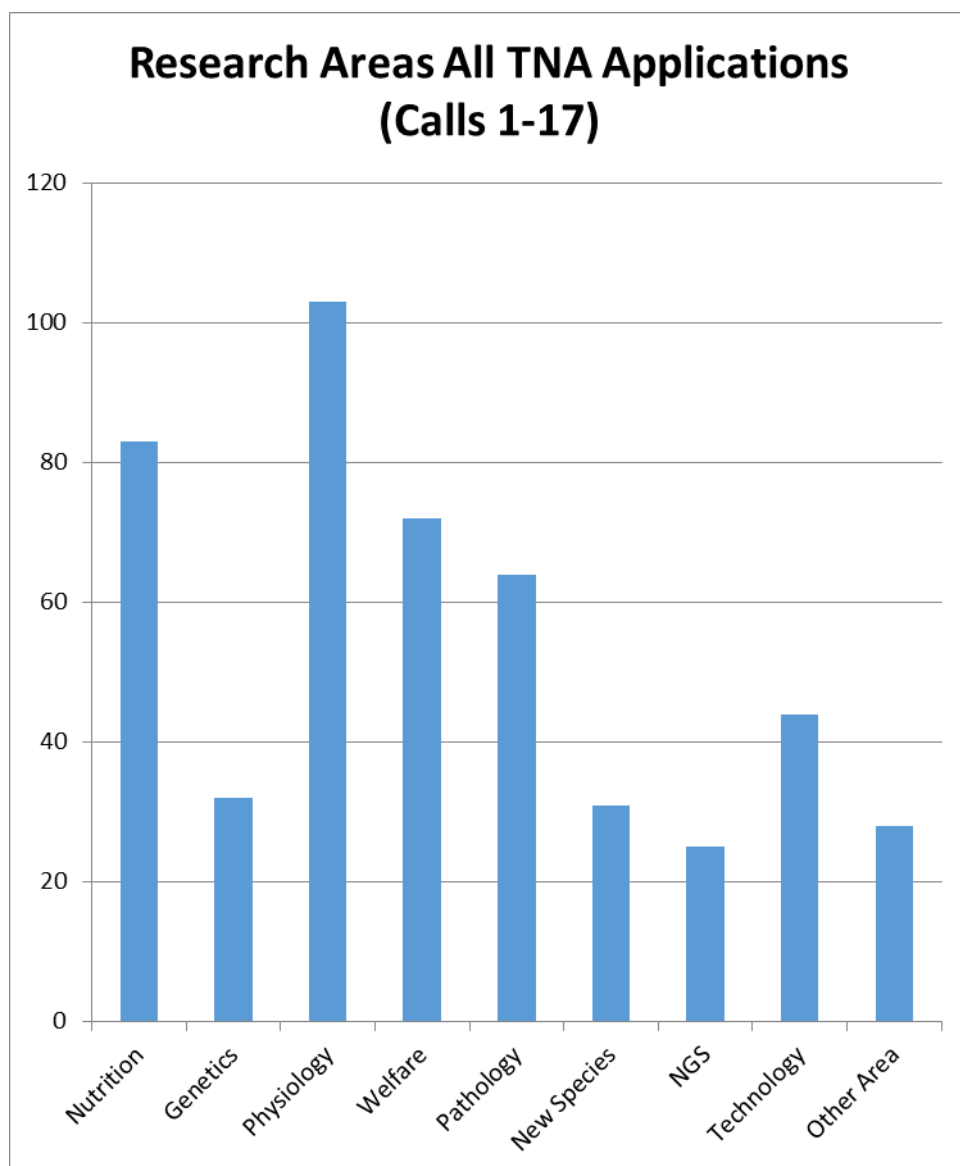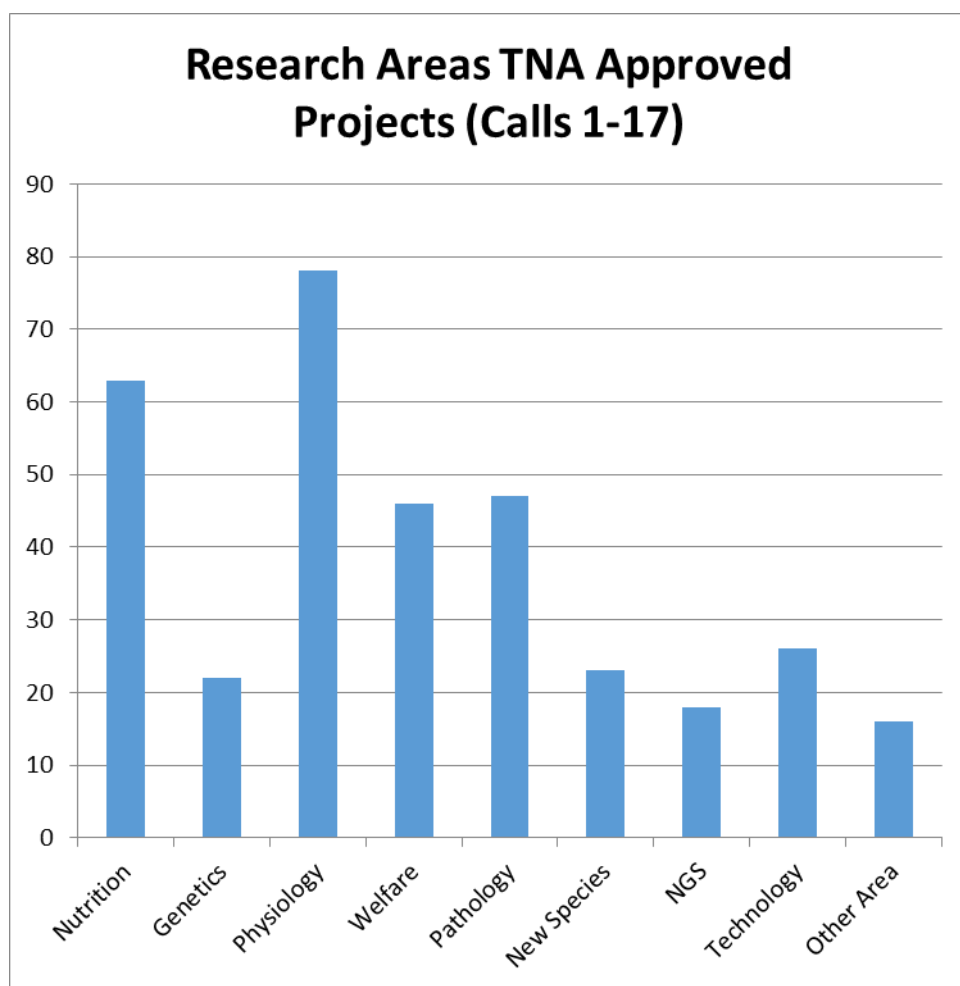
Similarly, project selection was not unduly influenced by species category. The greater number of projects were for work on marine fish species, followed by freshwater species and diadromous species (e.g. salmonids). This is unsurprising given the profile of the consortium and facilities offered.

Species category all TNA applications (Calls 1-17)

Species category TNA Approved Projects (Calls 1-17)
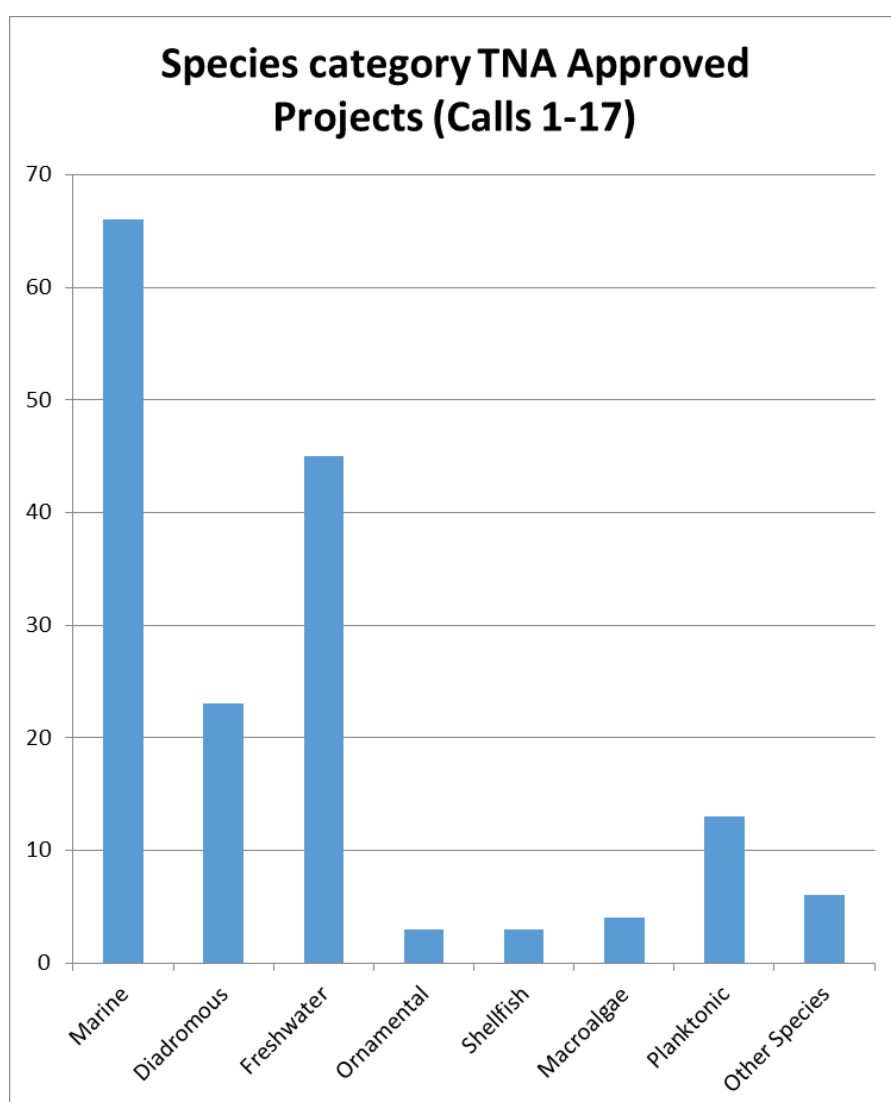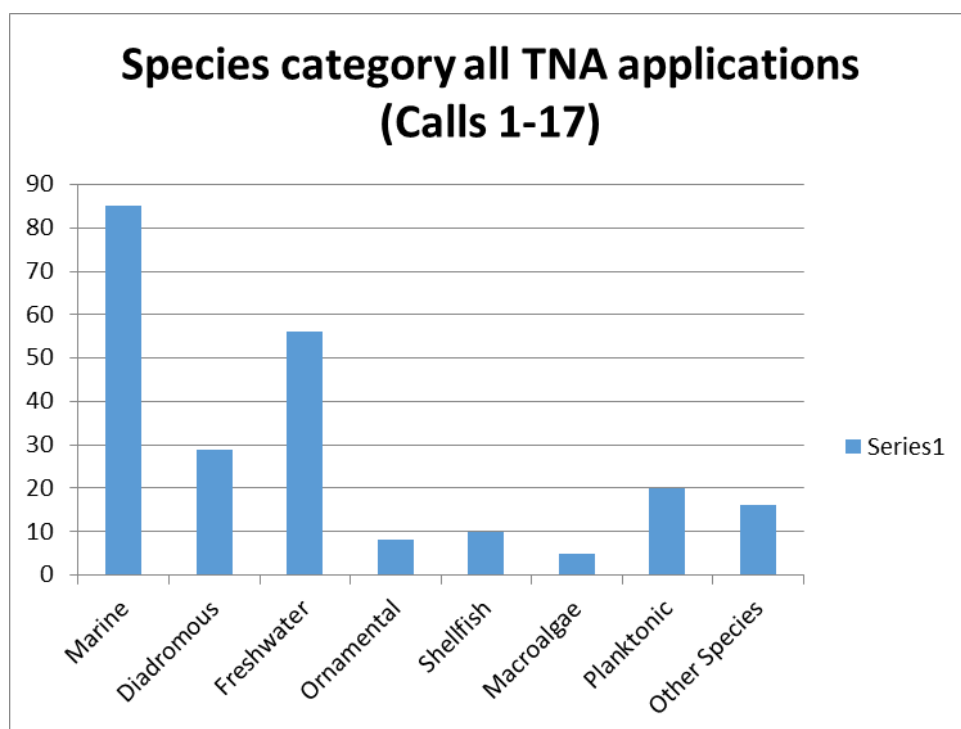
Applications were also considered in relation to the European Aquaculture and Technology Innovation Platform (EATIP) strategic research agenda and its identified priority areas. For Calls 1-17 this analysis showed that health was the most common priority addressed, followed by feed, quality, lifecycle (breeding) and technology. Again, there was no obvious bias in project approval.
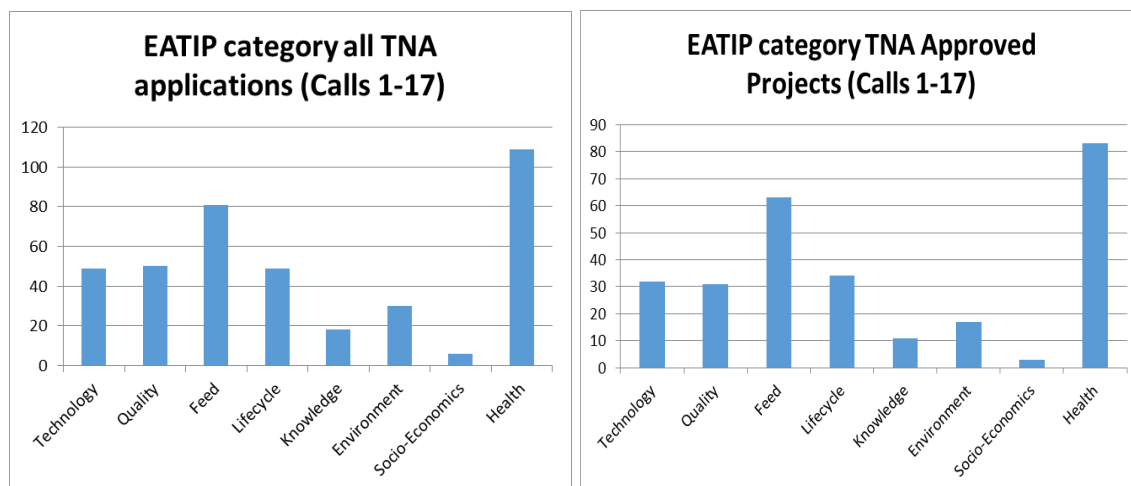
3.4. Current status of projects

Over the five years of the project it was anticipated that around 169 TNA projects would be supported. At the end point in the project, 136 projects have been approved (80% of anticipated total).

The number of projects anticipated per infrastructure varied considerably, from just one to fourteen. Most infrastructures have received applications somewhat in proportion to their original allocation, although a small number are well under target and others over. Three infrastructures have received no applications.

Number of User Projects Calls 1-17
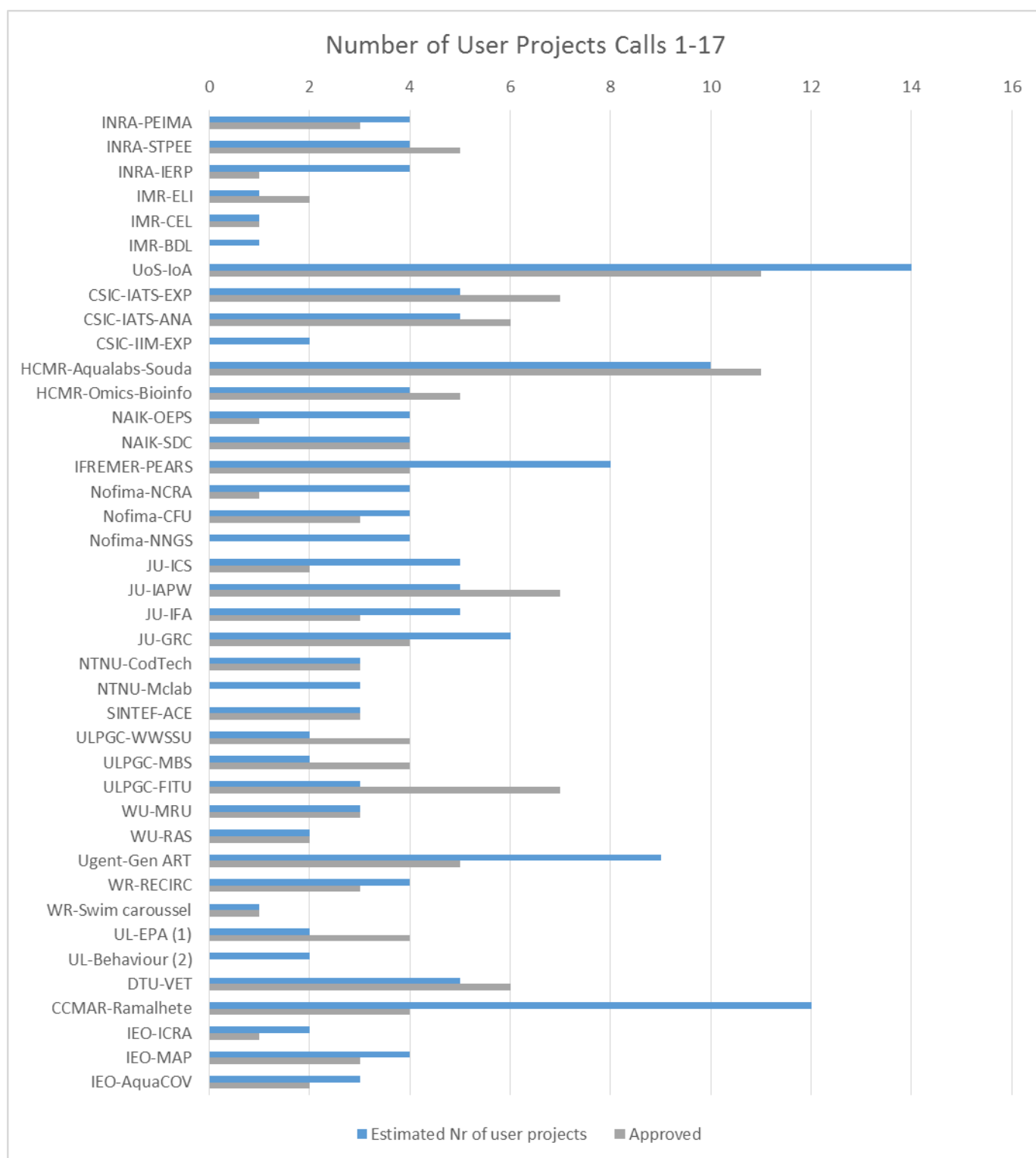
The actual resource available at each infrastructure is measured in terms of units of access which can be defined flexibly for each installation. On average, 94% of the available units of access have been allocated to approved projects. This may indicate that projects are requesting a little more resource than originally expected and therefore there will be less projects overall. However, the figures could also be distorted by partners with a smaller share in project numbers who have more quickly fulfilled their allocation. A small number of installations have exceeded their allocation. Some re-allocation of budget between installations took place in April 2019 to take account of actual demand.

Units of Access Calls 1-17
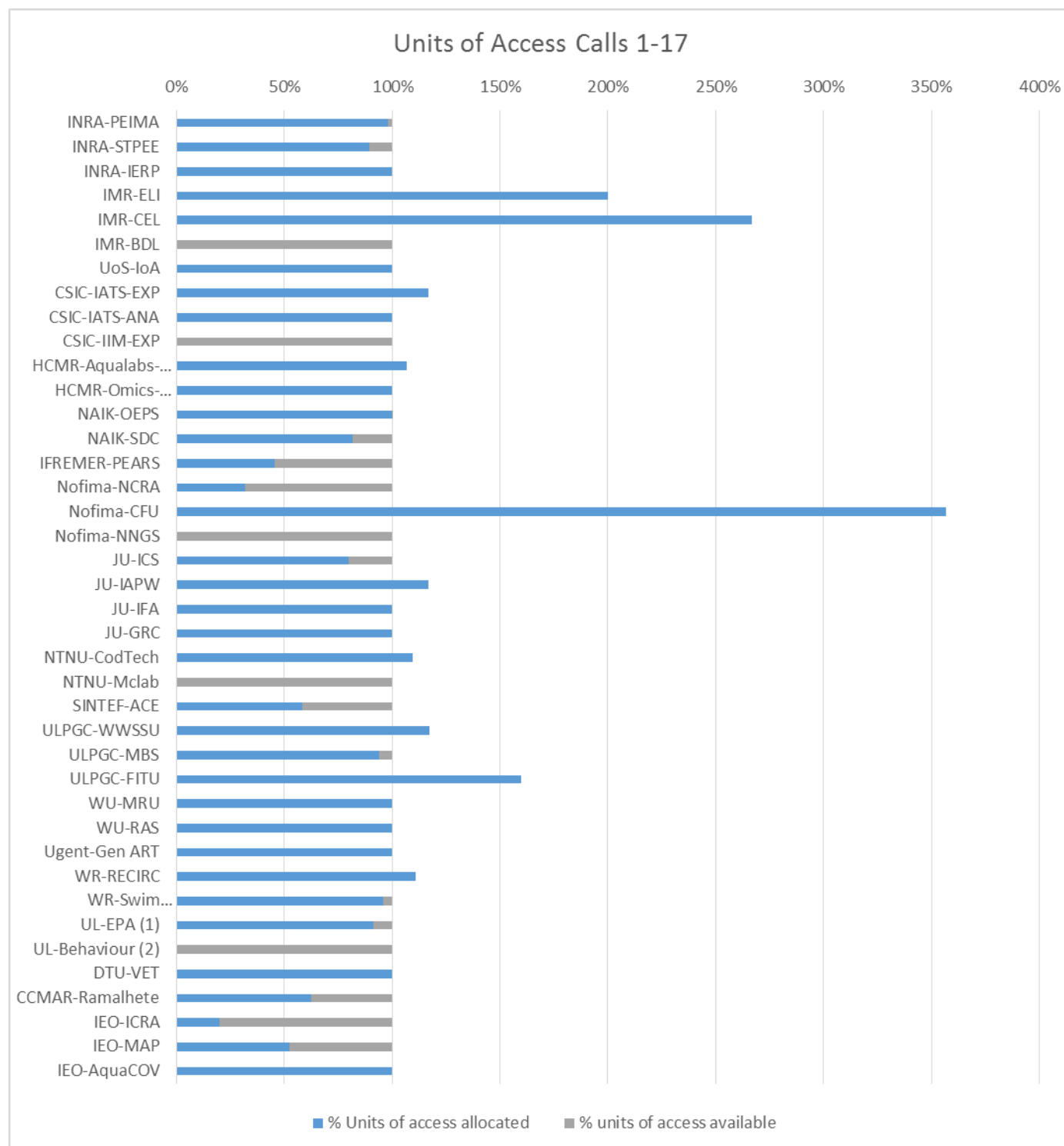
As of July 2020, one hundred and twelve projects had been completed, six projects were in progress and eighteen projects were approved but not yet started. This indicates some lag between approval and execution, but this is not unusual especially given the timescale required to ensure appropriate size animals are available. In addition, the Covid-19 pandemic has delayed the start of projects, particularly those projects from Call 15 onwards who had planned to start March 2020 onwards and has also affected projects in progress. The overall pattern of project implementation is shown below. The most intense period was between mid-2017 and mid-2019.

The slow start-up of projects was partly due to delays in the selection process during the initial calls which were due to a combination of new procedures, shortage of expert reviewers and staff constraints at the University of Stirling. These issues were addressed, but some projects were unable to start according to their original schedule.

4. FEEDBACK FROM USERS

On completion of TNA projects, users were asked to complete a feedback from which includes information about key outputs and also views on their experience of TNA. A total of seventy-seven forms were returned from the 112 completed projects (as at July 2020) and the responses given are summarised in this section. The complete user feedback form is included in the annex to the report.

Users were asked to rate their experience of AQUAEXCEL[2020] TNA on a scale of 1-5 where (1) is poor and (5) is excellent. They were also given the opportunity to provide further information and explanation on the main issues.

4.1. Project information

Users were asked their opinion of AQUAEXCEL[2020] publicity. This resulted in mixed feedback with 74 participants giving an answer and an average score of 3.86
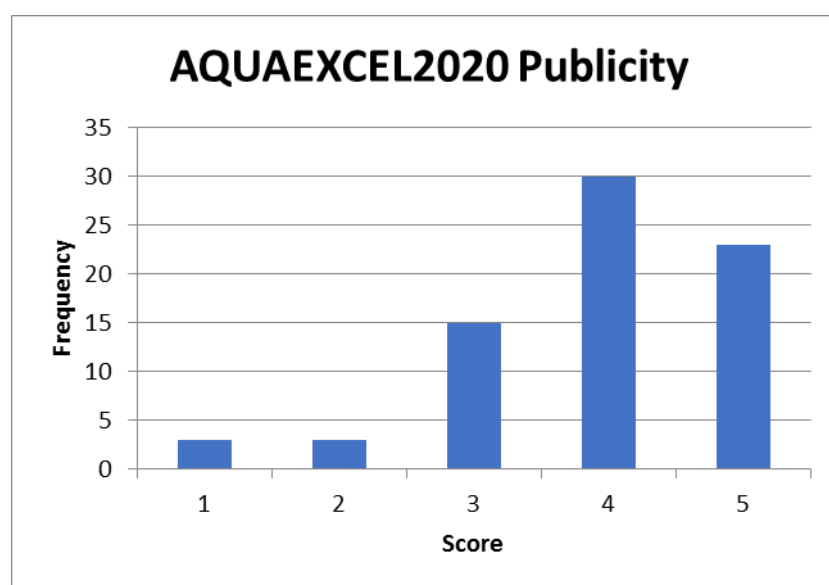
A second question asked how Users became aware of the AQUAEXCEL[2020] project and TNA opportunities. Responses to this question (74 responses) indicated that pre-existing personal contact with colleagues and contacts at the host infrastructures were the most important factors in leading users to apply. General promotion efforts must play a role in raising and maintaining awareness but appear less important as a key driver for applications.

How users became aware of AQUAEXCEL2020
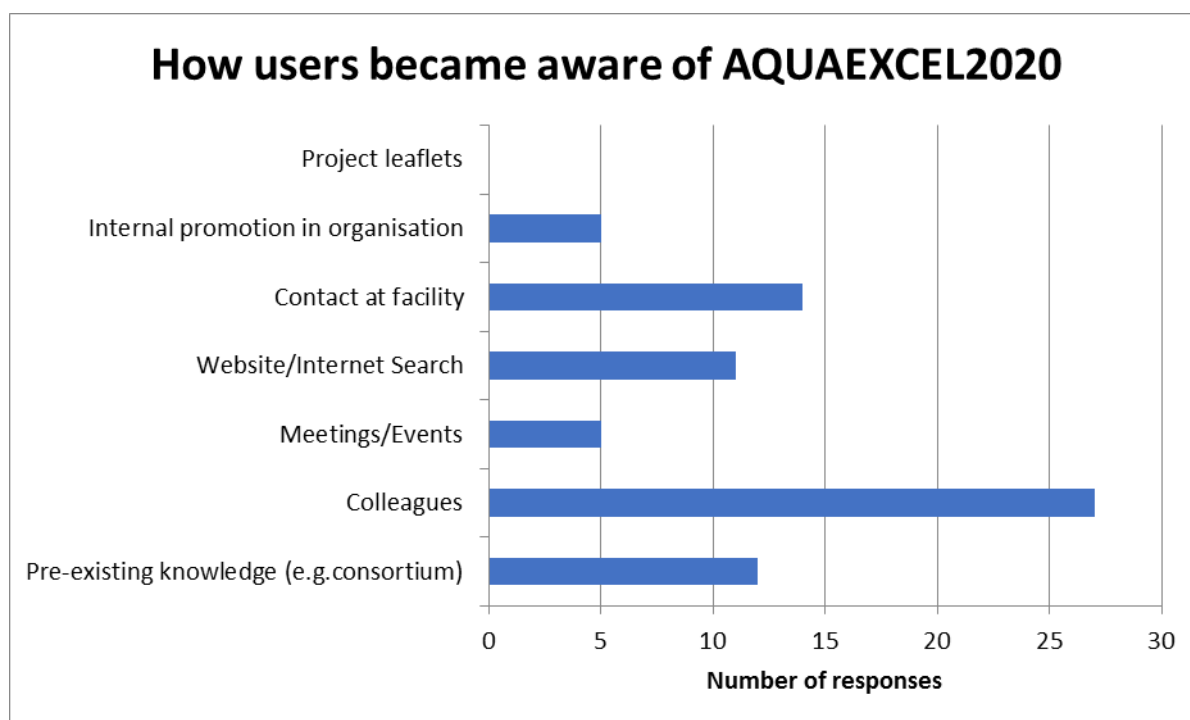
Users were asked for more specific feedback on publicity provided by the chosen infrastructure. Seventy-three responses were received with a mean score of 4.15. Again, there was some spread in the score, but the majority considered the infrastructure publicity to be very good or excellent.

Infrastructure Publicity
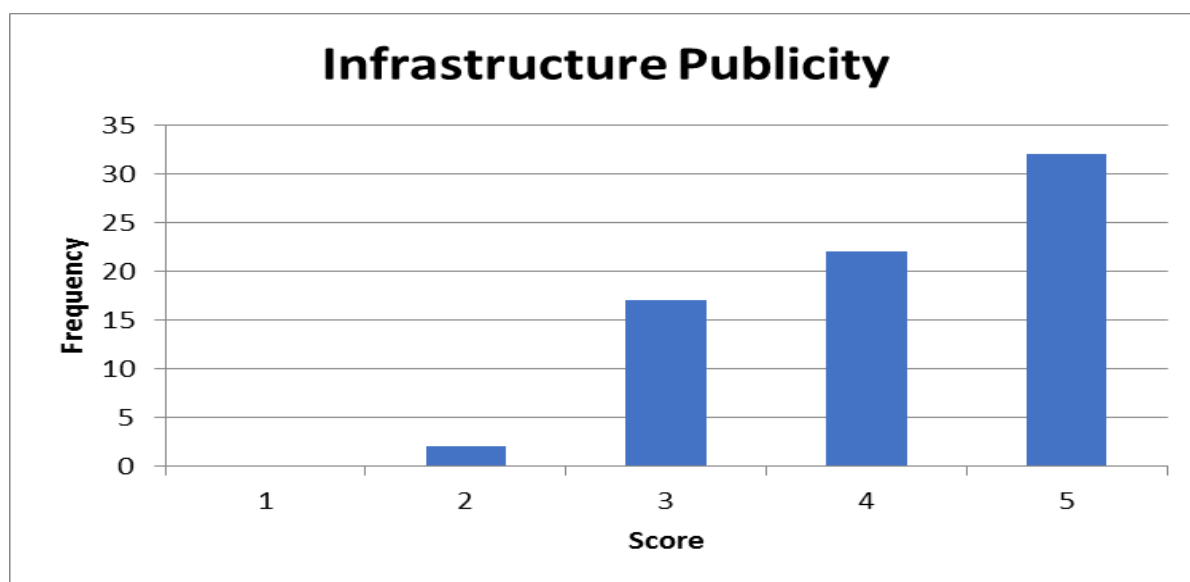
Users were also generally satisfied with the information that was made available to applicants – seventy-four responses were received with an average score of 4.3. There were a small number of Users however who were less satisfied with the available information. No clear reasons for this were given, but it appears likely to relate to lack of administrative information on issues such as accommodation and expenses.

Information for Applicants
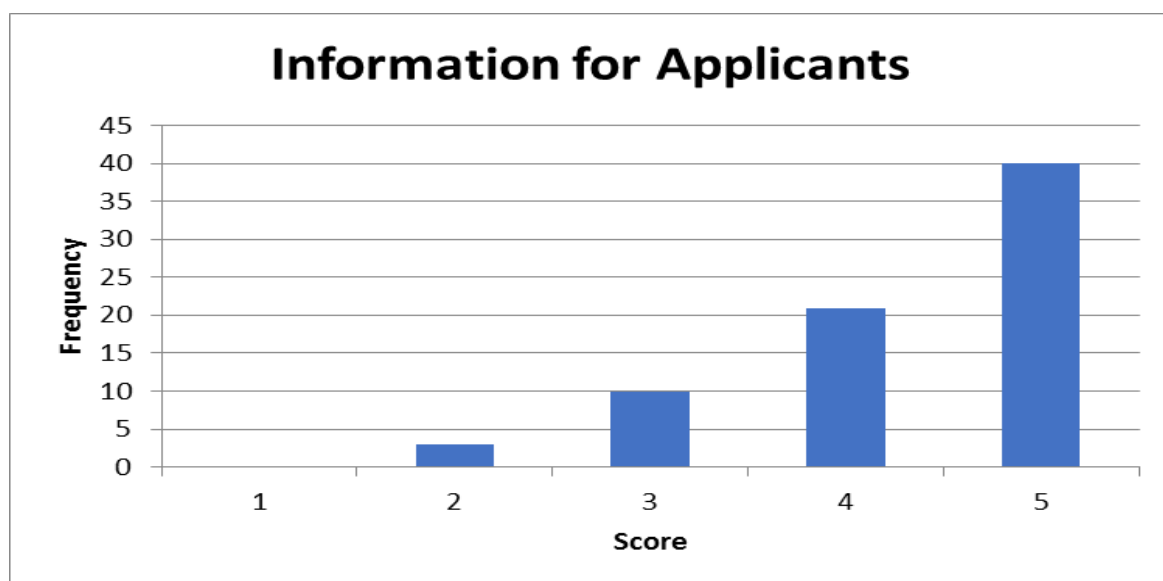
4.2. Application and evaluation procedure

Users were asked for their views on the TNA application system. Seventy-five responses were received with an average score of 4.24. The actual scores vary from 1 to 5 indicating significantly different experiences. The worst scores are likely to be associated with individual difficulties and delays in the early calls whilst the system was being set up and evaluators recruited. The online system works well for most applicants once they are familiar with it. The main problem has been with users not reading the guidance and ensuring that the Infrastructure Manager completes their checks on the application prior to submission, or incomplete application information which necessitated additional correspondence with the applicant by the WP1 administrator on behalf of the expert or ethics reviewers.

Application System
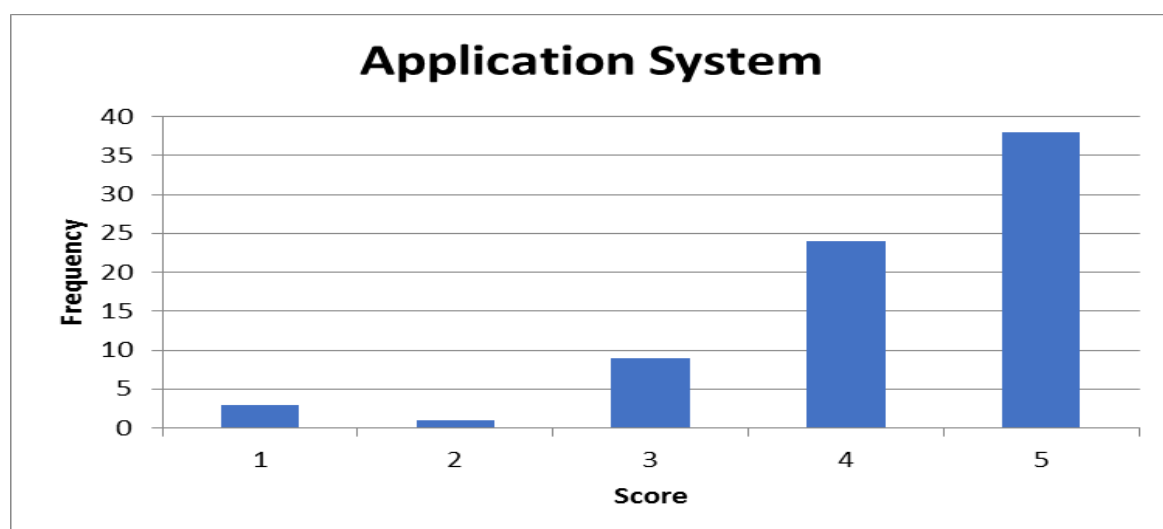
Once the evaluation process has been completed, the outcome is communicated back to the applicants by means of a summary evaluation form. Users appeared generally satisfied with the quality of the feedback provided (mean score 4.4 from 74 respondents), although note that as with all the analysis, the respondents are only from those with approved projects.

Evaluation Feedback

Frequency vs Score bar chart: Score 1 = 0, Score 2 = 1, Score 3 = 5, Score 4 = 31, Score 5 = 37.
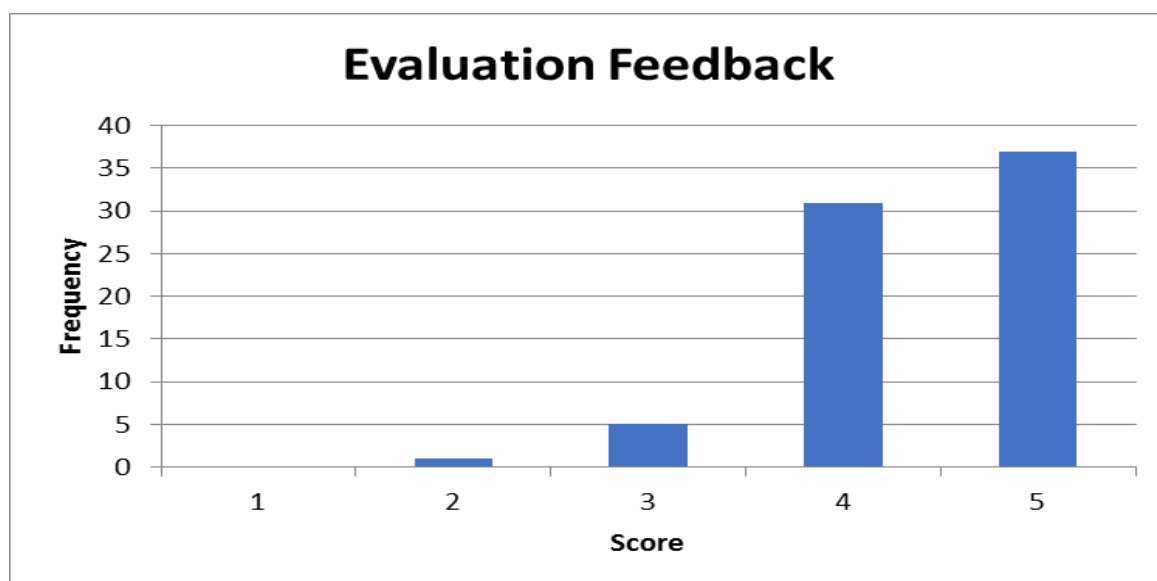
4.3. TNA visits and experimental work

Users were then asked about their experience of working at and with the host infrastructure.

The first question concerned the guidance they were given on using the infrastructure, which would include practical access information, health and safety briefings and any necessary training. Seventy-five respondents gave an average score of 4.3. The variability in response suggests that there is scope for improvement in the guidance provided by some facilities, but that others are doing very well.

Facility Use Guidance

Frequency vs Score bar chart: Score 1 = 1, Score 2 = 1, Score 3 = 12, Score 4 = 18, Score 5 = 43.
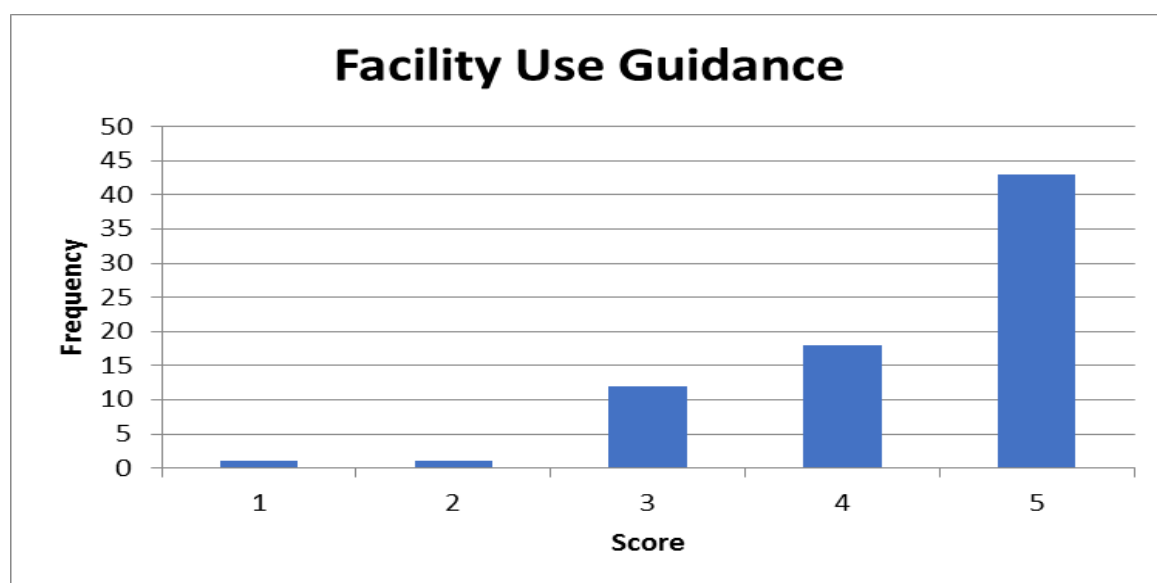
The second question in this section concerned the quality and suitability of the host facilities. These were generally rated very highly with seventy-four responses and a mean score of 4.86. The lowest score was related to a project where the applicant found some expected analytical facilities were not available.

Installation Facilities
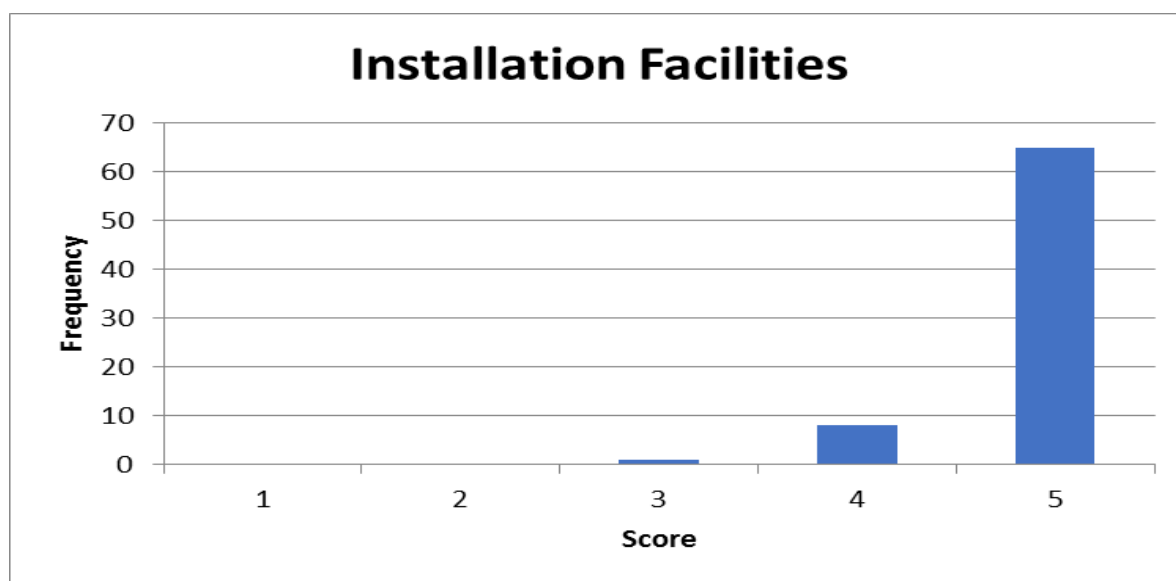
Users were then asked about the quality of the scientific support to set up their experiments and analyse the results. The seventy-five responses to this question gave an average score of 4.77, with all except one user rating the quality of the scientific support as very good or excellent. A single low score of 2 was given by this one user. On analysis, this was low scored by the user due to the host installation not being able to receive the applicant at the agreed time due to other research commitments by the host.

Scientific Support
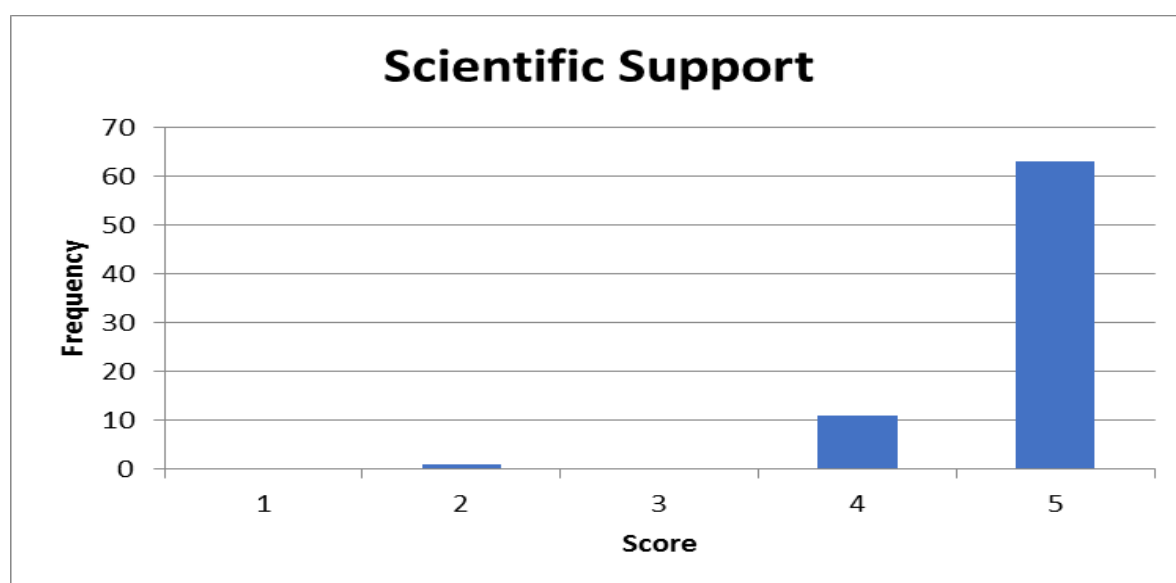
When asked about the quality of technical support at the infrastructure seventy-five respondents gave generally very positive responses with an average score of 4.8. The two low scores were influenced by some technical and administrative problems with the particular projects.
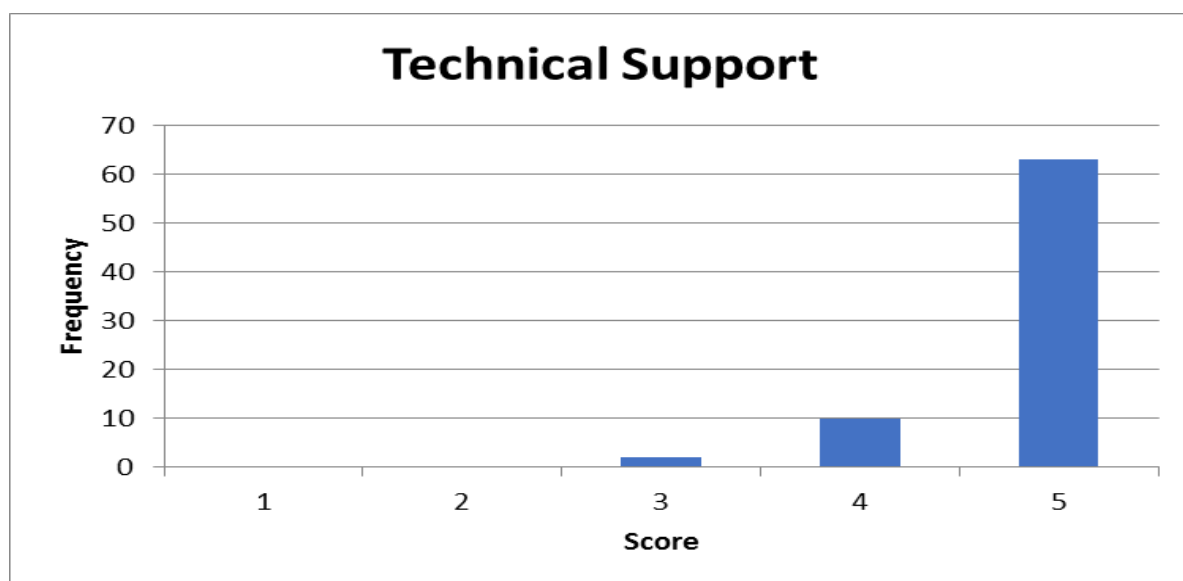
Technical Support

Consideration of logistical support at the infrastructure included issues such as accommodation, office space, computing and library facilities etc. Seventy-four responses gave an average score of 4.69. Most users were very satisfied with the logistic support provided, but those with a lower score were generally related to problems with accommodation, often due to limited budget. One comment received in relation to a low score given by the user was "*It would be reasonable to provide an appropriate working space such as a desk in an office, proper chair etc, rather than randomly allocated in <room>*"

Logistic Support
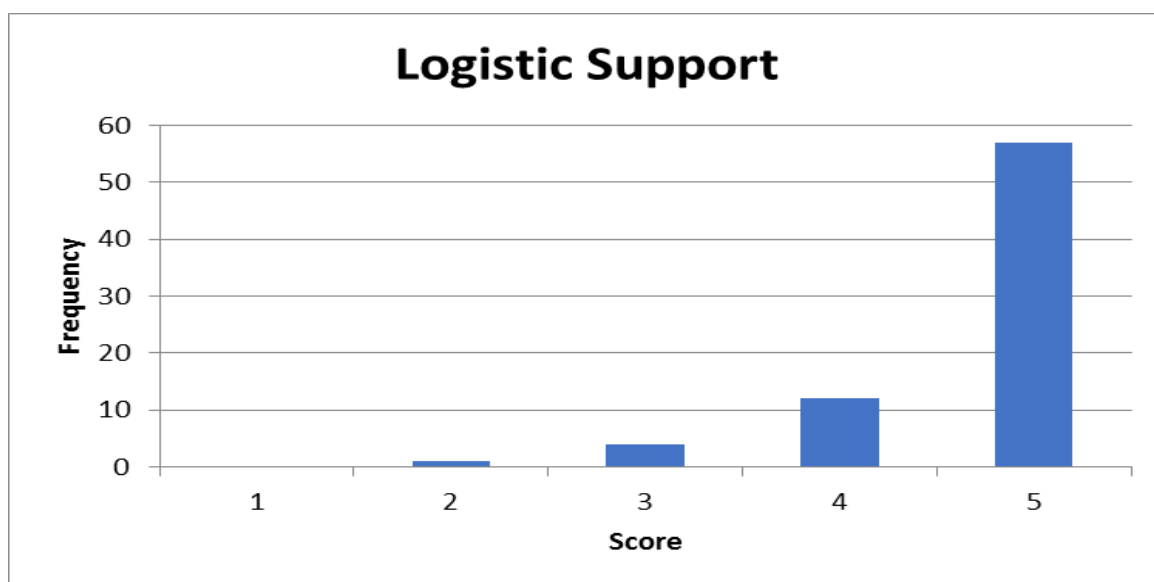
Seventy-four respondents gave an average score of 4.17 for host administration of TNA projects. The poor scores are related to complications and delays in the payment of travel and living expenses by some host organisations. This has been communicated to the hosts with the recommendation that procedures are more clearly communicated and administered in future.
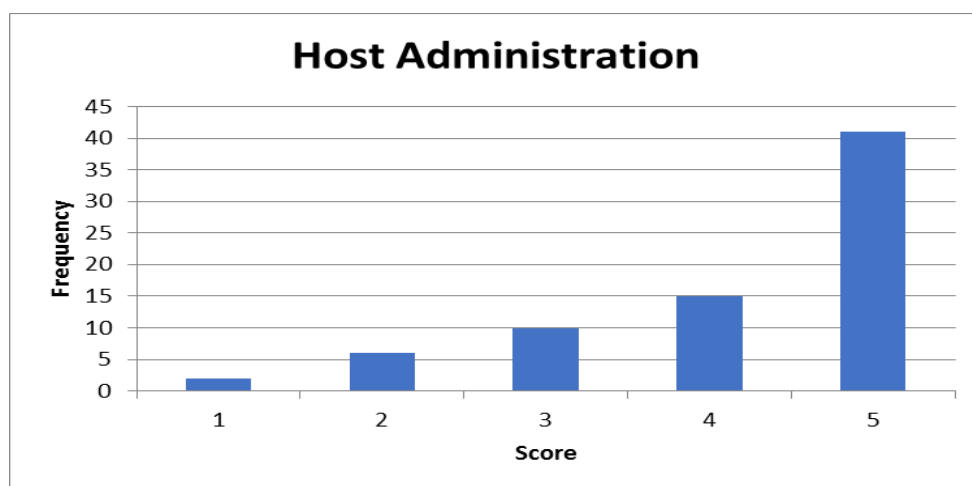
When asked about the overall intellectual environment at the host infrastructure, seventy-three respondents gave an average score of 4.65. Those with the lowest score did not comment specifically on this but it was associated with a smaller facility with few scientific staff.
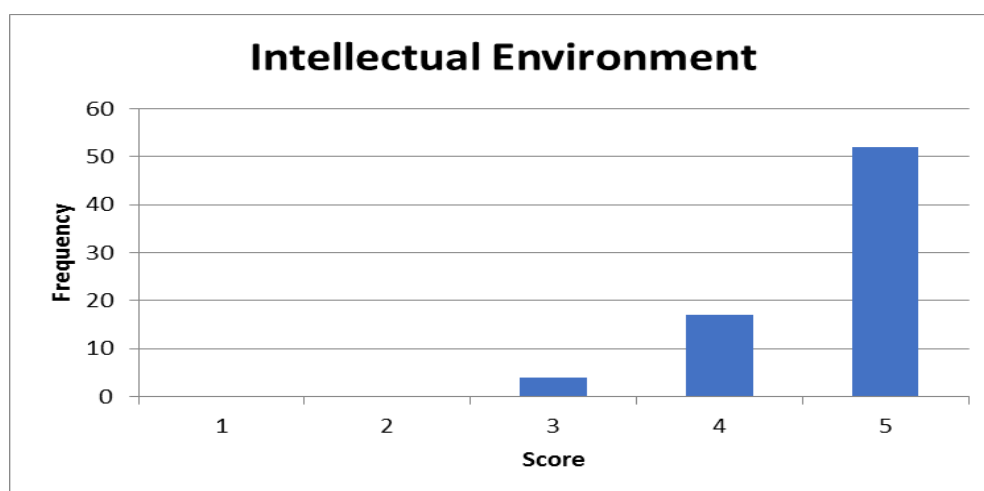
The seventy-four respondents gave an average score of 4.62 for overall TNA experience indicating generally very high satisfaction levels. The lower scores are due to facility use guidance and administrative problems as indicated above.
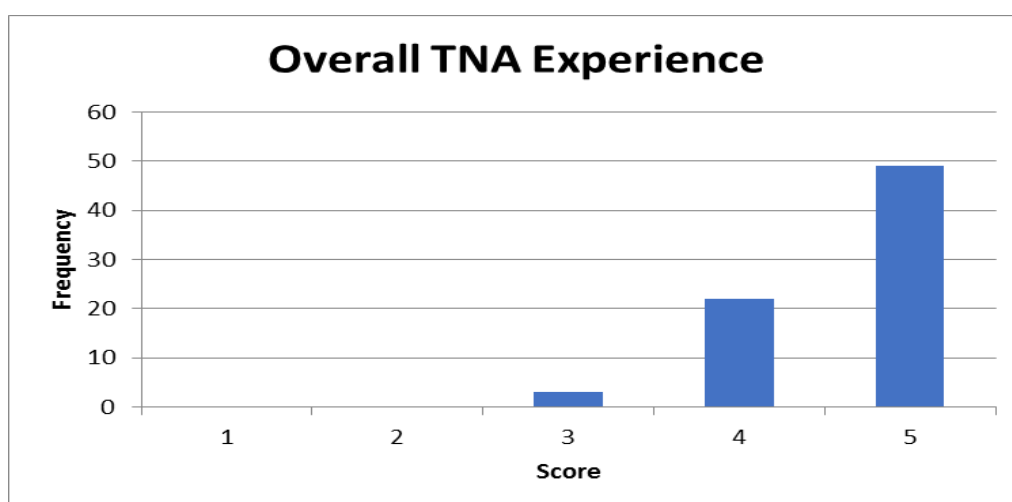
Example feedback comments

| *Positive*	*Negative*
"The AQUAEXCEL call has been very useful to us because it has allowed us to benefit from the invaluable expertise of <person> and the modern and well-equipped facilities of <Installation>. Furthermore, it gave us the opportunity to come into contact with other European research groups improving in this way the quality of our research" *"Honestly speaking, the project has run so well so far that no major suggestions for improvement need to be made. The facilities, the professionality of the staff, their assistance, etc., have been fantastic. I think that this experiment with <species> could not have been carried elsewhere."* *"Overall, the experience of AQUAEXCEL TNA was excellent"* *"All criteria have been scored as highly satisfactory and no particular comments are necessary"* *"<Installation> fully deserves the best rating for their help and support. Everything worked fine for me. Many thanks to them"* *"The TNA project, carried out at the <Installation>, was a great opportunity and experience. I highly appreciate the help of all members of this infrastructure, especially <name>"* *"In general, my TNA experience was simply amazing. The intellectual environment was extremely stimulating. I received excellent scientific and technical support. All the laboratories at the facility were well-organised"* *"The project call, the project revision and implementation process were well organized. Administration tasks were easy carried out and it did not pull back the scientific progress"* *"The experience was really good. I felt integrated in the teamwork from the first moment. All the consumables and reagents needed were available to perform the lab work. The aquatic system preparation, the technical and logistical support were unbeatable. In addition, the intellectual environment was stimulating. In general, it was a pleasant stay"*	*"The biggest problem was the communication with the host. A missing agreement might have led to these complications. Furthermore, the host was not fully able to provide all analytical methods or infrastructure characteristics applied for. Nevertheless, any problems that occurred could be solved by the host and TNA participant."* *"The weakest point was the communication with the secretary to agree on the traveling, accommodation and reimbursement. Mainly due to the language problems and delays."* *"I think the TNA's project needs a better internal organization due to the evaluation / review process take so much time (in my case several months)."* *"In the future AQUAEXCEL should make sure that all the host facilities can compile with the obligations acquired. The project was planned to be done in three months, including two visits. Because the incompetence of the <country> bureaucratic system and the difficulties to make a visit or have the sufficient infrastructure ready to go… the project was delayed far beyond the initial dates planned"* *"In the online application form it was, in some parts, a bit unclear as to who was supposed to fill in the information"* *"The online submission system had a few software bugs but was otherwise quite intuitive. Do not change the design just fix the bugs"* *"Reimbursements were quite stingy, given the fact that we come from a low-cost country and visited a high cost country"* *"To my view the review process and the evaluation dates should be scheduled in advance. The applicants should be well notified when exactly the decision will be made. The project involves travelling so the uncertainty is an issue for the applicants. Especially as we were strictly dependent on the availability of the facilities for several purposes as well as seasonality of the research planned. Therefore, the decision-making process should be very precisely planned. It does not matter when the decision will be made (within 3 or 5 months), but the information on when it will be announced is always highly precious for the researchers."*

"I am very happy with how the project went and all the arrangements made by researchers at <Installation>"

"Everything was fine"

"My stay here has been very fruitful and useful"

"I have a very positive opinion on the access to the research infrastructures at UL that allow me to realize this experience in the best conditions. And I would recommend the AQUAEXCEL2020 to other researchers"

"AquaExcel gave me the opportunity to carry out an experiment which has an enormous importance to fish nutritional knowledge. Otherwise, such experiment would not have been possible. Furthermore, I got the opportunity to do it in collaboration with high-valued research groups with whom I could discuss ideas and acquire new skills and experience. The contacts created are hence an advantage to future studies, and since the collaboration was successful in every way, the hypothesis of a new way is not discarded"

"The access to the research infrastructure was due to the great support from the staff working there straight forward and very supportive"

"A good experience!"

"It has been a fantastic experience!"

"In general, I am very satisfied of my TNA experience. At <Installation>, the intellectual environment was extremely stimulating, scientific and technical support were excellent, and all the laboratories were well-organised"

"All the research infrastructures in this AQUAEXCEL 2020 project are excellent, hope that we can do another collaborate in the future"

"I would be very happy to work again with the <Installation> as the staff is very trained and the facilities are suitable for the analysis of my project"

"We had a really great experience <Infrastructure>"

"all good"

"I would just recommend to the Administrative part of the <Installation> to give to the visitors, before they travel to the Installation, a list of all the necessary papers for successful reimbursement of subsistence expenses"

"It felt like the administrative support at <Infrastructure> was not at the level of the scientific and infrastructure support. I found it could be more useful to the visitor to have more information on the funding and reimbursement of the travel and subsistence expenses. Also, it was harder for our visitor to have a fluid feedback from <Organisation> accommodation services"

"In general, the project is well organized. The application system should become more user-friendly and the graphical user interface need to be further developed. Furthermore, the AQUAEXCEL project website should be updated more frequently "

.
"Once I have received the positive evaluation summary of the project, I receive all the information and technical support to find accommodation and to reach the facility. Anyway, to improve the service, it would be appreciated to have in advance some deeper specific information, combining with practical guidelines including examples, to avoid refusal in the reimbursement for some legitimate expenses, invalidated by the wrong receipt provided. Unfortunately, the guest can't know which kind of receipt the host administration considers valid according to their own country law, so it will be useful to have some examples"

"First of all, AQUAEXCEL needs more visibility and publicity in order that more researchers can get the grant. On the other hand, it was so complicate to get and save all the meal-tickets for 3 months!! To be honest, I think that the best option is to give the people a specific amount of money per day according to the country visited"

"For the application and the reporting, the paperwork is too extensive in respect to the size of the project. The reporting and the outreach aspects are premature since the report is due immediately after the exchange, therefore no publications etc are ready at this stage.
In the application process it is hard to get a quick overview of the requirements that are essential."

It was not good for me that project period was limited to 3 months. My research needed more time. An option to extend the stay for up to 2 months should be available dependent on research outcome"

4.4. Project outputs, dissemination, and exploitation

Seventy-five users provided feedback concerning dissemination and exploitation of results. Twenty-eight projects have already published their results in a scientific journal and at least nineteen projects are expecting an article to be published in the near future. At least twenty-one projects have given conference or workshop presentations and several more have this type of dissemination planned. Other dissemination activities include the publication of articles on the organisation's web site or in newsletters such as the AQUAEXCEL[2020] newsletter. Workpackage 2 is collating the knowledge outputs of the TNA for analysis and dissemination and Workpackage 4 is integrating these with other outputs for broader dissemination. A more comprehensive analysis of outputs and impacts will be available in Reporting Period 4 of the project. SME users are expected to use results directly and are not under the same obligations for dissemination as research organisations or large companies.

The majority of projects have articulated plans for the further exploitation of results (68 of the 75 respondents). Of these around forty mentioned direct transfer and application of the knowledge to industry, whilst a further three envisaged benefit to science by their contribution to the Genebank. The remainder focused on the knowledge gained and how this can be used to guide further research and form the basis of new projects.

TNA users were also asked about the major achievements from their project. Most provided technical responses concerning scientific findings indicating useful scientific outputs. Two projects did not achieve their anticipated objectives but still considered the work to have been valuable due to other findings or lessons learned, two projects partially achieved their objectives but due to technical or timing issues had to shorten the research. One project exceeded their achievements as they managed to sequence two times the number of genes they had originally planned.
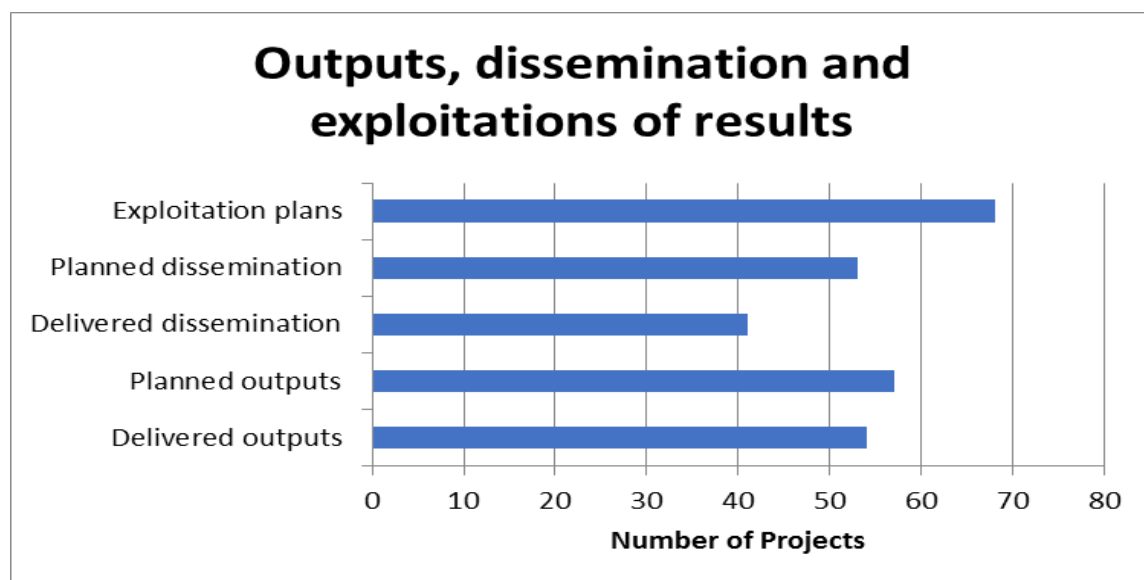
4.5. Prospects for future collaboration

Many of the users (46 out of 75) expressed a desire to pursue further collaboration with the host organisation. Of these, thirty-nine had specific plans for scientific work and some had plans for funding applications including further TNA projects or with support from national funding bodies etc.
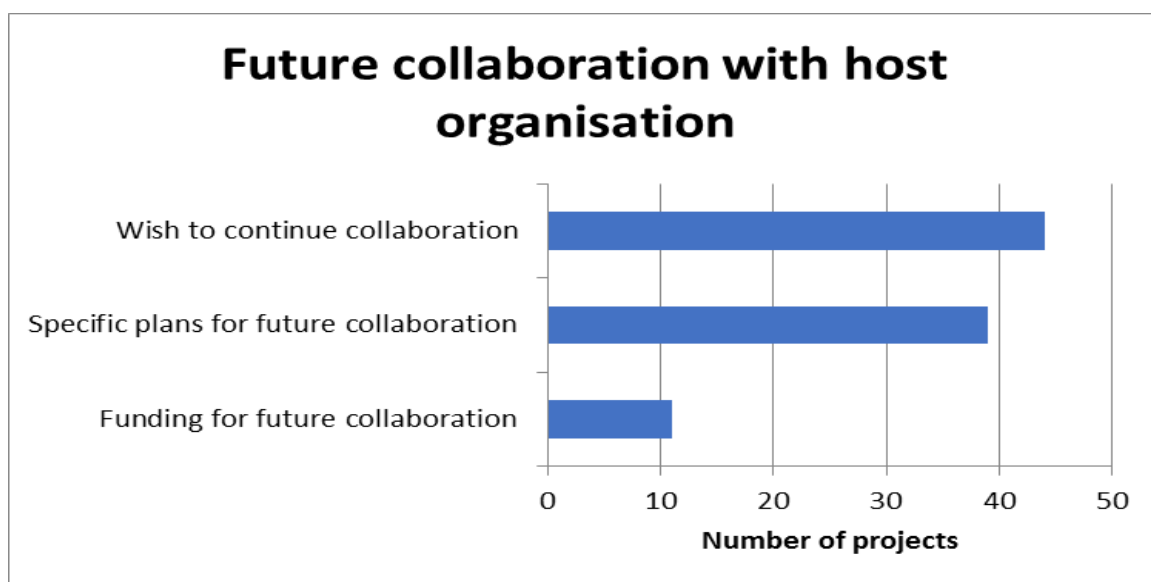
Eleven projects had already received funding approval for further collaborations, two of which are AQUAEXCEL[2020] projects.

5. FEEDBACK FROM HOSTS

5.1. Response received

All host organisations involved in providing TNA were asked to complete an evaluation form for each project that they had hosted. Seventy-four responses were received of which seventy-one were answered fully. As with the users, hosts were asked to rate aspects of their experience between 1 and 5 with 5 being excellent and 1 very poor.

5.2. Host experience

Hosts were firstly asked for their opinion on TNA Coordination. The seventy-two responses received gave a mean score of 4.4. Most had a very positive experience of TNA coordination, but one host gave a lower score, relating to delays in project evaluation and decision which affected planned experimental schedules.
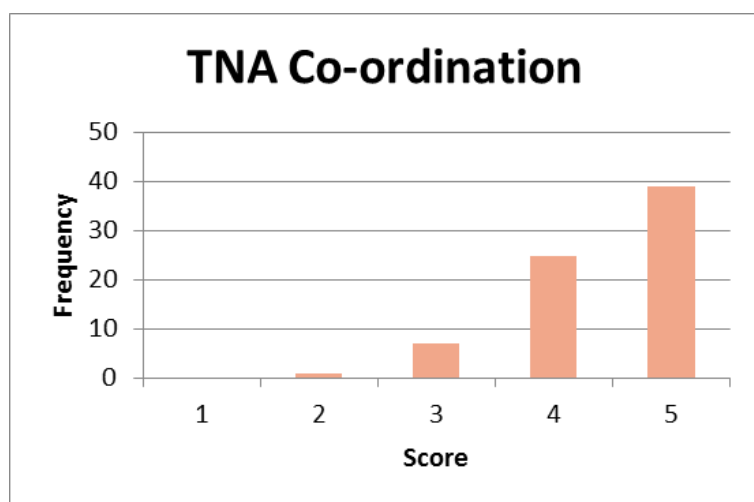
Hosts were then asked about the quality and usefulness of the feedback received after the project evaluation. The seventy-two respondents gave this a mean score of 4.3. The quality of the evaluations were mentioned with several respondents commenting on the usefulness of reviewers and Selection Panel comments and how they had improved the experimental plan based on these. Several respondents said the time taken for evaluation and project approval was too long which impacted on the preparation of schedules of experimental activities (particularly with broodstock), and coordination of activities of visiting scientists and installation management. In addition, visiting scientists are unable to obtain a visa until the project is approved, and this led to a delayed start date.
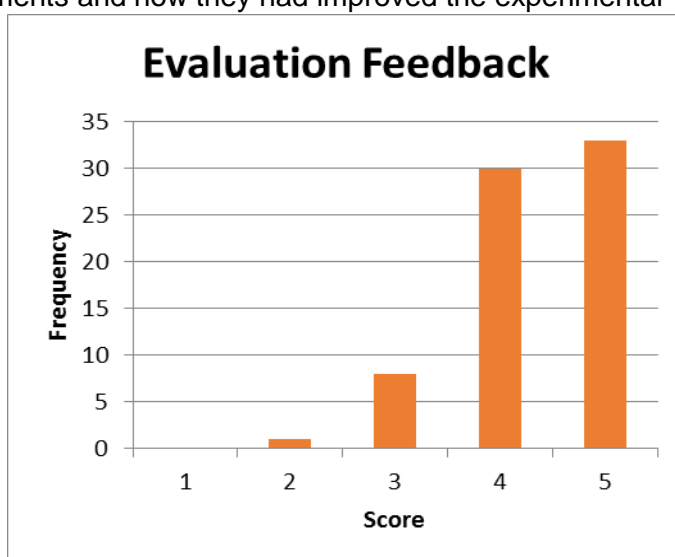
Hosts were asked about the attitude of users accessing their facilities. The seventy-one respondents gave a mean score of 4.8 for this question.
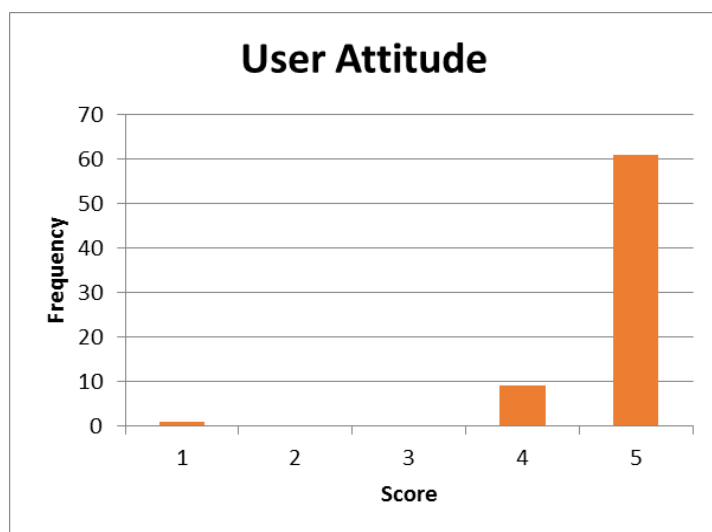
Seventy-two hosts were again very positive about the ease and quality of communications with the TNA User, giving a mean score of 4.7.
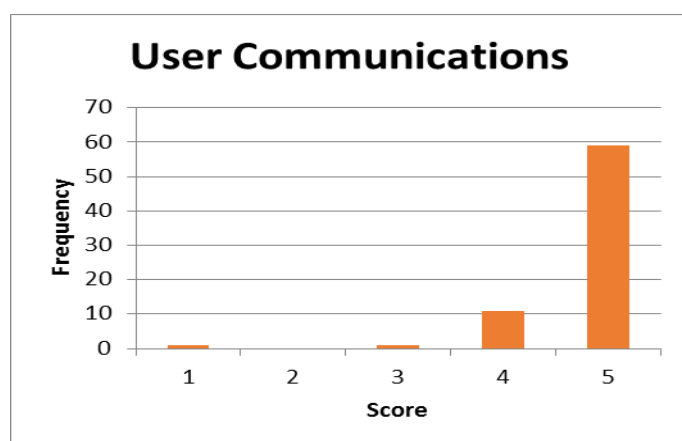
The same feedback was received from seventy-one hosts in terms of their opinion of the users work with a mean score of 4.8.
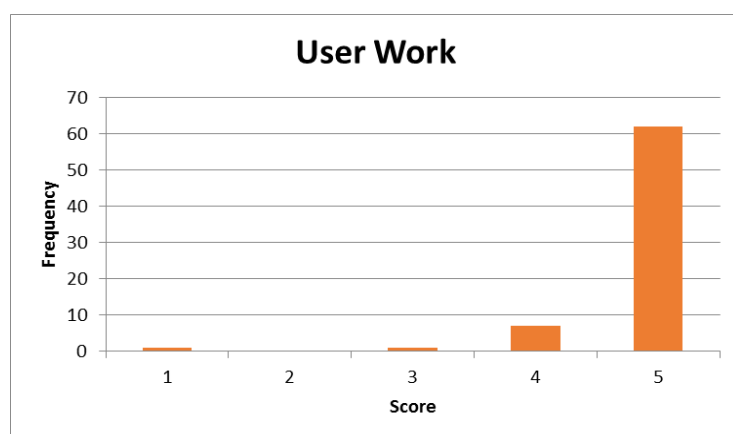
When asked for their overall rating of TNA projects as hosts, seventy-one respondents again gave a positive response with a mean score of 4.7.
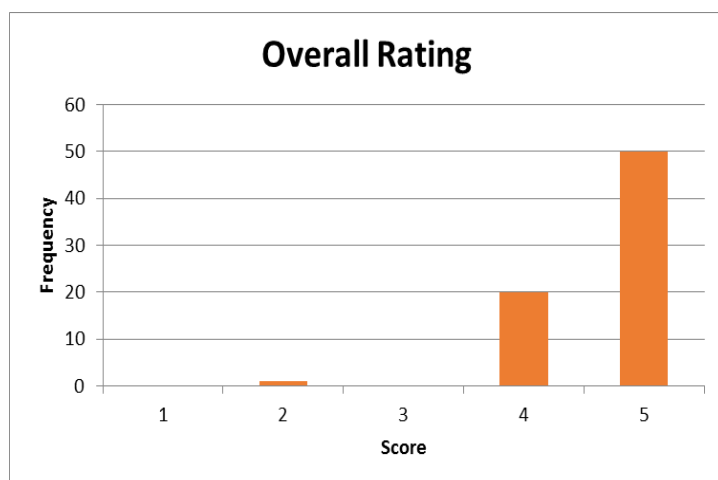
Hosts were asked about any specific problems or issues that arose during the TNA project. 39 hosts responded to this question. Some cited technical problems that occurred which either required to be solved in other ways, or reduced the sample size for analysis for instance. One project cited limited time for the work as a problem, whilst the others responded that there had been no significant problems.

One host commented that the "*evaluation process is quite long and there is no exact date of announcement of project evaluation summary and decision on support of submitted project. This is not helpful for preparation of schedule of experimental activities and coordination of activities of visiting scientists and installation management*".

Another observed that "*I think the TNA concept provides an excellent possibility to bring different research communities/areas together. The number of units could be larger, though. It is difficult to squeeze a meaningful infection trial into the TNA concept. However, if there is sufficient overlap of interest area, then TNAs provide good project collaboration opportunities*".

Another positive comment was "*Overall, this has been a seamless experience of great utility to both the visiting researcher and the research group hosting that researcher. The interchange of ideas and experiences both professional and personal contribute in an important manner to science and in this context our understanding of aquatic food security in <country>. First-hand understanding and discussion and challenges allow host teams to understand the challenges and develop projects to address these challenges. For the visitor, it is an opportunity to learn at the cutting edge of aquaculture research and experience distinct sets of technologies that would not be available at their home institution. The only improvement would be to keep this programme running into the future*".

5.3. Prospects for future collaboration

Seventy-one host respondents reported a desire to continue collaboration with the TNA user. Of these, forty-one had definite plans for activities and thirteen had already received funding for further work. Future funding had been secured from additional TNA projects under the AquaExcel[2020] project in addition to other Horizon2020 projects. Other sources of funding

include the British Council, the Spanish Government, the Belgium European Fisheries Fund and EMFF. Universities have made budget available and one future collaboration will be funded by a private/SME company.

Further Collaboration
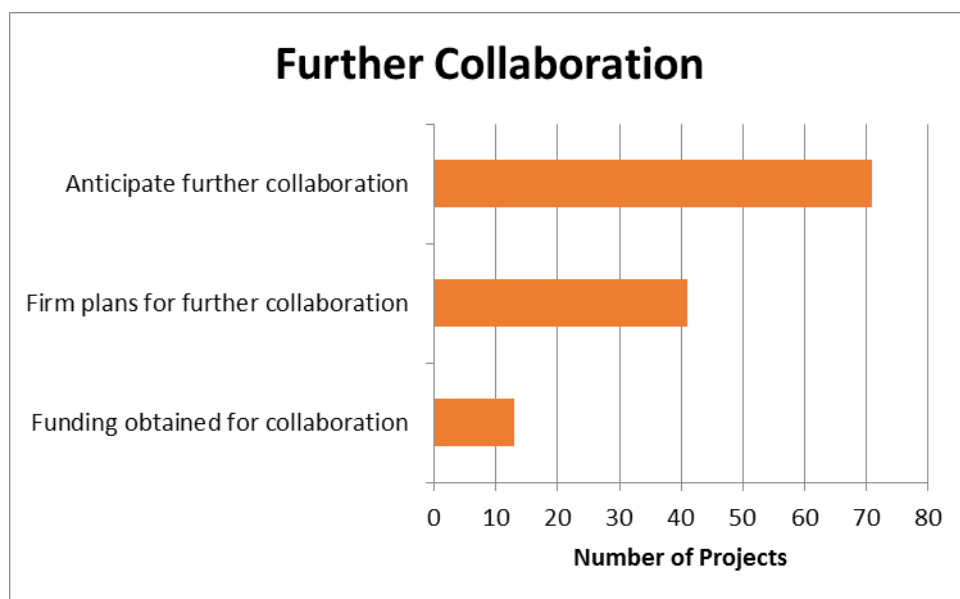
Further comments provided by the hosts concerning future collaboration were mostly specific concerning the experimental work or potential sources of funding. One host provided the following comment indicating the perceived value of TNA: "*The potential of this cooperation is excellent, the model developed during this project is important for the scientific perspectives of both <organisations>. We envision an increase of the interactions between the two institutions in the coming years. The complementarity between the fish facilities are an additional favourable element of context*".

Another host commented that "*This was indeed new collaborating activity with respect that user is coming from a country we had no contact with recently, <country>. With respect to the achieved and shown during this short project, I believe there will soon arise the issue of mutual interest and potential for a joined application for funding*".

6. FEEDBACK FROM EXPERT REVIEWERS AND SELECTION PANEL MEMBERS

6.1. Response received

The AQUAEXCEL[2020] project currently has 124 expert reviewers registered, of which eight are on the Selection Panel and are tasked with making final recommendations for each project. All were asked to contribute to this final evaluation and thirty returned forms including 3 members of the Selection Panel.

6.2. Evaluator experience and opinion

Reviewers were asked about the adequacy of information concerning the proposed work to enable them to make a recommendation on acceptance and funding. Twenty-seven responses were received with a mean score of 4.4. This suggests reviewers were mostly satisfied, but sometimes felt further information was necessary. One reviewer commented on this question as follows "*Application forms are sometimes not fully informative. However, I do not know if this is because some sections should be added or because people do not make much efforts to fill or because I do not know enough some fields*". One of the Selection Panel members also commented that forms are not always very complete: "*Some proposals are in the panel members view incomplete, meaning they have failed to present sufficient detail to judge the proposal and probably made it more time consuming for the reviewer. This might be language and to help in this area they could go to a native English speaker*".
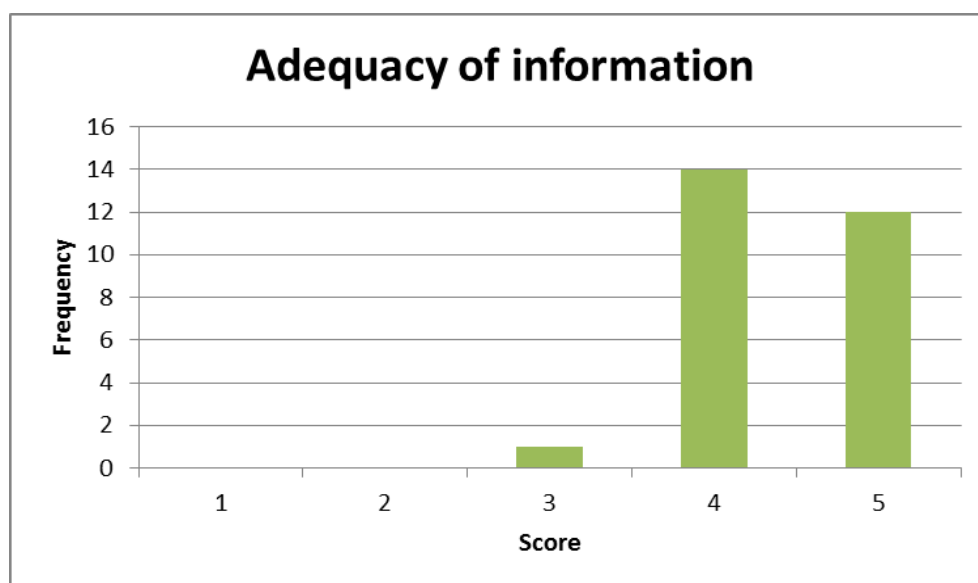
Another reviewer did suggest a specific modification: "*Information found in the application form was quite comprehensive as to allow reviewers to quickly cross link the application to the current state of the art in a given research field. In this regard, unveiling knowledge on specific ongoing parallel developments by third parties could be easily requested to applicants to allow a more precise assessment of novelty*". This suggestion was echoed by another reviewer who commented "*In future, use of core literature and citation of central references could be emphasised more than now*". Another suggestion concerned the provision of more information about the collaborating staff at the host institution: "*I often feel I have only one side of the proposal with little information on the people in the project that are*

not travelling, usually in the receiving institution. It could be good to provide more information on the receiving institution particularly the people involved in the project i.e. CVs. However, on the whole I think the balance is very good between not providing too much information making it arduous to evaluate and providing sufficient information to enable the proposals to be correctly reviewed". The balance between too little and too much information is probably dependent on each reviewer. One commented "*In general, the system looks good, however, in my opinion the proposals should be a bit longer, containing deeper information (about material and methods, for example*)" whilst another appeared to want a little less "*I am not in favour of projects listing basic equipment (e.g. Petri dish, scalpel), they should specify equipment that is not generally available and required to support the project.*"

Reviewers were then asked to rate the guidance provided on conducting the reviews and in particular the scoring system used internally for the Selection Panel. Twenty-seven responses were received to this question with a mean score of 4.5.
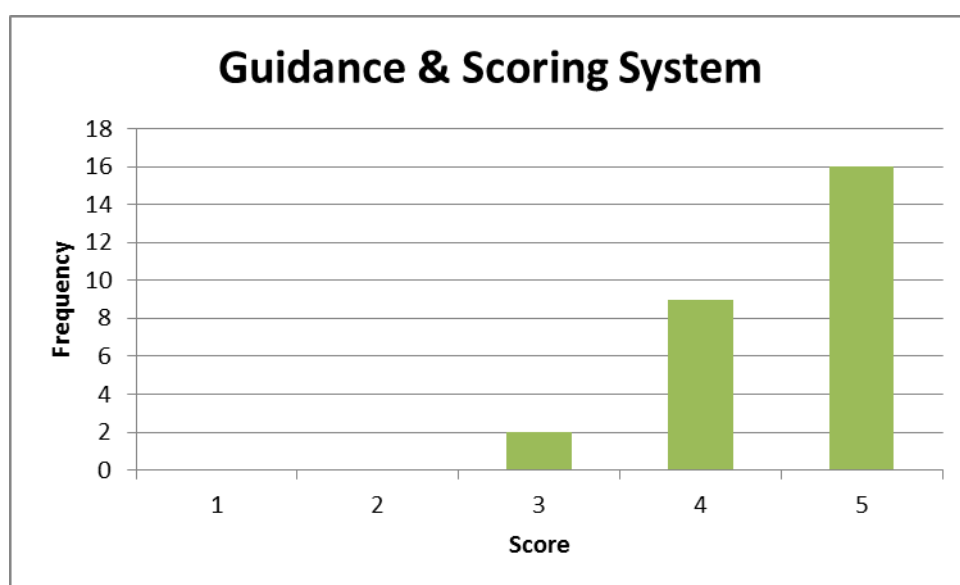
One reviewer gave the following further comments: "*The instructions given in the Guidance of score criteria were rather general and the evaluation was therefore based on reviewer's own experience and understanding of the given topics. This was however a positive feature and the five main criteria were in fact most relevant in such small-scale, short term projects. The applicants were seemingly also aware of the key selection criteria because they were well met and explained*". Another reviewer commented "*The guidelines and scoring system provided with the proposals are clear and helpful to make a valued and fair decision on the scientific value of the proposal and the potential of creating a new collaboration*". One reviewer did however make a specific suggestion on scoring: "*I would recommend adding a specific score for applicants coming from the industrial sector. It might compensate the fact that they often have a cv with a limited publication record.*"

The most substantive comments on the scoring criteria were as follows: "*I have at times struggled with scoring the various application criteria, especially criteria 1 and 2, even with the 'guidance on score criteria' at hand. This is related to the question of how much weight should be placed on the 'aquaculture-related relevance' of the project. Thus, can a fundamental research application get a top score for criterion 1 'Scientific excellence' through 'including original ideas', 'developing new techniques' and 'contributing new knowledge', even if these ideas, techniques and knowledge have nothing to do with applied aquaculture research? Similarly, I find the bullet points for evaluating criterion 2 'Expected impact' somewhat ambiguous. Again, a basic science project with no relevance to aquaculture can*

get top scores for 'Publications – type and quality' and 'Contribution to future research proposal'. Only one of the four bullet points 'Transfer to commercial sector' demands that the project is aquaculture-related. Bottom-line: I would like to have a clearer instruction on what type of research (fundamental vs applied) should be prioritized for TNA to the AQUAEXCEL^{2020} infrastructure".

Reviewers were then asked for their opinion on the administration of the selection process. Twenty-five responses were received with an average score of 4.5. The majority were satisfied or very satisfied with the administration; however, one reviewer rated it as very poor. This was directly related to the use of the online review system established after the Second Call for TNA applications. Unlike the main application system, the only compatible browser is Microsoft Explorer, which is not available to all reviewers. It was also found that reviewers' comments and scores could be lost after they had been entered into the system. After several major problems, this directly linked online system was abandoned even though it had several desirable features. The reviewer concerned commented "*I think I've reviewed four TNA project applications for AQUAEXCEL^{2020}, during 2016 and 2017. From the onset, it was a major struggle to use the on-line evaluation system. For one evaluation, the system did not save any of my input and I had to rewrite the whole thing. For the latest evaluation, I simply filled out the evaluation form off-line, so I don't know if you still have the on-line system. If not, good riddance*". Another reviewer said "*Evaluation in the website TOTALLY not operative. Have to get the files from the team and do it offline. Strange that one has to use only one kind of browser!! and even then...*"
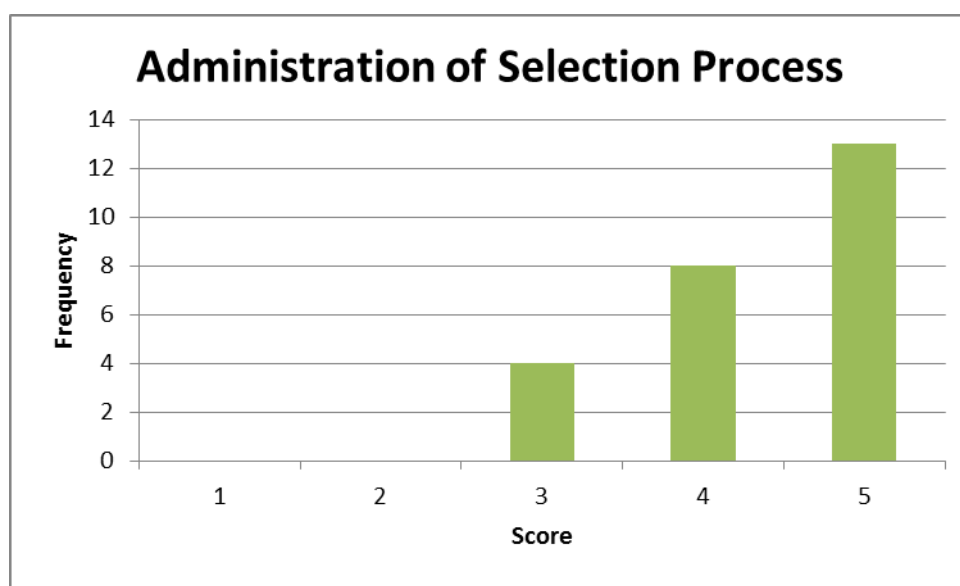
Members of the selection Panel only were asked about communications relating to Selection Panel operation. There were three responses to this question with an average score of 4. The only specific comments were that the Selection Panel process runs smoothly and is well supported and that over the five-year project the procedures adopted have greatly improved the evaluation process, guaranteeing the candidates a serious and careful assessment. In addition, the two-step selection process made the selection panel's job easier. The panel only had to decide in cases where there were doubts about the project.

Selection Panel Communication
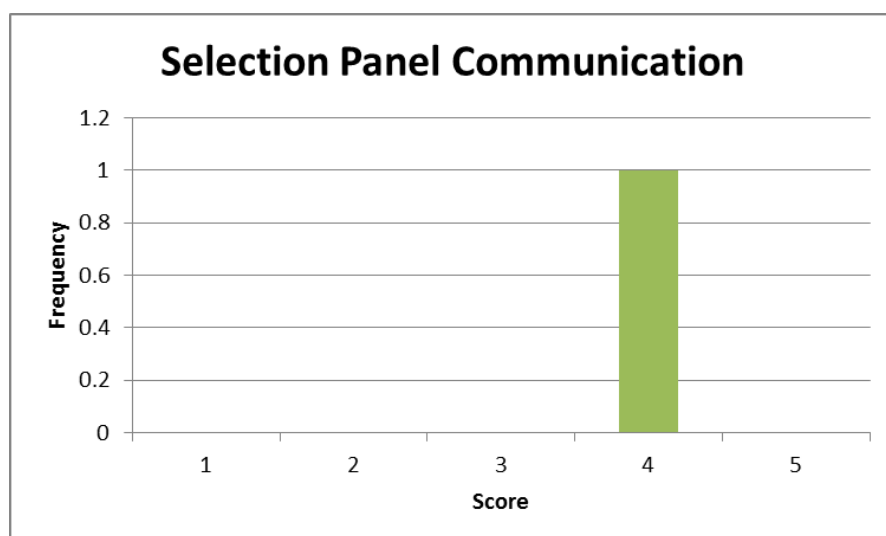
All reviewers were asked about management of the review workload. This relates to the number of reviews expected, their frequency and time allowed for reviews to be completed. There were twenty-six responses with an average score of 4.27. This lower score probably reflects the difficulty many reviewers have to fit this work in with other responsibilities and that requests for reviews inevitably arrive at difficult times. One positive comment was "*As independent reviewer, I can confirm that the TNA projects assigned to me were reviewed and conveyed to the selection panel within the timeline scheduled. Such timeline was ample enough to allow gathering collateral information to support the evaluation report as well as the final recommendation from the reviewer*". Another reviewer commented "*The schematic form together with the guidelines and the set of evaluation criteria makes the evaluation efficient, fair/standardized and based on even criteria. The workload for evaluation is very reasonable. The weighting of the different evaluation criteria seams right. Weak and strong sides of the project are easily identified. No immediate suggestions for improvements*". Another reviewer felt that "*the evaluation system works very well for me, and is time efficient!*" However one remarked that "*The last time I reviewed a TNA project, I was given 2 weeks to complete the task. I think that, in order to read the proposal thoroughly and also read additional papers to enhance the understanding of the subject and the originality of the project, two weeks is the minimum amount of time that should be granted.*"

Workload Management

Twenty-seven responding reviewers gave a rating for overall experience of TNA. This gave a mean score of 4.48. These scores reflect the range of opinions and issues raised previously.
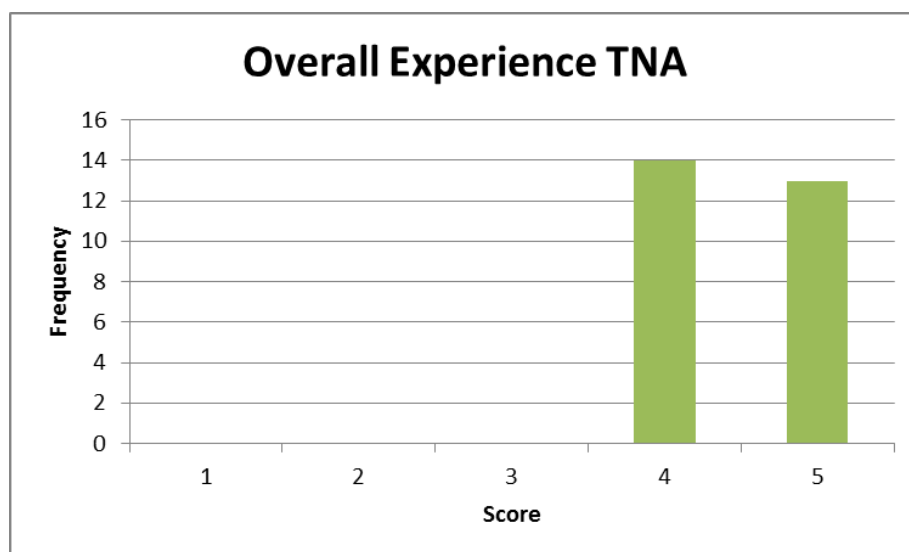
Specific quotes are:

"In my opinion the overall experience of the evaluation process has been positive and easy"

"We did not have any problem or recommendation for the selection procedure for TNA projects. All the information provided, the projects themselves and the forms to fill after the evaluation were very simple and easy to fill"

"I think that the evaluation process is fine, giving to the proponents confidence upon the decisions taken"

"The evaluation procedure for AQUAEXCEL^{2020} TNA projects is very well managed and very easy to perform"

"the instructions provided are very clear and the scoring system is ease to implement"

"the team is very attentive and helpful, always trying to conciliate everything so the process runs smoothly and within a viable timeframe"

"regarding the technical aspects of the review process, it was running very smoothly with good communication pathways between the reviewer and project management"

"the evaluation and selection procedure of AQUAEXCEL^{2020} TNA projects are excellent. I did not have any problem during the evaluation of the project. Thanks for everything"

"I have no negative comments with respect to the evaluation process. The guidelines for assessing projects were clear and the projects I was asked to evaluate were within my range of expertise. The actual processes for completing and reporting my evaluations were also simple and made it easy to provide the evaluations in a timely manner".

7. CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

7.1. Overall progress of TNA implementation

At the final evaluation point in the project, the TNA activities are generally running well. One hundred and thirty-six projects have been approved of which one hundred and twelve have been completed and six are in progress. 18 projects that have been approved have not yet started (mainly due to the Covid-19 pandemic).

Approved projects were encouraged to make use of a Term Sheet to set out the details of the project and ensure both sides are aware of each other's expectations. This was developed as Deliverable 1.2. As of July 2020, 68 TNA projects had submitted completed user agreements based on this template. Of one hundred and twelve completed projects, copies of completed term sheets were received from sixty-five (58%). Term sheets have been submitted by a further two projects currently in progress (out of six (33%). A further one term sheet has been submitted by a project that have not yet started. The overall use of terms sheets is therefore quite high considering that it is not compulsory. This is shown in the chart below (N = No, Y = Yes).
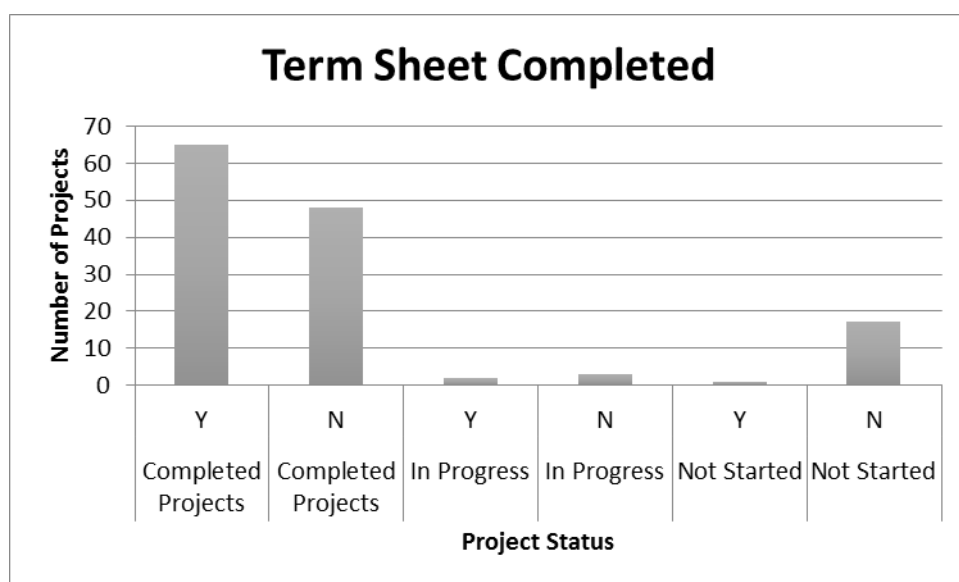
7.2. Application and selection process

The application, review and selection process has generally run well, but numerous problems were encountered during the early phase of the project. Firstly, a new online application system was delayed and could not be used for the first call for TNA. After that, problems were encountered with the reviewer side of the system. Substantial problems were encountered obtaining reviews from Expert reviewers, so significant efforts were made to recruit more and to reduce administrative delays e.g. by asking more reviewers than required in the initial stages and providing documents immediately. There was also a period of delays caused by the WP1 Coordinator taking on new duties at the University of Stirling and the time taken to recruit and train a specific administrator for the project. Whilst the time taken to process applications is still significant given the complex review process, it improved substantially over the last fourteen calls.
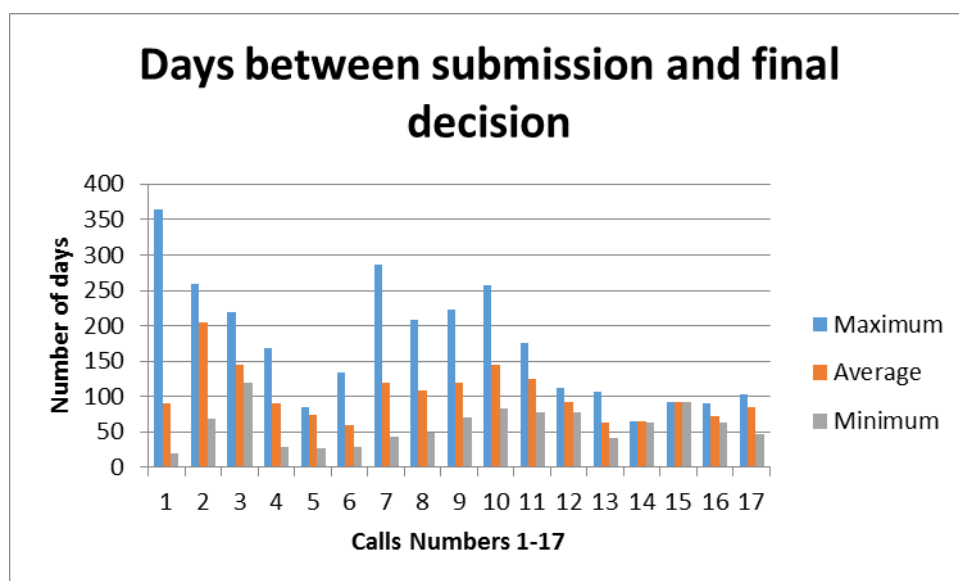
The Expert Review process was examined for all calls 1-17. The target was to obtain two expert reviews for each application. As requests for reviews can be declined or ignored it was found that on average, the mean number of reviews requested per project was 3.01 with a maximum of 14. The mean number of accepted reviews from the entire pool of Experts was 4.64 reviews ranging from 0 to 16. The overall load on individual experts should not therefore have been too onerous although a small number of experts have been more active.
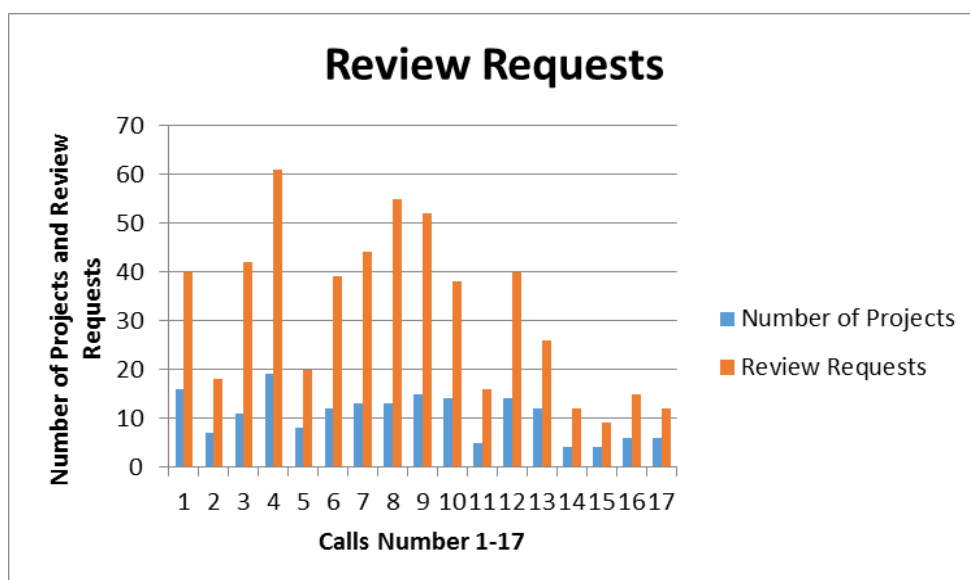
Another significant factor in delaying the final decision is that 129 applications from a total of 179 received applications (Calls 1-17) totalling 72.06% were referred back to the applicant for clarifications – mainly on grounds of ethics or scientific methodology or both etc. This increases the time between application and final decision.

	Scientific clarifications needed	Ethics clarifications needed
Number	94	81
Percentage	52.50%	45.25%

It was originally planned that ethics review would be carried out on projects after consideration by the Selection Panel. However, it was felt by the Selection Panel that they needed that information to inform their decision. The procedure was therefore changed to send applications for ethics review if they exceeded a guideline score threshold of 65 from the expert reviewers. 91% of applications in Calls 1-17 have been reviewed for ethics. The chart below shows the ethics status of the call 1-17 applications as noted by the project administration.
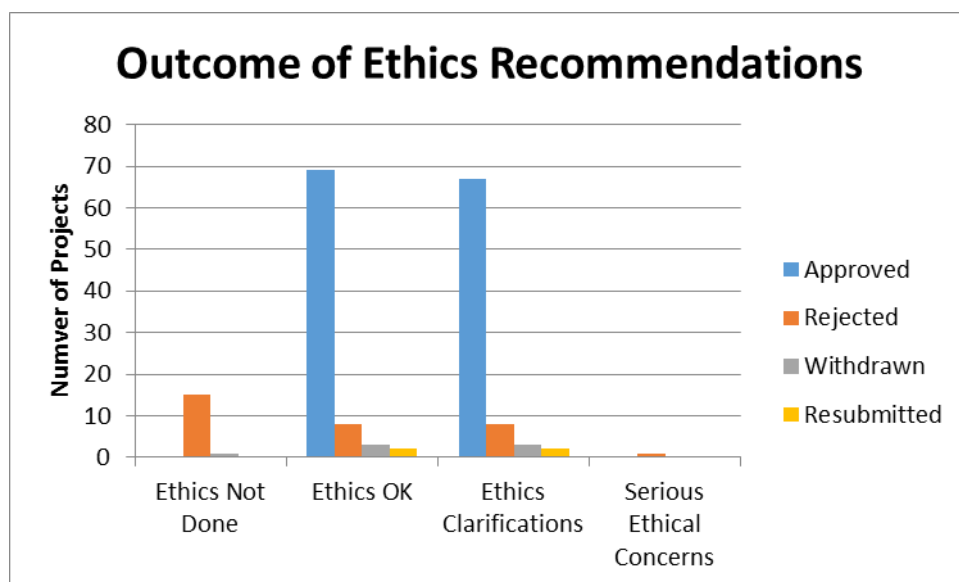
In calls 1-17 about half of the approved projects had some ethical issues identified. Most of these required further discussion with the applicant and resulted either in a modification to the work plan or a recommendation for further planning and precautions prior to project execution.

7.3. Dissemination and exploitation of results

Applicants are required to provide plans for dissemination and exploitation of results as part of the application process. The detail provided and ambition of these varies significantly and this aspect is sometimes the grounds for further questions to the applicant from the Selection Panel. Once the project is completed, details are passed on to WP2 (Task 2.2 led by Aqua TT). This WP asks users to provide information on knowledge outputs by means of a spreadsheet template "Project Catalogue". So far, these have been received from eighty-seven of the one hundred and twelve completed projects. Analysis of the outputs is carried out under WP2 leading to a selection of priority projects for presentation to industry.
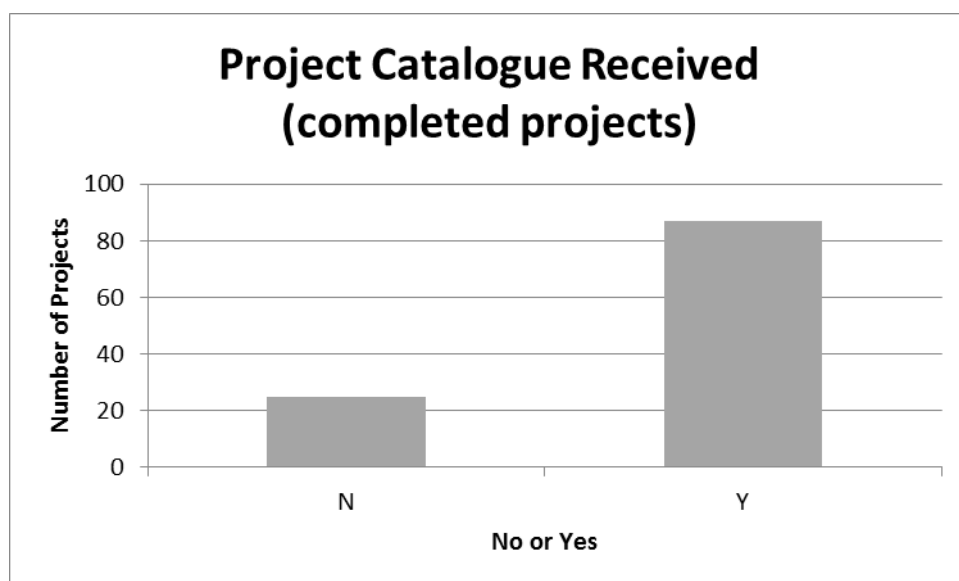
Some information on dissemination activities was also requested in the user feedback forms and the findings of that were reported in Section 4.4. As of July 2020, seventy-five users provided feedback concerning dissemination and exploitation of results. Twenty-eight projects have already published their results in a scientific journal and at least nineteen projects are expecting an article to be published in the near future. At least twenty-nine projects have given conference or workshop presentations and several more have this type of dissemination planned. Two projects have contributed to PhD thesis and one project has been the basis for a Masters thesis. Other dissemination activities include the publication of articles on an organisation's web site or in newsletters such as the AQUAEXCEL[2020] newsletter. Workpackage 4 is collating the outputs of the TNA along with those of other AQUAEXCEL[2020] workpackages, so a more comprehensive analysis of outputs and impacts will be available in Reporting Period 4 of the project. SME users are expected to use results directly and are not under the same obligations for dissemination as research organisations or large companies.

Previous experience indicates continued efforts are needed to ensure findings are properly exploited or disseminated.

7.4. Recommendations

Overall, TNA is progressing well as the end of the project approaches, although covid-19 has caused uncertainty and possible cancellation of a few. Consultations conducted to support this evaluation provided the following recommendations for further improvement:

- Promotion and publicity for AQUAEXCEL[2020] could have been further improved as most applicants found out about the project through colleagues and contacts rather than the websites or newsletters of AQUAEXCEL[2020] or the project partners. Specific information for potential TNA users is still lacking from many Infrastructure websites.

- The application form was generally considered adequate, but further guidance could be given to help users complete the sections fully. In particular, reviewers felt users should give more references to prior work, give more detailed dissemination plans and better address the EATIP Strategic Research and Innovation Priorities.

- Further guidance should be given to project reviewers concerning the expectations for TNA projects – e.g. concerning fundamental vs applied research.

- The length of time required for application processing is still too long for some applicants and infrastructures. The possibility of a fast-track system for certain types of project could have been considered. For other applicants, the lack of a clear date for announcing results was more of a concern. This could be addressed by a setting a date for results that is significantly longer than the normal processing time. However, this would not be helpful to projects working to shorter timescales. Both the length of time taken for processing and providing greater certainty over result date could be addressed by rejecting any applications as soon as there is a query, or on the first poor review. This would speed up initial processing but given that most applications did result in queries back to the applicants, it would mean that these projects would need two call cycles rather than one to be approved.

- Better communication of outcomes to reviewers was requested (and has been delivered since the interim evaluation).

- Better communication of process and status of applications is requested – although expectations vary and have workload implications.

- The most common cause of dissatisfaction from users is lack of clarity in reimbursement rates and procedures for expenses and sometimes in the rates themselves and delays in payment, especially from users in low income countries accessing facilities in high income countries. Clear documentation of this should be available from each Infrastructure and included in the Term Sheet.

- Greater efforts are required to ensure feedback forms are returned by all users, hosts and evaluators. The response of hosts has improved from the interim evaluation. Response rates for the return of other documents (such as project catalogues) also needs to be improved. The withholding of expense payments until reports have been received has been considered but rejected as unrealistic especially when PhD and early-career scientists are involved.

- Whilst a clear cycle of calls helps with promotion of TNA, it leads to uneven demands on administrative and review resources. For this reason, the period between calls was reduced from 6 months (first AQUAEXCEL project) to 3 months (AQUAEXCEL[2020]). For AQUAEXCEL 3 it is recommended that there is a rolling open call with either no deadlines, or monthly deadlines.

Glossary

AQUAEXCEL[2020]: AQUAculture Infrastructures for EXCELlence in European Fish Research towards 2020

AQUA TT	AquaTT UETP Ltd
CCMAR	Centre of Marine Sciences (University of Algarve)
CSIC	Agencia Estatal Consejo Superior de Investigaciones Cientificas
EATIP	European Aquaculture Technology & Innovation Platform
ExCom	Executive Committee
GC	Governing Council
HAKI	Research Institute for Fisheries, Aquaculture and Irrigation
HCMR	Hellenic Centre for Marine Research
IEO	Instituto Español de Oceanografía
IFREMER	Institut Français de Recherche pour l'Exploitation de la Mer
IMARES	Institute for Marine Resources and Ecosystem Studies
IMR	Havforskningsinstituttet (Institute for Marine Research)
INRA	Institut National de la Recherche Agronomique
IT	INRA Transfert S.A
JU	University of South Bohemia in Ceske Budejovice
NAIK	National Agricultural Research and Innovation Centre (Hugary)
NOFIMA	Nofima Marin AS
NTNU	Norges teknisk-naturvitenskapelige universitet
PDF	Portable Document Format (Adobe Acrobat File)
SINTEF	SINTEF Fiskeri og havbruk AS
SRA	Strategic Research Agenda (of the EATIP)
TNA	TransNational Access
UGENT	Universiteit Gent
UL	University of Lorraine
ULPGC	Universidad de las Palmas de Gran Canaria
UoS	The University of Stirling
VURH	Research Institute of Fish Culture and Hydrobiology (University of South Bohemia)
WU	Wageningen Universiteit

List of AQUAEXCEL^{2020} TNA Installations

Installation Number	CODE	Installation full name	Installation Country code
1	INRA-PEIMA	Institut National de la Recherche Agronomique - Pisciculture Expérimentale INRA des Monts d'Arrée	FR
2	INRA-STPEE	Institut National de la Recherche Agronomique - Saint Pée sur Nivelle	FR
3	INRA-IERP	Institut National de la Recherche Agronomique - Fish Infectiology Platform	FR
4	IMR-ELI	Institute of Marine Research – Matre Environmental Laboratory Installation	NO
5	IMR-CEL	Institute of Marine Research – Matre Cage Environment Laboratory	NO
6	IMR-BDL	Institute of Marine Research – Bergen Disease Laboratory	NO
7	UoS-IoA	University of Stirling – Institute of Aquaculture	GB
8	CSIC-IATS-EXP	Consejo Superior de Investigaciones Científicas- Instituto de Acuicultura Torre de la sal – Experimental Facilities	ES
9	CSIC-IATS-ANA	Consejo Superior de Investigaciones Científicas- Instituto de Acuicultura Torre de la sal – Analytical Facilities	ES
10	CSIC-IIM-EXP	Consejo Superior de Investigaciones Científicas - Instituto de Investigaciones Marinas – Experimental Facilities	ES
11	HCMR-Aqualabs-Souda	Hellenic Centre for Marine Research – Aqualabs & Souda research facilities	GR
12	HCMR-Omics-Bioinfo	Hellenic Centre for Marine Research – Genomics-Bioinformatics	GR
13	NAIK-OEPS	National Agricultural Research and Innovation Centre, Research Institute for Fisheries, Aquaculture and Irrigation (HAKI) - Outdoor experimental pond station	HU
14	NAIK-SDC	National Agricultural Research and Innovation Centre, Research Institute for Fisheries, Aquaculture and Irrigation (HAKI) - Indoor System for fish Disease Challenge	HU
15	IFREMER-PEARS	Institut Francais de Recherche pour l'Exploitation de la Mer - Palavas Experimental Aquaculture Research Station	FR
16	Nofima-NCRA	The Norwegian Institute of Food, Fisheries and Aquaculture Research -	NO

		Nofima Centre for Recirculation in Aquaculture	
17	Nofima-CFU	The Norwegian Institute of Food, Fisheries and Aquaculture Research - Nofima Cleaner Fish Experimental Unit	NO
18	Nofima-NNGS	The Norwegian Institute of Food, Fisheries and Aquaculture Research - Next Generation Sequencing of Microbiota	NO
19	JU-ICS	University of South Bohemia in Ceske Budejovice - Institute of Complex Systems	CZ
20	JU-IAPW	University of South Bohemia in Ceske Budejovice - Institute of Aquaculture and Protection of Waters	CZ
21	JU-IFA	University of South Bohemia in Ceske Budejovice – Intensive Freshwater Aquaculture Units	CZ
22	JU-GRC	University of South Bohemia in Ceske Budejovice – Laboratory of Fish Genetics and Reproduction and Hatchery	CZ
23	NTNU-CodTech	Norwegian University of Science and Technology – Cod Tech Laboratory	NO
24	NTNU-Mclab	Norwegian University of Science and Technology – Marine Cybernetics Laboratory	NO
25	SINTEF-ACE	SINTEF Fiskeri og havbruk AS - Aquaculture Engineering	NO
26	ULPGC-WWSSU	Universidad de Las Palmas de Gran Canaria, Grupo de Investigación en Acuicultura - Warm Water Species Selection Unit	ES
27	ULPGC-MBS	Universidad de Las Palmas de Gran Canaria, Grupo de Investigación en Acuicultura - Marine BioAssays Station	ES
28	ULPGC-FITU	Universidad de Las Palmas de Gran Canaria, Grupo de Investigación en Acuicultura - Feed Ingredients and Additives Testing Unit	ES
29	WU-MRU	University of Wageningen - Metabolic Research Unit	NL
30	WU-RAS	University of Wageningen - Recirculating Aquaculture Systems	NL
31	Ugent-Gen ART	University of Ghent - Gene expression in gnotobiotic Artemia	BE
32	IMARES-RECIRC	DLO-Wageningen Livestock Research - Recirculation facilities	NL
33	UL-EPA	University of Lorraine – Experimental Platform in Aquaculture	FR
34	UL-Behaviour	University of Lorraine – Hatchery & behaviour room	FR
35	DTU-VET	DTU National Veterinary Institute - Laboratory and Fish tank facilities	DK
36	CCMAR-	Centre of Marine Sciences - Ramalhete	PT

	Ramalhete	Marine Station	
37	IEO-ICRA	Instituto Español de Oceanografía - Marine Aquaculture facilities of Murcia – Bluefin tuna	ES
38	IEO-MAP	Instituto Español de Oceanografía - Marine Aquaculture facilities of Murcia – Marine Aquaculture Plant	ES
39	IEO-AquaCOV	Instituto Español de Oceanografía - Marine Aquaculture facilities of Vigo	ES

Definitions

Access provider: means the beneficiary that is in charge of providing access to the infrastructure(s) or installation(s),

Applicant: A potential user of an Infrastructure who has applied for Transnational Access

Evaluator: A person involved in reviewing applications for Transnational Access and involved in decisions on whether they should be approved for project funding; i.e. an Expert Reviewer or member of the Selection Panel or the Ethics Adviser

Expert Reviewer: A person who has scientific expertise relevant to a particular TNA application who evaluates the proposed work and makes comments and recommendations to the Selection Panel

Facility: A generic term to indicate either an Infrastructure or a specific Installation as appropriate

Host: used as shorthand for "Access provider"

Infrastructure: means a facility, a resource (or a coherent set of them) together with the related services that are used by the scientific community to conduct research.

Installation: means a part of an infrastructure that could be used independently from the rest.

Selection Panel: A group of subject experts who consider evaluations from the Expert Reviewers and their own knowledge of the subject and make decisions concerning the funding of TNA projects.

User: means a researcher within a user group, including the user group leader.

User group: means a research team of one or more researchers given access to the infrastructure under the project. Each user group is led by a user group leader.

TNA Call Schedule

Call	Opened	Closed		Call	Opened	Closed
1	11/02/2016	11/03/2016		10	06/04/2018	14/05/2018
2	07/06/2016	08/07/2016		11	06/07/2018	10/08/2018
3	06/09/2016	14/10/2016		12	12/10/2018	16/11/2018
4	06/12/2016	13/01/2017		13	28/01/2019	08/03/2019
5	28/02/2017	17/04/2017		14	29/04/2019	07/06/2019
6	19/06/2017	12/07/2017		15	29/07/2019	13/09/2019
7	31/07/2017	25/09/2017		16	28/10/2019	06/12/2019
8	30/10/2017	08/12/2017		17	27/01/2020	06/03/2020
9	29/01/2018	09/03/2018				

Selection Panel Meeting Dates

29/03/2016	28/09/2017	15/08/2018	26/06/2019
17/05/2016	16/11/2017	07/09/2018	15/08/2019
09/06/2016	14/12/2017	10/10/2018	08/10/2019
10/03/2017	18/01/2018	30/10/2018	30/10/2019
03/04/2017	07/02/2018	20/11/2018	18/12/2019
25/04/2017	15/03/2018	12/12/2018	12/02/2020
16/05/2017	05/04/2018	06/02/2019	11/03/2020
31/05/2017	25/04/2018	20/02/2019	22/04/2020
19/06/2017	10/05/2018	13/03/2019	17/06/2020
27/07/2017	22/05/2018	23/04/2019	
30/08/2017	20/06/2018	08/05/2019	
13/09/2017	18/07/2018	24/05/2019	

Document information

EU Project N°	652831	**Acronym**	AQUAEXCEL[2020]
Full Title	AQUAculture Infrastructures for EXCELlence in European Fish Research towards 2020		
Project website	www.aquaexcel2020.eu		

Deliverable	**N°**	D1.5	**Title**	Final Evaluation of the Access Given
Work Package	**N°**	1	**Title**	One-stop access to EU aquaculture RIs

Date of delivery	**Contractual**	30/07/2020 (Month 58)	**Actual**	30/9/2020 (Month 60)
Dissemination level	X	**PU Public, fully open, e.g. web**		
		CO Confidential, restricted under conditions set out in Model Grant Agreement		
		CI Classified, information as referred to in Commission Decision 2001/844/EC.		

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Version log			
Issue Date	**Revision N°**	**Author**	**Change**

Additional Annexes

List of Approved TNA Projects by Infrastructure

List of Approved Projects by TNA code with User Names

User Evaluation Form

Host Evaluation Form

Reviewer Evaluation Form

User TNA Application Form

Application Form Guidance Document

TNA Evaluation Form

TNA Evaluation Guide

TNA Projects by Host Organisation

Organisation Name	Centre of Marine Sciences			Country	Portugal	

Infrastructure Code	CCMAR-Ramalhete	Infrastructure Name	Ramalhete Marine Station			
Application Code	**Acronym**	**Short Name**		**Status**	**Start Date**	**End Date**
AE080052	Phosphobass	Effects of dietary phosphorus		completed	08/05/2018	10/12/2018
AE090024	MUCUSTRESSTO	Salinity on sea bass mucus		completed	16/10/2018	07/12/2018
AE130009	MELASOLE	Melatonin & gamete quality		completed	04/06/2019	31/08/2019
AE130010	REPROSOLE	Sperm quality in a flatfish		completed	04/06/2019	31/08/2019

Organisation Name	Consejo Superior de Investigaciones Científicas			Country	Spain	

Infrastructure Code	CSIC-IATS-ANA		Infrastructure Name	Instituto de Acuicultura Torre de la sal		

Application Code	Acronym	Short Name	Status	Start Date	End Date
AE010004	INTEBREAM	Intestinal integrity	completed	01/03/2016	28/05/2016
AE030014	DISRUPBREAM	Seabream Endocrine Disruption	completed	09/05/2017	30/06/2017
AE030036	AGDBIOMAR	AGD pathogenesis biomarkers	completed	12/03/2017	07/04/2017
AE040085	IMPROV-SEABASS	Fish dietary immunomodulation	completed	01/11/2017	30/11/2017
AE070025	DISH	ISH for D. lepeophtherii	completed	19/02/2018	17/03/2018
AE150004	MAS_BREAM	Sea bream diets and microbiota	completed	11/05/2020	10/06/2020

Infrastructure Code	CSIC-IATS-EXP		Infrastructure Name	Instituto de Acuicultura Torre de la sal		

Application Code	Acronym	Short Name	Status	Start Date	End Date
AE050029	OestroFish	Effects of oestradiol on the adaptive immune system of sea bass	completed	02/11/2017	25/02/2018
AE090016	PLASTICARTEMIA	Plastic effects on Artemia	completed	15/10/2018	09/11/2018
AE090027	INSECTFISH	D. labrax fed by T. molitor	completed	15/10/2018	28/10/2018
AE130011	LABFORTIFEEDBR	LAB-fortified feed for seabream	completed	01/10/2019	20/12/2019
AE150009	EGGPEPFISH	EWH bioactive effects in fish	in progress		
AE160010	MyxoPlanB	Identification of B-cell signatures during the infection with Enteromyxum leei	in progress		

AE170009   BREAMREPLACER   Fishmeal replacer in sea bream   in progress

			Country	Belgium		
Organisation Name	Ghent University					

Infrastructure Code	Ugent-Gen ART	Infrastructure Name	Gene expression in gnotobiotic Artemia			
Application Code	Acronym	Short Name		Status	Start Date	End Date
AE060012	BIOLUMART	V.campbelli via Artemia to cod		completed	01/03/2019	29/03/2019
AE080048	Pirdetox	Degradation of EMS/AHPND toxin		completed	04/11/2018	05/02/2019
AE090032	GCONVIBRIO	Stress hormone on vibrios		completed	20/11/2018	20/01/2019
AE110015	GArt	archaea-gnotobiotic Artemia		completed	01/01/2019	30/03/2019
AE120027	MICROBIOTA	Host-microbial via Artemia		completed	01/04/2019	30/06/2019

Organisation Name	Havforskningsinstituttet - Institute of Marine Research				Country	Norway	

Infrastructure Code	IMR-CEL		Infrastructure Name	Matre CEL			

Application Code	Acronym	Short Name			Status	Start Date	End Date
AE150010	Sal-ploidy	Effects of salinity on growth and welfare of triploid salmon			not started		

Infrastructure Code	IMR-ELI		Infrastructure Name	Matre ELI			

Application Code	Acronym	Short Name			Status	Start Date	End Date
AE040061	ENDOPUFA	EPA & DHA production in salmon			completed	07/08/2017	10/11/2017
AE100018	FeSealice	Host Fe & sea lice infestation			not started		

Organisation Name	Hellenic Centre for Marine Research			Country	Greece	

Infrastructure Code	HCMR-Aqualabs-So	Infrastructure Name	Aqualabs-Souda			

Application Code	Acronym	Short Name	Status	Start Date	End Date
AE040040	IMPRovES	Treated IM in fish feeds	completed	24/04/2017	22/08/2017
AE040069	AIRE PROGRAMM	Effects of pollen in meagre	completed	01/07/2018	30/10/2018
AE040092	Algae-clay	Algae extracts dietary support	completed	01/03/2018	31/05/2018
AE100020	LSAQUASCP	Bacterial SCP for aquafeeds	completed	01/02/2019	01/08/2019
AE100025	WIMSS	Sea Bass/Bream Welfare Model	completed	01/10/2018	17/10/2019
AE130016	TIMING	Ontogeny for mullet research	completed	10/06/2019	09/08/2019
AE130019	aLCATRAz	Phage therapy in aquaculture	completed	29/07/2019	29/08/2019
AE130023	TRACE-DOWNFIS	TM-balanced diets for Bass	completed	01/09/2019	19/12/2019
AE140006	EMULSIFAQUA	Emulsifiers in aquafeed	not started		
AE140007	FISHSCALEID	Non-invasive fish identification - scale patterns	completed	10/11/2019	22/01/2020
AE170007	ADVENTURE	Aquaculture process modelling	not started		

Infrastructure Code	HCMR-Omics-Bioinf	Infrastructure Name	Genomics-Bioinformatics			

Application Code	Acronym	Short Name	Status	Start Date	End Date
AE060006	MeagreGenetics	Meagre genetic evaluation	completed	01/07/2018	31/07/2020
AE080035	MeditGen	Medfish quality genomes	completed	01/10/2018	30/05/2019

AE120006	Chi-SEA	Chitinase genes in sea bream		completed	19/05/2019	09/10/2019
AE120022	TranOvMullet	Transcriptome of mullet ovary		completed	01/09/2019	31/12/2019
AE140008	Genomullet	Grey mullet draft genome		not started		

Organisation Name	Institut français de recherche pour l'exploitation de la mer			Country	France	

Infrastructure Code	IFREMER-PEARS	Infrastructure Name	Palavas Experimental Aquaculture Research Station			

Application Code	Acronym	Short Name	Status	Start Date	End Date
AE020007	FISSAIREF	Automated fish sampling in RAS	completed	06/06/2017	13/06/2017
AE040073	Transsexbass	Trans-generational epigenetic and genomic influence on sex ratio in sea bass	completed	14/03/2017	17/04/2018
AE120016	PhenoBass	Physiology of feed efficiency	completed	20/04/2019	19/07/2019
AE160011	SEABASS EARLY LI	Physiological and behavioral responses of European seabass to environmental factors applied in early life	not started		

Organisation Name	Instituto Espanol de Oceanografia			Country	Spain	

Infrastructure Code IEO-AquaCOV **Infrastructure Name** Centro Oceanográfico de Vigo

Application Code	Acronym	Short Name	Status	Start Date	End Date
AE050063	OctoGrowth	OctoGrowth	completed	05/08/2017	30/07/2018
AE120003	COPPLAST	Microplastics toxicity in fish	completed	14/06/2019	21/06/2019

Infrastructure Code IEO-ICRA **Infrastructure Name** Infrastructure for controlling the reproduction of the bluefin tuna

Application Code	Acronym	Short Name	Status	Start Date	End Date
AE160008	TUNAMOTION	Acoustic particle motion measurements on bluefin tuna in aquaculture tanks	not started		

Infrastructure Code IEO-MAP **Infrastructure Name** Marine Aquaculture Plant

Application Code	Acronym	Short Name	Status	Start Date	End Date
AE010014	PHYSLARVA	Physiological Limits of Cultured Fishes	completed	12/04/2017	11/07/2017
AE090015	TUNATIME	Lipid metabolism rhythmicity	completed	24/06/2018	11/08/2018
AE120023	SUSTITUNA	Sustainable feeds for tuna	completed	05/08/2019	24/08/2019

Organisation Name	l'institut national de recherche pour l'agriculture, l'alimentation et l'e			Country	France	

Infrastructure Code	INRA-IERP	Infrastructure Name	Fish Infection Platform			
Application Code	Acronym	Short Name		Status	Start Date	End Date
AE030051	SVCV-MucoVacc	SVCV mucosal vaccines		completed	09/12/2016	14/12/2016

Infrastructure Code	INRA-PEIMA	Infrastructure Name	Pisciculture Expérimentale INRA des Monts d'Arrée			
Application Code	Acronym	Short Name		Status	Start Date	End Date
AE040011	HSI4DIET	Hyperspectral for Fish Diet		completed	24/07/2017	01/03/2018
AE080016	HSI4FILQU	Hyperspectral for fish fillet		completed	30/09/2018	07/10/2018
AE160012	AQUAWASTE	Aquaponics as an Economic Incentive to Aquaculture Waste Treatment		not started		

Infrastructure Code	INRA-STPEE	Infrastructure Name	INRA St Pee			
Application Code	Acronym	Short Name		Status	Start Date	End Date
AE040042	BeyondColour	Astaxanthin physiology in salmonids: beyond colour		completed	15/09/2017	08/03/2018
AE060014	ZiCLiMP	Mineral & Metabolic plasticity		completed	01/05/2019	31/07/2019
AE120008	LSAQUA SCP TRO	SCP in Rainbow Trout diet		completed	31/10/2019	22/11/2019
AE120017	HIFTOR	Linking HIF and TOR responses		in progress	29/06/2019	
AE130020	SYLPRO4TROUT	Evaluation of SylPro protein rich feed ingredient in trout.		completed	15/09/2019	08/09/2020

Organisation Name	National Agricultural Research and Innovation Centre			Country	Hungary	

Infrastructure Code	NAIK-OEPS	Infrastructure Name	Outdoor experimental pond station			

Application Code	Acronym	Short Name		Status	Start Date	End Date
AE130025	FRACTIONALCARP	Fractional factorial carp		completed	29/05/2019	04/09/2019

Infrastructure Code	NAIK-SDC	Infrastructure Name	Indoor System for Fish Disease Challenge			

Application Code	Acronym	Short Name		Status	Start Date	End Date
AE010001	LAPPAQ	LAB for pike perch aquaculture		completed	01/04/2016	22/05/2016
AE040027	LABRAWEAN	Lactobacilli for rapid weaning		completed	04/10/2017	24/03/2018
AE110018	PIKEPERCHSPER	PIKEPERCHSPERM		completed	15/10/2019	15/11/2019
AE130001	PROFEE	Probiotics for first feeding		completed	01/10/2019	06/02/2020

Organisation Name	Norwegian Institute of Food, Fisheries and Aquaculture Research			Country	Norway	

Infrastructure Code NOFIMA-CFU   **Infrastructure Name** Cleaner Fish Experimental Unit

Application Code	Acronym	Short Name	Status	Start Date	End Date
AE040063	Lump-Brood-Tem	Temp & Lumpfish Broodstock	completed	29/05/2017	26/08/2017
AE100022	LUMPGROWTHQ	Lumpfish Juvenile Growth QTL	completed	25/10/2018	18/06/2019
AE100026	LUMPEGGPIGME	Lumpfish egg pigments	completed	25/10/2018	30/06/2019

Infrastructure Code Nofima-NCRA   **Infrastructure Name** Nofima Centre for Recirculation in Aquaculture

Application Code	Acronym	Short Name	Status	Start Date	End Date
AE050006	FISHID	Personalized aquaculture - non-invasive real-time fish identification	completed	09/02/2018	02/08/2018

Organisation Name	Norwegian University of Science and Technology		Country	Norway	

Infrastructure Code	NTNU-CodTech	Infrastructure Name	Cod Tech	

Application Code	Acronym	Short Name	Status	Start Date	End Date
AE050060	PROTOFISH	Protists in larval nutrition	completed	07/04/2019	31/05/2019
AE070019	antimicroalgae	Antimicrobial microalgae	completed	09/04/2018	22/05/2018
AE170011	Dieteffectsonlum	Diet effects on lumpfish larvae	not started		

Organisation Name	SINTEF Ocean AS				Country	Norway	

Infrastructure Code	SINTEF-ACE	Infrastructure Name	Aquaculture Engineering				
Application Code	Acronym	Short Name			Status	Start Date	End Date
AE060035	U-CAT for Aqua fa	U-CAT for Aqua farm			completed	27/05/2018	03/06/2018
AE090026	AquaFlow	AquaFlow			completed	19/08/2019	01/10/2019
AE120015	SMARTFEEDINGS	SMART SENSOR FOR FEED SAVING			completed	16/09/2019	27/09/2019

Organisation Name	Stichting Wageningen Research			Country	Netherlands	

Infrastructure Code	IMARES-RECIRC	Infrastructure Name	Recirculation Facilities			

Application Code	Acronym	Short Name	Status	Start Date	End Date
AE030028	STEC	Swim to enhance cognition	completed	01/09/2017	01/12/2017
AE100004	PURESTURGEON	EXERCISE EFFECT ON DEPURATION	completed	03/04/2019	31/05/2019
AE120002	GeneComp	Genes and growth compensation	completed	18/08/2019	05/10/2019
AE160009	ACTIVEBREAM	Linking swimming activity and active metabolic rate of gilthead seabream (Sparus aurata) in swim-tunnels.	completed	01/03/2020	31/03/2020

Organisation Name	Technical University of Denmark				Country	Denmark

Infrastructure Code	DTU-VET	Infrastructure Name	National Veterinary Institute	

Application Code	Acronym	Short Name	Status	Start Date	End Date
AE020019	FISHPOX	Salmon gill poxvirus challenge	completed	22/09/2016	30/10/2016
AE060027	RMS	Is RMS vectorized by Ich.?	completed	25/09/2017	18/11/2017
AE060033	RBBT	PRV-3 infection of Rainbow tro	completed	11/10/2017	22/12/2017
AE080025	VIRRAVBNVLF	Viral infections in lumpfish	completed	20/08/2019	20/09/2018
AE080049	IPNSWE6	IPN6 infection dynamics	completed	11/07/2019	13/08/2019
AE110004	RMS	effect of temperature on RMS	completed	01/09/2019	31/12/2019

Organisation Name	Universidad de las Palmas de Gran Canaria		Country	Spain	

Infrastructure Code	ULPGC-FITU	Infrastructure Name	Feed Ingredients and Additives Testing Unit		

Application Code	Acronym	Short Name	Status	Start Date	End Date
AE010005	POLYPHENOLS	Polyphenol project	completed	05/10/2016	06/12/2016
AE020014	CAMOILBREAM	Camelina oil in seabream feed	completed	29/11/2017	07/03/2018
AE060023	MeagreEFA	Specific diets for meagre	completed	09/10/2017	20/12/2017
AE100014	CopperFeed	Copper importance in fish	completed	06/11/2018	19/04/2019
AE100016	DietsINLARVI	Diets evaluation in new spp	completed	03/06/2018	02/03/2019
AE100019	EMEG18	Vitamins in Octopus of culture	not started		
AE160006	PADEPUFAS	Modification of Exogenos PUFAs	not started		

Infrastructure Code	ULPGC-MBS	Infrastructure Name	Marine BioAssays Station		

Application Code	Acronym	Short Name	Status	Start Date	End Date
AE020017	TRANSOIL	GM-derived oils in aquafeeds	completed	01/04/2017	30/06/2017
AE040041	BreamAA	Functional diets for seabream	completed	10/11/2017	11/12/2017
AE110021	VALORSAJ	Microalgae for seabream	cancelled		
AE150013	SavEFish	Aluminum in Fish Vaccines	not started		

Infrastructure Code	ULPGC-WWSSU	Infrastructure Name	Warm Water Species Selection Unit			

Application Code	Acronym	Short Name	Status	Start Date	End Date
AE060028	HEXAFEED	Insects for European sea bass	completed	19/09/2017	17/12/2017
AE070008	RHODOFILTER	Rhodolith biofilters	completed	28/04/2018	05/05/2018
AE070020	SeabassPP	Sustainable diets for seabass	not started		
AE090028	BREAMNUTPROG	Bream nutritional programming	completed	06/05/2019	28/05/2019

Organisation Name	University of Lorraine			Country	France

Infrastructure Code	UL-EPA	Infrastructure Name	Experimental Platform for Aquaculture	

Application Code	Acronym	Short Name	Status	Start Date	End Date
AE040035	photoperiodpikep	Photoperiod and immunity	completed	02/10/2017	02/02/2018
AE060011	EuropeanperchRA	Effect of perch origin in RAS	completed	01/04/2018	20/07/2018
AE070021	PERLIGHT	Controlled spawning of perch	completed	03/02/2018	01/03/2018
AE090022	CRYOPERCH	Perch sperm investigation	completed	28/02/2019	17/10/2019

Organisation Name	University of South Bohemia			Country	Czech Republic	

Infrastructure Code	JU-GRC	Infrastructure Name	Laboratory of Fish Genetics and Reproduction and Hatchery			
Application Code	Acronym	Short Name		Status	Start Date	End Date
AE040044	r-stGtHs	rLH, rFSH in sterlet in-vivo		completed	16/04/2018	27/04/2018
AE040049	Diploidgametes	Diploid gametes production		completed	24/02/2019	09/03/2019
AE040071	CARPBANK	In vivo gene bank of carp		completed	21/08/2017	03/09/2017
AE080005	ISDCOAG	Cryopreservation of Sperm		completed	20/03/2019	03/04/2019

Infrastructure Code	JU-IAPW	Infrastructure Name	Institute of Aquaculture and Protection of Water			
Application Code	Acronym	Short Name		Status	Start Date	End Date
AE070013	CROSSIMMUNEFI	cross reactive antibodies fish		completed	05/08/2019	31/08/2019
AE070016	PESTAPONICS	Pesticides in aquaponics		completed	02/07/2019	05/02/2020
AE070018	HUFACARPQUALI	Postmortem quality of carp		completed	06/10/2018	03/11/2018
AE070026	SanHer	Insect meal in pikeperch diets		completed	18/04/2018	18/07/2018
AE080004	HypoxiFISH	Hypoxia in Pike-perch		completed	29/07/2018	10/09/2018
AE080038	PerchFit	Fitness in Eurasian perch		completed	17/11/2019	31/01/2020
AE170012	HSfishIM	HS and fish immunity		not started		

Infrastructure Code	JU-ICS	Infrastructure Name		Institute of Complex Systems			
Application Code	Acronym	Short Name			Status	Start Date	End Date
AE050070	FISHSOUNDS	Fish sounds localization			completed	01/11/2017	28/11/2017
AE090018	NanoFeed	nanoparticle in fish food			completed	31/08/2018	27/09/2018

Infrastructure Code	JU-IFA	Infrastructure Name		Intensive Freshwater Aquaculture Units			
Application Code	Acronym	Short Name			Status	Start Date	End Date
AE030061	PRO-CARP	Progestin and carp larvae			completed	27/07/2017	13/11/2017
AE050004	OXYPIKE	Oxygen in pikeperch culture			completed	20/10/2018	01/12/2018
AE050072	Shallot_CARP	Shallot immunostimulation			completed	09/04/2018	18/05/2018

Organisation Name	University of Stirling		Country	United Kingdom	

Infrastructure Code	UoS-IoA	Infrastructure Name	Institute of Aquaculture		

Application Code	Acronym	Short Name	Status	Start Date	End Date
AE010002	AMVI2016	Advanced method for viral identification	completed	11/09/2016	28/11/2016
AE010006	OXIHEALTHMEAG	Oxitative status of meagre	completed	29/08/2016	23/10/2016
AE050057	MYCOTOX	Mycotoxins in aquaculture	completed	28/06/2017	03/09/2017
AE060030	NEUROLARVAE	Pathways for metamorphosis	completed	07/06/2018	06/09/2018
AE070010	SAF1-LCDV-NGS	In vitro LCDV assays and NGS	completed	14/05/2018	12/08/2018
AE070014	PHYTOAQUA	PHYTOAQUA	not started		
AE080015	esB.IG.FISH	In-situ hybridization on ESB	completed	09/04/2018	29/06/2018
AE080042	oxidativpikeperch	Oxidative status of pikeperch	completed	06/08/2018	17/10/2018
AE080044	UTOP	Health biomarkers for Tilapia	completed	28/09/2018	28/12/2018
AE120007	IntestinalMicrobi	Faecal and mucosal microbiota	completed	05/06/2019	05/07/2019
AE120009	NITRICOXIDELAR	Nitric oxide metamorphosis	completed	01/07/2019	08/09/2019

Organisation Name	Wageningen University			Country	Netherlands	

Infrastructure Code	WU-MRU	Infrastructure Name	Metabolic Research Unit			
Application Code	**Acronym**	**Short Name**		**Status**	**Start Date**	**End Date**
AE090023	Activating enzym	Improving feed digestibility		completed	01/06/2018	31/07/2018
AE100021	NEAAEM	NE-AA & energy metabolism		completed	11/09/2019	22/10/2019
AE170006	EXIMIUM	PROMIC and EXIMIUM		not started		

Infrastructure Code	WU-RAS	Infrastructure Name	Recirculating Aquaculture Systems			
Application Code	**Acronym**	**Short Name**		**Status**	**Start Date**	**End Date**
AE090011	OFFRAS	Off-flavor prevention in RAS		completed	01/02/2019	20/03/2019
AE090029	AminRAS	Minerals in RAS feeds		completed	03/09/2019	12/12/2019

YOUR PROJECT DETAILS

1.01 AQUAEXCEL^{2020} project reference number:

1.02   Date this form was completed:

1.03   Name of the person completing this form:

1.04   E-mail address of the person completing this form:

1.05   Version (use 01 for the first version and 02, 03 etc for subsequent versions):

1.06   Infrastructure/facility used:

1.07   Project acronym:

1.08   Project title:

1.09   Lead researcher name:

1.10   Lead researcher organization name:

1.11   Name(s) of any other people participating in the visit:

1.12   Date of project commencement:

1.13   Start date of first visit:

1.14   End date of last visit:

1.15   Explanation of number, type and duration of visits:

CHOICE OF INFRASTRUCTURE

2.01   How did you become aware of the AQUAEXCEL^{2020} Project and opportunities for TNA?

2.02   What were the reasons for selecting your host infrastructure?

2.03   Did you consider other infrastructures? If so, which ones?

2.04   Did you receive any advice on selecting an Infrastructure? If so, who from?

2.05   Comment on the quality of any advice you received when selecting a host infrastructure

2.06   If AQUAEXCEL^{2020} funding were not available, would you still have
        been able to carry out your work at this research infrastructure?

2.07   Please give the reasons for your answer:

PROJECT IMPLEMENTATION

3.01   Give details of any issues arising in implementing the project such as difficulties
        encountered and/or how recommendations of the Selection Panel or Ethics Adviser were
        addressed:

PROJECT OUTPUTS AND DISSEMINATION

4.01   Have you completed a Knowledge Capture Template
       (AQUAEXCEL[2020] Project Catalogue)?

If no, please complete the AQUAEXCEL2020 Project Catalogue template and submit with this form. If yes but you have additional project output(s) now, please complete a new Project Catalogue template for these and submit with this form. (Templates can be requested from Claudia Jung: Claudia@aquatt.ie)
.

4.02   The Project Catalogue captures information on all outputs from the project; however you can use the space below to draw attention to any notable publications, presentations or websites resulting from the project.

4.03   Add information on any planned (but not yet delivered) outputs:

4.04   Describe the actions you have carried out to disseminate your project results to (a) the academic community, (b) industry, (c) government, (d) wider civic society, or (e) other (please specify):

4.05   Describe any future actions you expect to take to disseminate your project results:

PROJECT IMPACT (EXPLOITATION OF RESULTS)

5.01   Describe how the results of your project are being used, or how they are expected to be used in the future:

5.02   Comment on the main achievements of your project and whether these match original objectives:

TNA EXPERIENCE

On a scale of 1 (poor) to 5 (excellent) how would you rate your experience of AQUAEXCEL[2020] Transnational Access with respect to the following criteria:

6.01   Publicity provided by the AQUAEXCEL[2020] project

6.02   Publicity provided by the infrastructure

6.03   Practical information provided on how to apply for access

6.04   The online application system

6.05   Usefulness of feedback from Evaluators and/or Ethics Adviser

6.06   Information provided, once your project was accepted, on how to use the facility

6.07   Quality and suitability of the facilities of the host institution

6.08   Scientific support to set up your experiments and interpret the results

6.09   Technical support to make best use of the installation(s)

6.10   Logistic support at the facility (office space, computing, libraries, accommodation)

6.11   Administrative support (including the reimbursement of travel & subsistence expenses)

6.12   The intellectual environment

6.13   Overall rating of your experience of AQUAEXCEL[2020] TNA

6.14   Please comment further on your scores, giving your recommendations for improvements in the future or any other comments not included elsewhere:

FUTURE COLLABORATION

7.01   Do you expect to collaborate again with this Infrastructure/host
        organization in the future?

7.02   If yes, do you have specific plans? (Provide further details):

7.03   If yes, do you have funding? (Provide further details):

7.04   Please add any further comments on the potential for future collaboration with
        the host organization:

OTHER COMMENTS

8.01   Please provide any further comments or suggestions concerning your access to
        the research infrastructure or the AQUAEXCEL[2020] project in general:

THANK YOU FOR YOUR FEEDBACK

9.01   Have you completed the Commission evaluation questionnaire at:
        http://bit.ly/2qWGtCZ ?

        If no, please do so as soon as your project is complete.

Return this form to the TNA Coordinator via the SUBMIT button. If
that does not work, save the completed PDF form and e-mail it to
j.c.bostock@stir.ac.uk.

PROJECT DETAILS

1.01   AQUAEXCEL^{2020} project reference number:

1.02   Project acronym:

1.03   Date this form completed:

1.04   Name of person completing this form:

1.05   E-mail address of person completing this form:

1.06   Role of person completing this form in respect of this project:

1.07   Version (use 01 for the first version and 02, 03 etc for subsequent versions):

1.08   Infrastructure/facility used:

VISITOR INFORMATION:

1.09   Lead researcher name:

1.10   Lead researcher organization:

1.11   Name(s) of any other people participating in the visit:

1.12   Date of project commencement:

1.13   Start date of first visit:

1.14   End date of last visit:

1.15   Explanation of number, type and duration of visits:

PROJECT BENEFITS

2.01   Summarize any particular achievements, impacts or benefits of the project for your organization

PROJECT IMPLEMENTATION

3.01   Summarize any issues arising in implementing the project such as difficulties encountered and/or how recommendations of the Selection Panel or Ethics Adviser were addressed:

TNA EXPERIENCE

On a scale of 1 (poor) to 5 (excellent) how would you rate your experience of AQUAEXCEL[2020] Transnational Access with respect to the following criteria:

4.01   Coordination of TNA applications and evaluations:

4.02   Usefulness of feedback from Evaluators and/or Ethics Adviser:

4.03   Attitude of users and ability to integrate with work practices of host institution:

4.04   Quality of communication with visiting researchers prior to the first visit:

4.05   Quality of work carried out by visiting researchers:

4.06   Overall rating of your experience of AQUAEXCEL[2020] TNA:

4.07   Comment further on your scores, giving your recommendations for improvements in the future or any other comments not included elsewhere:

FUTURE COLLABORATION

5.01   Do you expect to collaborate again with this user in the future?

5.02   If yes, please give further details

5.03   If yes, do you have funding and from what source?

5.04   Please add any further comments on the potential for future collaboration with the user:

THANK YOU FOR YOUR FEEDBACK

Return this form to the TNA Coordinator via the following button. If that does not work, save the completed PDF form and e-mail it to j.c.bostock@stir.ac.uk.

Evaluator Feedback

EVALUATOR DETAILS

1.1   Name of person completing this form:

1.2   Date this form completed:

1.3   E-mail address of person completing this form:

1.4   Role of person completing this form in respect of this project:

1.5   Version (use 01 for the first version and 02, 03 etc for subsequent versions):

EVALUATION PROCESS

2.1   Please comment on the evaluation and selection procedure for AQUAEXCEL^{2020} TNA projects, highlighting any problems and making recommendations for improvement:

EVALUATOR EXPERIENCE

On a scale of 1 (poor) to 5 (excellent) how would you rate your experience of evaluating AQUAEXCEL^{2020} Transnational Access with respect to the following criteria:

3.1   Adequacy of information on which to base the evaluation/selection:

3.2   Guidance and scoring system provided:

3.3   Administration of application reviews (and selection):

3.4   Selection Panel Members Only - Communication to reach selection decisions:

3.5   Management of workloads and timescales:

3.6   Overall rating of your experience of evaluating AQUAEXCEL^{2020} TNA:

3.7   Please add any further relevant comment on your scores, or any other comments not included previously:

THANK YOU FOR YOUR FEEDBACK

Return this form to the TNA Coordinator via the following button. If that does not work, save the completed PDF form and e-mail it to j.c.bostock@stir.ac.uk.

APPLICATION FORM
FOR RESEARCH ACCESS

(Please read guidelines before completing this form)

Leave Blank – Will be Completed by TNA Administrator

1a. Project Identification Code:	1b. Call ID:
1c. Current Status:	1d. Submitted Date:

Research Proposal Identification

1e. Proposed research study title:
1f. Short study title (max 30 characters):
1g. Project acronym (max 20 characters no spaces)
1h. Is this application a re-submission? Yes/No *(delete as applicable)*   **1i. Previous application reference:**   **1j. Have you sought and received advice from the Orientation Commitee? Yes/No** *(delete as applicable)*

Applicant Details

2. Lead Researcher applying to access the Research Infrastructure(s)

2a. Applicant Name: **2b. Applicant role*:**

2c. Is this person the group leader?   **2d. Is this person a remote user?**

2e. Organisation Name:

2f. Organisation Unit Name:

*Applicant Roles: LAV (Lead applicant/Visitor); CAV (Co-applicant/Visitor); CAU (Co-applicant/Unfunded visitor); CAE (Co-applicant non-visiting expert); CAS (Co-applicant non-visiting support)

3. Co-Applicant (If applicable) applying to access the Research Infrastructure(s)

3a. Applicant Name: **3b. Applicant role*:**

3c. Is this person the group leader?   **3d. Is this person a remote user?**

3e. Organisation Name:

3f. Organisation Unit Name:

*Applicant Roles: LAV (Lead applicant/Visitor); CAV (Co-applicant/Visitor); CAU (Co-applicant/Unfunded visitor); CAE (Co-applicant non-visiting expert); CAS (Co-applicant non-visiting support)

4. Names and organisations of other researchers involved in the project:

Previous AQUAEXCEL/AQUAEXCEL^{2020} Applications by any of the applicants

5. Please give details of any previous applications made by your Research Group under the AQUAEXCEL or AQUAEXCEL^{2020} projects whether supported or not:

5a. Project reference code: **5b. Project acronym:**

5c. Project title:

5d. Year submitted: **5e. Leader Name:**

5f. Funded?:

Requested Research Installations

6a. Research Installation Code:

6b. Number of units of access requested from research installation*:

6c. Requested start date for access to research installation:

6d. Expected duration of work at research installation (days):

6e. Expected end date for access to research installation

6f. Is Remote Access required?

6g. Has the Installation Manager been consulted and have they completed the Installation Manager Form for the application? Yes/No (*delete as applicable*)

*Please see call details for guidance on calculating the units of access for each Research Infrastructure, for instance it may be number of weeks x number of tanks, or number of weeks x number of people etc.)

Previous Collaborations

7a. Have you or your research group previously carried out collaborative research with staff of the proposed Research Installation? Yes/No (*delete as applicable*)

7b. If yes, when and how?

7c. Have any members of your research group previously accessed this Research Installation? Yes/No (*delete as applicable*)

7d. If yes, please give further details:

AQUAEXCEL^{2020} AppForm_v01

7e. Is the lead applicant a "new user" of the Research Installation?: Yes/No (*delete as applicable*)

7f. (If relevant) Is the visiting co-applicant a "new user" of the Research Installation? Yes/No (*delete as applicable*)

Planned visit schedule:

8a. Number of visits to research installation planned by lead applicant:

8b. Total duration of planned visits by lead applicant (days at installation):

8c. Planned start date of first visit by lead applicant*:

8d. Planned end date of first visit by lead applicant*:

8e. Planned start date of second visit by lead applicant*:

8f. Planned end date of second visit by lead applicant*:

8g. Number of visits to research installation planned by co-applicant

8h. Duration of planned visits by co-applicant (days at installation):

8i. Planned start date of first visit by co-applicant*:

8j. Planned end date of first visit by co-applicant*:

8k. Planned start date of second visit by lead applicant*:

8l. Planned end date of second visit by lead applicant*:

*If you are planning a complex schedule of visits with more than two trips please explain it in detail here:

NB: If you wish to use two Research Installations as part of the same TNA project, please submit a second form with just sections 1, 6, 7 and 8 completed.

SCIENTIFIC PROPOSAL

9a. Proposal summary: (max 1000 characters):

9b. Justification (Need for the research (include reference to previous projects and publications) and why you need to use the specific infrastructure):

9c. Study objectives (max 0.5 pages):

9d. Research plans (max. 2 pages; include proposed plan of work, include experimental procedures and timings/number of days and what work will be carried out in-person by visiting users and what will be done remotely):

9e. Details of proposed analysis of results (e.g. use of statistics or further lab analysis)**:**

9f. Expected knowledge outputs from the research:

9g. Specific Requirements (Details of equipment, materials and supplies required; use of specific fish lines, sizes and quantities; technical assistance and training etc.)

9h. Unfunded Requirements (Details of any resources that will be used and funded by the applicant organisation or third parties)

9i. Total estimated travel cost:

9j. Estimated subsistence expenses:

9k. Explanation of expected expenses:

Dissemination and exploitation of results

10a. Describe how you expect to disseminate the results of the research:

10b. Describe how you expect the results of the research to be exploited:

10c. Do you expect the research to result in the creation and protection of any IP? Yes/No (*delete as applicable*)

10d. If yes, please describe the expected IP and how it will be protected:

Ethics

11a. Does your research involve any procedures likely to cause stress, distress or lasting harm to experimental animals? If so, please list any relevant procedures and give details if not described fully in section 9:

11b. What procedures are necessary to ensure the proposed research is approved under the ethical regulations of the selected Research Infrastructure or national regulatory body? What is the timescale for this and what stage has been reached?

11c. Reduction: Please explain any specific procedures you plan to put in place to reduce the number of experimental animals used

11d. Refinement: Please explain any procedures you plan to put in place to reduce adverse impacts of any procedures used.

11e. Replacement: If the proposed research involves the use of live animals:
   i)   Could this work be carried out without conducting experiments or other scientific procedures on living animals?

   ii)   If the proposal is to use vertebrates, could the same questions be answered using less invertebrate animals?

   iii) Please explain any procedures you plan to employ to replace experimental work on live animals

Thematic classification

12. Thematic classification *(please place an "X" in the box adjacent to the areas that best describe the focus of your study)*

Nutrition		Pathology/disease	
Genetics		New species	
Physiology		NGS genomics	
Behaviour/Welfare		Technology/systems	
Other			

If "Other" please specify:

13. Species classification *(please place an "X" in the box adjacent to the areas that best describe the focus of your study)*

Marine fish (sea bream, sea bass, cod, halibut, others)	
Diadromous fish (salmon, sea trout, trout)	
Freshwater fish (carp, tilapia, others)	
Ornamental fish (zebrafish, guppy, others)	
Shellfish	
Macroalgae	
Planktonic organisms	
Other aquaculture species	

14. EATIP Strategic Research & Innovation Agenda (Please indicate which areas of the European Aquaculture Technology and Innovation Platform Strategic Research & Innovation Agenda (http://www.eatip.eu/default.asp?SHORTCUT=92) will be addressed by the study and how):

Technology and Systems	
Product Quality, Consumer Safety and Health	
Sustainable Feed Production	
Managing the Biological Lifecycle	
Knowledge Management	
Integration with the Environment	
Socio-economics & Management	
Aquatic Animal Health & Welfare	

Describe how your planned research will contribute to specific objectives within the EATIP SRIA:

SUBMISSION

When you have completed your application form you can submit it at any time prior to the call deadline. Applications after the call deadline will not be accepted for that call. Once the call deadline has passed you will not be able to make any further alterations so ensure you have checked your form thoroughly for any errors prior to final submission.

In submitting this application you agree you have read and agreed to the terms and conditions for Transnational Access as detailed within the Call for Access and in < Model Grant Agreement – Article 16   - http://ec.europa.eu/research/participants/data/ref/h2020/mga/gga/h2020-mga-gga-multi_en.pdf >

AUTHORISATION: Please ensure you have any necessary authorisation from your own organisation to submit on behalf of that organisation. If a project is approved a contract will be signed between the applicant organisation and the host organisation requiring authorised legal signatures.

When you are ready to submit, send your completed form to j.c.bostock@stir.ac.uk:

APPLICATION FORM GUIDELINES

Version 12 – October 2019

Applications for AQUAEXCEL²⁰²⁰ Transnational Access Projects (TNA) should be made via the application system available at http://160.217.215.252/aquaexcel/

These guidelines supplement the help already provided on the application system. If you have not already done so, you will need to register and create an account on the system to gain further access. The guidance here assumes you have successfully reached the stage of creating a new project application on the system.

SECTION 1: APPLICATION IDENTIFICATION

1. **Project identification**
   1.1 The project identification code is created automatically by the system and can be used in correspondence with the TNA Manager to quickly locate your information
   1.2 The call identification code is inserted automatically by the system
   1.3 Please provide a short title for the application suitable for use as a link on a website (maximum 30 characters)
   1.4 Please provide a descriptive title for your proposed project which will give an immediate indication to the reader of the type of work planned and species involved
   1.5 Other application identification:
   1.5.1 Please create an acronym for your project acronym (maximum 20 upper case letters/numbers) to act as a unique identifier in the EU project database.
   1.5.2 If the application is a re-submission of a previous proposal please select "yes"
   1.5.3 If the application is a re-submission of a previous proposal please give the application reference number. This will help speed up processing of the application.
   1.5.4 If you have sought and received advice from the Orientation Committee please select "yes". If you would like to obtain advice from the Orientation Committee please send an e-mail to aquaexcel-OC@inra.fr.

SECTION 2: APPLICANT DETAILS

2. **Applicant details**
   Add the details of each person involved in the project in this section.

   The lead applicant is considered to be the person responsible for all project communications and who will be participating directly in the work and visiting the research installation (unless the proposal is for remote access only). The lead applicant does not need to be the most senior person involved in the project.

A co-applicant may also apply to visit the research installation if justified by the experimental work and if budget is available. They may be a co-worker or a senior adviser/supervisor or technical assistant.

If either the lead applicant or co-applicant is a student, please ensure that supervision arrangements are fully explained in the project description.

Additional applicants can be identified as being involved in the project, but not involved in the mobility

Help text is provided with each of the fields in the form

Organisation details should also be completed for each person. There are two key parts to this. Firstly the legal name of the organisation and where available the EU PIC (e.g. University or research organisation). Secondly the organisational unit, which is not a separate legal entity, but a department or division of the legal organisation – e.g. institute within a university, or laboratory within a research organisation. For smaller organisations without an organisational unit, simply repeat the organisation name as the organisational unit. In order to ensure consistency in organisational details, you should use the drop-down selection if your organisation and organisational unit is already entered. If you cannot find your organisation or organisational unit in the drop-down lists you need to enter them using the menu button "Add Organisations" on the right of the main window. This gives you the option to enter a new organisation, or just a new organisational unit associated with an existing organisation entry.

SECTION 3: REQUESTED RESEACH INSTALLATION

3. **Requested Research Installations**
   Most TNA projects will involve only one Research Installation. However, if the project requires the use of two or more installations, add additional installations to the application. The available installations are listed in the Call for Access at http://www.aquaexcel2020.eu/ and available via the dropdown selector. You should contact the Research Installation(s) at an early stage via e-mail to ensure your proposals are feasible. **You should also then share your proposal (with read and write permissions) with the research infrastructure manager using the share button associated with the project on the "My projects" screen and entering their e-mail address (see below)**.

   In Section 3.1.1 be particularly careful to correctly calculate the number of units of access that will be required for the proposed work and give planned dates. Further information is available for each facility in the AQUAEXCEL²⁰²⁰ TNA Guide document. If any work needs to be conducted by the Installation outside of the period of user visits, or if use will be made of remote monitoring equipment, please tick the box to confirm that remote access is required and give further explanation in Section 5.4

   Transnational Access can be provided in the following ways:

   - in person ('hands-on'), provided to selected users that visit the installation or
   - remote, through the provision to selected users of remote scientific services.

   Examples of remote access include the provision of reference materials or samples (e.g. shipping of a virus strain); performing a remote sample analysis or sample deposition; remote access to experimental aquaria or high-performance computing facilities.

The application should make clear the number and purpose of the visits by both the lead and co-applicants and the intended length. This will be an important element of project monitoring. Any requirements for remote access should also be clearly stated.

This section also includes questions about previous collaborations between the applicant and host organisations. This information helps the Selection Panel to determine the priority that should be accorded to the application under the EC contract guidance on promoting new collaborations and ensuring widest possible access. Incorrect information could lead to the proposal being rejected. A "research group" is considered to be the smallest organisational unit within a research organisation, usually a team working in a specialist area on common projects. A "new user" is someone who has not previously conducted any work at the proposed research installation in any capacity. "Access" means making use of the facilities at the proposed research installation.

A visit timetable should be discussed with the host infrastructure **and the start date should be at least 3 months after the call deadline**. In Section 3.1.2 add the details for each separate person and visit planned as part of the project. If you do not have specific dates in mind, fill in most likely dates. These can be changed later. The start date is either the arrival date of a person visiting the installation or the day on which experimental work commences – whichever is the earlier. Unless special provisions have been made by the Installation, TNA projects can only be funded up to 3 months in duration (90 days).

Section 3.1.3 should be completed by the appropriate Installation Manager. Share the application with him or her (**read and write permissions**) so that they can fill in this section prior to submission. **Do this well before the call deadline**.
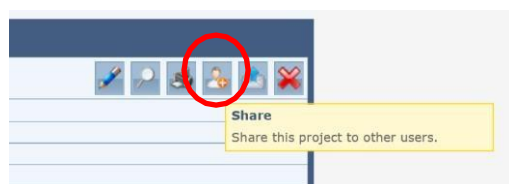
The share button is on the "My Projects" page

Organisation	Infrastructure	Installation	Contact Name	e-mail
INRA	INRA	PEIMA	Laurent Labbe	Laurent.Labbe@rennes.inra.fr
INRA	INRA	STPEE	Stephane Panserat	stephane.panserat@inra.fr
INRA	INRA	IERP	Bernard Cayron	bernard.cayron@jouy.inra.fr
IMR	Matre	cell	Ragnar Nortvedt	ragnar.nortvedt@hi.no
IMR	Matre	CEL	Ragnar Nortvedt	ragnar.nortvedt@hi.no
IMR	Bergen	Disease	Ragnar Nortvedt	ragnar.nortvedt@hi.no
UoS	UoS_IoA	IoA	Herve Migaud	herve.migaud@stir.ac.uk
CSIC	CSIC-IATS	IATS-EXP	Josep Calduch Giner	j.calduch@csic.es
CSIC	CSIC-IATS	IATS-ANA	Josep Calduch Giner	j.calduch@csic.es
CSIC	CSIC-IIM	IIM-EXP	Beatriz Novoa García	virus@iim.csic.es
HCMR	HCMR	Aqualabs	Stavros Chatzifotis	stavros@hcmr.gr
HCMR	HCMR	Omics-Bioinfo	Costas Tsigenopoulos	tsigeno@hcmr.gr
NAIK	NAIK	OEPS	Uros Ljubobratovic	uros.ljubobratovic@haki.naik.hu
NAIK	NAIK	SDC	Uros Ljubobratovic	uros.ljubobratovic@haki.naik.hu
IFREMER	PEARS	PEARS	Emmanuel Rezzouk	Emmanuel.Rezzouk@ifremer.fr
Nofima	Nofima	NCRA	Per Brunsvik	Per.Brunsvik@Nofima.no
Nofima	Nofima	CFU	Per Brunsvik	Per.Brunsvik@Nofima.no

Organisation	Infrastructure	Installation	Contact Name	e-mail
Nofima	Nofima	NNGS	Ida Rud	Ida.rud@Nofima.no
JU	FFPW	ICS	Petr Císař	cisar@frov.jcu.cz
JU	FFPW	IA	Jan Mráz	jmraz@frov.jcu.cz
JU	FFPW	IFA	Vojtěch Kašpar	vkaspar@frov.jcu.cz
JU	FFPW	GRC	Vojtěch Kašpar	vkaspar@frov.jcu.cz
NTNU	NTNU	CodTech	Elin Kjørsvik	elin.kjorsvik@ntnu.no
NTNU	NTNU	Mclab	Sverre Steen	sverre.steen@ntnu.no
SINTEF	SINTEF/ACE	ACE	Eleni Kelasidi	Eleni.Kelasidi@sintef.no
ULPGC	PCTM	WWSSU	Juan Manuel Afonso López	juanmanuel.afonso@ulpgc.es
ULPGC	PCTM	MBS	Daniel Montero Vítores	daniel.montero@ulpgc.es
ULPGC	PCTM	FITU	Marisol Izquierdo López	marisol.izquierdo@ulpgc.es
WU	WU	WU-MRU	Ep Eding	ep.eding@wur.nl
WU	WU	WU-RAS	Ep Eding	ep.eding@wur.nl
Ugent	Gen ART	Gen ART	Peter Bossier	Peter.bossier@UGent.be
DLO-IMARES	RECIRC	IMARES-RECIRC	Wout Abbink	Wout.abbink@wur.nl
UL	UL facilities	EPA	Sylvain Milla	Sylvain.Milla@univ-lorraine.fr
UL	UL facilities	Behaviour	Alain Pasquet	Alain.Pasquet@univ-lorraine.fr
DTU	DTU-VET	DTU-VET	Tine Iburg	TIMI@vet.dtu.dk
CCMAR	CCMAR	Ramalhete	Ana Amaral	amamaral@ualg.pt
CCMAR	CCMAR	Ramalhete	João Reis	ramalhete@ualg.pt
IEO	IEO	ICRA	Aurelio Ortega	aurelio.ortega@ieo.es
IEO	IEO	MAP	Aurelio Ortega	aurelio.ortega@ieo.es
IEO	IEO	AquaCOV	Montse Pérez	montse.perez@ieo.es

SECTION 4: PREVIOUS APPLICATIONS

4. **Previous AQUAEXCEL and AQUAEXCEL[2020] applications**
Please give the details including reference numbers of any previous AQUAEXCEL applications, including AQUAEXCEL and AQUAEXCEL[2020]

SECTION 5: SCIENTIFIC PROPOSAL

5. **Scientific proposal**
This section is the primary content upon which the project will be evaluated. You should ensure it is completed fully with a good standard of English Language.

5.1 Summary
Provide a concise summary of the planned research including its purpose and expected outcomes.

5.2 Justification

Provide a summary of the scientific context of the proposal study, including the current state of knowledge (including a list of up to 10 most relevant background publications). Include any commercial context for the work. Please identify the key reasons why you are applying to this particular infrastructure, e.g. with respect to facilities, species or particular expertise available or potential future collaboration plans. You should also clarify why the proposed research cannot be carried out in your own country.

5.3 Study objectives

Describe the objectives of the study and especially any potential commercial or quality of life benefits. Make reference to official documents and other literature to show how this specific study meets the aims and objectives of broader EU research programmes.

5.4 Research plans

Provide details of the research to be carried out at the Research Installation(s) (give a minimum of 1 page and maximum 2 pages). Indicate if your research can only be carried out at a particular time for operational reasons, e.g. availability of material. Include experimental methods (treatments, controls etc), and schedules. Please also clarify what work will be carried out in person at the installation and what work might be done remotely.

5.5 Details of proposed analysis of results

Provide details of how you expect to analyse the results. This can include specific use of statistics, modelling, bioinformatics and other analytical techniques.

5.6 Expected knowledge outputs from the research

Consider the type of knowledge that should be generated by the experimental work and its potential value and significance

5.7 Specific requirements

Please provide as much detail as possible here about specific equipment, consumables, technical assistance and training that will be required. In particular consider any materials the pose a hazard and require special procedures or disposal facilities.

5.8 Unfunded requirements

Use this section to identify any requirements for the work that are not covered under the standard TNA budget (which should cover routine consumables) and how these extra costs will be met.

5.9 Total estimated travel and subsistence costs

Travel costs are normally reimbursed by the Research Installation providing the most economic means of travel is used. Please give an estimate here to help the installation with budgeting.

Travel expenses will be paid from the user's home institution to the Research Installation and return. Economy class air fares will be reimbursed on production of tickets. Any additional travel costs incurred in travelling to and from the Research Installation (e.g. train, taxi) will also be reimbursed at economy rates. Any travel expenses involved in carrying out the research whilst at the Research Installation will also be provided.

Subsistence costs are normally reimbursed by the Research Installation according to their normal organisational rules. Please give an estimate here to help the installation with budgeting.

Accommodation will be provided in accommodation owned by the Research Infrastructure or in nearby guest houses (bed and breakfast) or hotels. Full details of accommodation provisions and expense allowances are available from the individual Research Infrastructures.

Use the space provided to provide any necessary clarifications on expected expenses and whether other funding is available to cover some or all of these.

Users of the Research Infrastructures will need to make their own travel insurance arrangements. If the visit involves more than one trip or different dates for different people, please explain this clearly alongside the cost estimates in this section.

SECTION 6: DISSEMINATION AND EXPLOITATION OF RESULTS

6. **Dissemination and exploitation of results**
   Use this section to show you have thought about how the value of the research can be maximised and communicated to potential users. This is an important criteria for selection so it is expected that applicants will see possibilities that go well beyond publishing a paper in a journal or making a conference presentation.

   6.1   Describe how you expect to disseminate the results of the research. Please consider who your communications will be targeted towards and the channels you will use.

   6.2   Describe how you expect the results of the research to be exploited. Who do you anticipate making use of your results and how?

   6.3   Do you expect the research to result in the creation and protection of any IP? This refers to the creation of any intellectual property that might be protected through a patent, copyright, trademark, or non-disclosure agreement. If so, the nature of the IP, ownership, means of protection and mechanisms for exploitation should be agreed with the host installation organisation prior to project commencement.

SECTION 7: ETHICS SCREENING

7. **Ethics screening**
   It is AQUAEXCEL[2020] policy that all research linked to the project will be conducted according to the 3Rs (reduce, refine replace) methodology (Further explanation is given below and via web sites such as http://www.nc3rs.org.uk/category.asp?catID=31). All experimental work must also be carried out in accordance with the animal welfare regulations in force in the country concerned and according to welfare policies and procedures at the research installation where the work is conducted. Documentary evidence that correct procedures have been followed and permissions obtained needs to be provided to the Project Coordinator (INRA Transfert).

   7.1   Ethics issues: If your work involves live aquatic animals please discuss these principles in relation to your proposed work, showing how you will comply with best practice. As well as acute adverse effects, possible chronic adverse effects should be considered. Where chronic adverse effects are possible, humane end points should be defined before the experiment and criteria defined for early termination of specific experimental groups where necessary.

   7.2   Ethics compliance: You should also provide details of any other fish welfare or ethics guidelines or procedures that will be followed in accordance with either the policies of your

own organisation, that of the Research Infrastructure, and with respect to national regulations under which the work will be conducted.

7.3   Reduction refers to methods for obtaining comparable levels of information from the use of fewer animals in scientific procedures or for obtaining more information from a given number of animals so that, in the long run, fewer animals are needed to complete a given research project or test. Reduction will be achieved through experimental planning and design, in order to avoid inconclusive experiments due to inadequate statistical power of experiments, as well as by standardisation of the animal population (genetics, health), the environment and experimental techniques. Where relevant, describe the steps you will take to reduce the number of experimental animals.

7.4   Refinement encompass those methods that alleviate or minimize potential pain and distress and enhance animal well-being. Potential pain and distress can be avoided or alleviated with the proper use of anaesthetics, analgesics, and sedatives. The use of such methods is integral to the implementation of Directive 86-609-EEC which will be the baseline of the animal experimentation procedures used in AQUAEXCEL[2020]. In this section describe in some detail the methods that will be used to refine any proposed aquatic animal trials.

7.5   Replacement alternatives encompass those methods that permit a given purpose to be achieved without conducting experiments or other scientific procedures on animals. Whenever possible, ex vivo methods will be preferred to experimentation on animals. Use this section to describe any replacement of experimental animals.

SECTION 8: THEMATIC CLASSIFICATION

8. **Thematic classification**
To help with evaluation and reporting of the project, please indicate which thematic area(s) are the subject of your study. You must select at least one, but multiple selections are also possible using the yes/no dropdown selectors. Note NGS = Next Generation Sequencing. If you consider the work is not adequately covered by the listed classifications you can enter another classification in the "Other Description" text box.

SECTION 9: SPECIES CLASSIFICATION

9. **Species classification**
To help with evaluation and reporting of the project, please indicate which species group(s) are the subject of your study. You must select at least one, but multiple selections are also possible using the yes/no dropdown selectors. If you are working on a species not adequately covered by the listed classifications you can enter another classification in the "Other aquaculture species" text box.

SECTION 10: EATiP SRIA CLASSIFICATION

10. **Addressing EATIP Strategic Research and Innovation Agenda**
Use this section to describe clearly how your research is expected to contribute to the European Aquaculture Technology and Innovation Platform Strategic Research and Innovation Agenda (See. http://www.eatip.eu/default.asp?SHORTCUT=92. "The Future of European Aquaculture – Our Vision: A Strategic Agenda for Research & Innovation" was published in 2012 (also available at: https://drive.google.com/file/d/0Byu8uGbcUerAaUxHQ2R6MGZrak0/edit?usp=sharing)   which lists the 8 thematic areas in a different order to that on the form, i.e:

1. Product Quality, Consumer Safety and Health
2. Technology and Systems
3. Managing the Biological Life Cycle
4. Sustainable Feed Production
5. Integration with the Environment
6. Knowledge Management
7. Aquatic Animal Health and Welfare
8. Socio-economics, Management & Governance

Select the appropriate areas using the yes/no dropdowns.

For each thematic area, a key target is given and then a set of numbered goals and bullet-point sub-goals. In the text box "EATIP Justification" Please quote the specific goals and sub goals that your research will support – e.g. "Thematic Area 3, Goal 2, Sub-Goal b" (using a,b,c etc to identify the specific sub-goal) and explain these choices in the space given for further explanation. You may also wish to take account of the outcome of the SRIA review in 2017 - http://eatip.eu/wp-content/uploads/2018/02/EATIP-SRIA-2017.pdf

PERSONAL DATA

Application for AQUAEXCEL2020 TNA involves the sharing, storing and processing of personal data. The requirement for and use of personal data is kept to the minimum possible and is managed in compliance with the EU General Data Protection Regulations (GDPR). This requires explicit consent from all data subjects for the sharing and processing of their personal data. The AQUAEXCEL2020 TNA Policy on Personal Data is available separately (AQUAEXCEL2020_TNA_GDPR.PDF). Each person named on the application form is required to complete a consent form to permit the processing of their personal data in compliance with this policy and the GDPR (AQUAEXCEL2020_TNA_GDPR_ConsentForm.PDF)

ATTACHMENTS

You should ensure that you add the appropriate attachments to your application. These are:

- CV (Use the supplied template on the AQUAEXCEL[2020] website) for the applicant and any other people involved in visits to the host installation (REQUIRED)
- Completed GDPR Consent forms for each person named in the application
- Ethics documents – copies of any permissions or applications mentioned in the Ethics section (not already submitted to the Project Coordinator)
- Nominations for independent project reviewers (form available on AQUAEXCEL[2020] website) – this could help speed up processing and review of your project.
- Any other supporting documentation considered necessary

The attachments must be in PDF format and less than 10 Mb in size.

SUBMISSION

When you have completed your application form you should use the checking tool available from the project selection screen to help ensure all fields have been completed with valid data (This is a necessary step as the form cannot be submitted incomplete). You can submit the form only once at any time prior to the call deadline. Applications after the call deadline will not be accepted for that call. Once the call deadline has passed you will no longer be able to make any changes to the form whether it has been submitted or not.

In submitting this application you agree you have read and agreed to the terms and conditions for Transnational Access as detailed within the Call for Access and in < Model Grant Agreement – Article 16 - http://ec.europa.eu/research/participants/data/ref/h2020/mga/gga/h2020-mga-gga-multi_en.pdf >

AUTHORISATION: Please ensure you have any necessary authorisation from your own organisation to submit on behalf of that organisation. If a project is approved, it may be necessary to sign a contract between the applicant organisation and the host organisation requiring authorised legal signatures.

EVALUATION

Applications are checked and then sent to two expert reviewers. Especially if your application in in a highly specialised area you can nominate potential reviewers using a nomination form available from the AQUAEXCEL[2020] website.

Expert reviewers are asked to consider five main questions. The following notes indicate the consideration that may be given to each of these questions:

1) Scientific Excellence

Is the proposed work of high scientific quality?
☐ *Include original ideas?*

☐ *Develops new techniques?*

☐ *Contributes new knowledge?*

Are the proposed research methods clearly described and appropriate to meet the stated objectives?
Are the proposed means of analysing the results appropriate (e.g., use of statistics)?
Is the described work feasible in relation to the time and resources available and the expertise and experience of those involved?

2) Expected output

What outputs are envisaged from the work and what might be their impact? What steps are planned for exploitation and dissemination?
☐ *Publications – type and quality,*

☐ *Contribution to future research proposal,*

☐ *Transfer to commercial sector,*

☐ *Contribute to policy development*

Potential impacts:

☐ *On future research*

☐ *Commercially (economic benefits)*

☐ *On future policy/strategy*

What evidence is provided concerning the need for the research from industry (or expected user group)? What plans are there for further technology transfer?

3) Compliance with EATIP Strategic Research and Innovation Agenda

Does the applicant show familiarity with the EATIP SRIA and explain how their work will contribute? Does the work clearly address issues from the SRIA? Documents relating to the EATIP SRIA are available from the EATIP website: http://eatip.eu/?page_id=46

4) Compliance with EC Agenda for broadening access

☐ *is this a new partnership and a first working visit to the infrastructure for the applicant?*

☐ *Is this making use of facilities that are not available in the home country of the applicant?*

☐ *Does this provide access opportunities to scientists that might not otherwise be able to access such facilities?*

5) Applicant/team (CVs)

CVs are mainly provided for background to help evaluate various aspects of the proposal including scientific quality and how the project might fit into the wider programmes and collaborations of the applicant. However, it may also be appropriate to comment on whether the proposed work fits in with the wider research of the applicant, motivations for the project and likelihood of success.

Where the applicant or main researcher is a student or early postdoctoral researcher, is there evidence of adequate supervisory support both from the applicant and host organisations?

6) Overall

Summary of recommendations and if appropriate, raise any questions that should be put to the applicant before the Selection Panel finalise their decision. Overall recommendation can be indicated as:

☐ *Excellent, top priority*

☐ *Very good, high priority*

☐ *Good, medium priority*

☐ *Fundable but low priority*

☐ *Not fundable as currently presented*

☐ *Un-fundable, clear rejection*

Applications that pass the initial review stage are passed to the project Ethics Adviser for consideration and comment. The results of these reviews are then passed to the project Selection Panel for final decision on funding. A period of at least 3 months should be allowed between project submission and decision on outcome of review.

Evaluation Form

Application Ref: **Evaluator Ref:**

SUMMARY OF RESEARCH OBJECTIVES

Briefly summarise the proposal here for the benefit of the Selection Panel Members:

COMMENTS AND SCORES FOR THE TNA MANAGER*

1) Scientific Excellence

Comments:			
Mark (out of 5)		Weighted score (Mark X 10)	

2) Expected output

Comments:			
Mark (out of 5)		Weighted score (Mark X 4)	

3) Compliance with EATIP Strategic Research and Innovation Agenda

Comments:			
Mark (out of 5)		Weighted score (Mark X 3)	

4) Compliance with EC Agenda for broadening access

Comments:			
Mark (out of 5)		Weighted score (Mark X 2)	

5) Applicant/team (CVs)

Comments:			
Mark (out of 5)		Weighted score (Mark X 1)	

6) Overall

Comments & recommendations:	
TOTAL SCORE (Sum of weighted scores)	

Recommendation to the Selection Panel:

☐　　　Excellent, top priority

☐　　　Very good, high priority

☐　　　Good, medium priority

☐　　　Fundable but low priority

☐　　　Not fundable as currently presented

☐　　　Un-fundable, clear rejection

*NB: The TNA Manager is required to provide feedback to the applicants concerning the outcome of the review process. Comments will be selected from the above review unless you provide alternative feedback for the applicant below. You may also provide additional comments to your review:

☐   I am happy for the TNA Manager to use comments above in feedback to the applicant.

☐   I have provided alternate comments for the applicant below

☐   I have provided additional comments for the applicant below

ADDITIONAL OR ALTERNATE COMMENTS TO PASS ON TO THE APPLICANT

Evaluator Guide

Expectations and obligations

Reviewers of AQUAEXCEL^{2020} TNA Applications are expected to observe the following principles and actions to ensure an efficient and ethical review process. If you are unable to fulfil these criteria for any or all TNA proposals sent to you, please decline the review(s) as quickly as possible.

1) The specific content of all of the materials provided to you in relation to specific TNA applications must be treated as confidential and not shared with colleagues or other contacts in any way. The provided files should not be stored in shared computer folders or made available in any other format where other people may have ready access. Following completion of your review (or decision not to review), copies of the application form, CVs and any other supporting documents should be securely deleted or destroyed.

2) Your own review should also be treated as confidential and only shared with the AQUAEXCEL^{2020} TNA Coordinator, TNA Administrator, or the Overall AQUAEXCEL^{2020} Coordinator or Project Manager on request.

3) You should not accept to undertake a review If you are aware of any conflict of interest (e.g. the applicant is from your organization, or a co-worker with you on another project, or is applying to use an infrastructure owned by your organization).

4) The review must be conducted in an independent and professional manner based on the criteria set out in these guidelines and on the information present in the application form and accompanying documents. The opinions of the reviewer are requested, but these should be based on objective assessment and factual assertions defendable through reference to peer reviewed or other appropriate citable sources. In particular, reasons for recommending approval or refusal of funding should be clearly stated.

5) Timely reviews are critical for the successful management of TNA projects as both potential users and hosts need to be able to progress plans and schedule resources. Reviewers are therefore expected to complete reviews within two weeks of receiving a request. Where this is not possible please discuss a feasible timescale with the TNA Administration as quickly as possible. Reviews received after an agreed deadline may be disregarded (and where applicable, no payment made).

6) Reviewers are invited based on relevant expertise; However, it is appreciated that reviewers may not have some specific expertise required to make judgments on every

aspect of the work proposed. Unless the entire work is considered to be outside the Expert's area of knowledge, Reviewers are asked to contribute best efforts and note any specific questions on which they feel unable to comment adequately.

Guide to completing the evaluation form

Summary of research objectives

Expert reviewers are asked to briefly summarise the research objectives and proposed key actions in order to help the Selection Panel Members to understand the context for your evaluation comments.

Guidance on review criteria

Expert reviewers are asked to consider five main questions. The following notes indicate the consideration that should be given to each of these questions – to be adapted as appropriate for individual applications:

1) Scientific Excellence

Is the proposed work of high scientific quality?

- *Include original ideas?*
- *Develops new techniques?*
- *Contributes new knowledge?*

Are the proposed research methods clearly described and appropriate to meet the stated objectives?

Are the proposed means of analyzing the results appropriate (e.g., use of statistics)

Is the described work feasible in relation to the time and resources available and the expertise and experience of those involved?

2) Expected output

What outputs are envisaged from the work and what might be their impact? What steps are planned for exploitation and dissemination?

- *Publications – type and quality,*
- *Contribution to future research proposal,*
- *Transfer to commercial sector,*
- *Contribute to policy development*

Potential impacts:

- *On future research*
- *Commercially (economic benefits)*
- *On future policy/strategy*

What evidence is provided concerning the need for the research from industry (or expected user group)? What plans are there for further technology transfer?

3) Compliance with EATIP Strategic Research and Innovation Agenda

Does the applicant show familiarity with the EATIP SRIA and explain how their work will contribute? Does the work clearly address issues from the SRIA? Documents relating to the EATIP SRIA are available from the EATIP website:

http://eatip.eu/wp-content/uploads/2018/02/EATIP-SRIA-2012.pdf

http://eatip.eu/wp-content/uploads/2018/02/EATIP-SRIA-2017.pdf

http://eatip.eu/wp-content/uploads/2019/10/eatip-position-paper.pdf

4) Compliance with EC Agenda for broadening access

- *is this a new partnership and a first working visit to the infrastructure for the applicant?*
- *Is this making use of facilities that are not available in the home country of the applicant?*
- *Does this provide access opportunities to scientists that might not otherwise be able to access such facilities?*

5) Applicant/team (CVs)

CVs are mainly provided for background to help evaluate various aspects of the proposal including scientific quality and how the project might fit into the wider programmes and collaborations of the applicant. However, it may also be appropriate to comment on whether the proposed work fits in with the wider research of the applicant, motivations for the project and likelihood of success.

Where the applicant or main researcher is a student or early postdoctoral researcher, is there evidence of adequate supervisory support both from the applicant and host organisations?

6) Overall

Use this section to briefly summarise your recommendations and if appropriate, raise any questions that you consider should be put to the applicant before the Selection Panel finalise their decision. Your overall recommendation can be indicated as:

- *Excellent, top priority*
- *Very good, high priority*
- *Good, medium priority*
- *Fundable but low priority*
- *Not fundable as currently presented*
- *Un-fundable, clear rejection*

Guidance on scoring

For each of the 5 main questions, you are asked to give a mark (0 to 5) as a measure of how well the application meets this criteria. i.e. zero means the criteria are not met at all whilst 5 means the criteria are very well fulfilled.

The marks given for each question are then multiplied by a weighting factor and added together to give an overall score for the application out of 100.

Evaluator Score System for Applications from Universities and Research Organisations

Criteria	Score marks	Weighting multiplier	Total possible score
Scientific excellence	5	10	50
Expected outputs & impact	5	4	20
Compliance with EATIP SRIA	5	3	15
Broadens collaboration and access to facilities	5	2	10
Applicant/team	5	1	5
TOTAL			100

Evaluator Score System for Applications from SMEs and other Commercial Organisations

Criteria	Scoremarks	Weighting multiplier	Total possible score
Scientific excellence	5	7	35
Expected outputs & impact	5	7	35
Compliance with EATIP SRIA	5	2	10
Broadens collaboration and access to facilities	5	3	15
Applicant/team	5	1	5
TOTAL			100

Use of the score: A score of 65% is used as an approximate threshold guide for selection. Applications exceeding the threshold will be considered eligible for funding whilst those with lower scores will be considered for rejection. Applications scoring around 65 will be considered in greater detail by the Selection Panel prior to final decision. The scoring system may also be used to help rank applications so that funding decisions then taken on the basis of reconciling rank with available resource. Please note the slightly different weightings for academic/research organisations and commercial organisations. The reason for this is to ensure potentially useful commercial innovations with good potential for sales/sector impact are properly considered even if the contribution to scientific knowledge is not so substantial.

Boxes are available at the base of each question for the reviewer to enter a mark and calculated weighted score. The weighted scores should be summed and the final total entered into the box at the base of question 6 (Overall comments).

Comments to applicant

The TNA Manager is required to provide feedback to the applicants concerning the outcome of the review process. Comments will be selected from the review provided to the Selection Panel unless you provide alternative feedback for the applicant in the box provided. You may also provide additional comments to your review in this box such as specific suggestions to the applicant. Checklist boxes are available for you to confirm which text can be used for feedback to the applicant.

Annex

Selection criteria cited in the Project Description of Work:

1. Scientific excellence and potential impact of the proposed project
2. No previous use of the infrastructure
3. Non existence of such infrastructure in the country of the candidate
4. Their geographical location
5. The nature of their research project (an outline of their project, expected results and publications will be requested)
6. Their motivation for accessing the AQUAEXCEL[2020] services and collections
7. Their potential for disseminating/publishing their results (i.e. must be free to publish and acknowledge)
8. A good gender, age and nationality balance will be taken into consideration

Note from Annex III (Specific Provisions for Transnational Access Activities)

The selection panel shall base its selection on scientific merit, taking into account that priority should be given to *user groups* composed of *users* who:
- have not previously used the *infrastructure*, and
- are working in countries where no such research *infrastructures* exist.

Please do not hesitate to contact the TNA Manger if you require further guidance or clarifications