



Annual Event 2011

Vilamoura (PORTUGAL)

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Education and Culture

Lifelong Learning Programme

ERASMUS

WP2:

PhD Curriculum development

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1. MAIN OBJECTIVES

- Monitor the important work of the European Association of Universities related to PhD programmes
- Develop a PhD database for the Aqua-tnet domain to include information on courses available
- Review the content of certain PhD courses available in the Aqua-tnet domain
- Bring partners (University + Research Institutes/Industrial Partners) together to identify where new multidisciplinary PhD programmes are needed.



2. RESULTS (1)

■ **Monitoring the EUA work**

- Structuring the doctoral education is necessary
- Structuring doctoral education is to create a supportive environment.
- Setting up structures means taking institutional responsibility for training through research
- It requires flexible structures to expose early stage researchers to a wide range of opportunities, ensuring personal and professional development and to provide institutional support for career development and mobility



2. RESULTS (2)

- **Monitoring the EUA work: Clues for success**
(4 out of 8)
 - Critical mass and critical diversity
 - Career development
 - Credits
 - Applied wrongly, rigid credit requirements can be detrimental to the development of independent research professionals



2. RESULTS (3)

- **Monitoring the EUA work: Clues for success**
(4 out of 8)
 - Internationalisation
 - *Internationalisation at home: using the international profile of the home institution such as international doctoral candidates, staff, events and guest researchers*
 - collaborative doctoral programmes (co-tutelle)
 - international joint doctoral programmes

ALL driven by the necessity of the research project of the PhD student

2. RESULTS (4)

- **Develop a PhD database: 2 main elements**
 - Finished PhD manuscripts
 - A searchable database of PhD-specific courses
 - No Master courses
 - Module based
 - Short courses
 - Targeting mobility
 - Currently 42 courses: keep walking!

2. RESULTS (5)

- Preliminary analysis of available PhD courses
- Category

	Number
AQUACULTURE	5
BIOLOGY	12
CHEMISTRY	2
ENGINEERING	9
ENVIRONMENT	3
FISHERIES	2
FOOD PROCESSING	1
GENERIC	1
IMMUNOLOGY	1
MATHS, STATIST and BIOINFORMATICS	5
MICROBIOLOGY	2
MOLECULAR AND OMICS	1
Total	42



2. RESULTS (6)

Identified area with a potential for PhD course:

- Disease
- Immunology
- Socio economics
- Management
- GIS
- Human health effects
- Environmental sustainability
- Interdisciplinary courses: social science

But ideas are welcome!

3. INSIGHTS (1)

Joint PhD

- Tendency in Europe to evolve in the direction of offering joint Master and PhD degrees.
- Such kind of degrees can offer to the student the possibility to become acquainted with ongoing research at various locations within Europe within a short period of time and hence become able to integrate the acquired knowledge into their own research.
- At the moment 3 joint PhD degrees have become recently available within the Aqua-tnet domain
 - **MACOMA** - Erasmus Mundus PhD in Marine and Coastal Management
<http://www2.uca.es/serv/catedraunesco/erasmusmundus/macoma/index.htm>
 - **MARES** - Doctoral Programme in Marine Ecosystem Health and Conservation <http://www.mares-eu.org>
 - **SMART** – Science for Management of Rivers and their Tidal Systems
<http://www.riverscience.eu>



3. INSIGHTS (2)

Joint PhD degrees

- Updated database on PhD courses.
- “European Marine Biology Research Center” and
- “AQUAEXCEL” project will provide financial support in the future for mobility and might be a stepstone to more joint PhD degrees

Contact us

Thank you for your attention

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