



**SOCRATES THEMATIC NETWORK  
AQUACULTURE, FISHERIES AND AQUATIC RESOURCE  
MANAGEMENT**

**Annual Event 2007**

**Briefing Document for Validation Sessions**

**Event Summary**

The aim of the annual event is to bring together all the stakeholders of the thematic network (educators, researchers, industry representatives, students and consumer groups) in order to present the progress of the networks core groups at this interim phase and obtain feedback from all network members to ensure that the network activities meet the stakeholders' expectations.

- The **students** as the customers of the education providers
- The **industry** and **research** communities as future employers of graduate students
- The **consumer groups** as the representatives of the customers who purchase the products produced by the industry

In addition to the feedback validation exercise that will take place, the core groups will use the event to meet and continue their core work. To do this, the programme includes themed workshops on specific topics selected by the core group (see agenda for more information).

**Network Interaction**

In order to manage the interaction between the networks core working groups (WP1-6) and the members of the horizontal WP's (industry, research and consumer groups) we have asked representatives from each horizontal WP to act as a validation committee for this event. The EAS student committee will also sit as a 4<sup>th</sup> committee.

Each Committee will have a chairperson\* and a rapporteur\*\*)

*\*The job of the Chairs will be to ensure all the validation questions are answered for their group for each WP.*

*\*\*The Rapporteur will be responsible for assimilating the feedback of the committees and presenting it to the network during the final plenary session 2.*

	<b>Chair</b>	<b>Rapporteur</b>
1) Industry	Joe McElwee	David Bassett
2) Research	Torgeir Edvardsen	TBC
3) Consumer Groups	Wim Verbeke	TBC
4) Students	Magdolna Trenovszki	Goncalo Santos

All validation committees will be sent a WP Summary for each WP in advance of arriving in Crete. In addition they will benefit from an overview of each WP by the WP Coordinators during the 2<sup>nd</sup> Plenary Session on Thursday (10.15 – 11.15).

The validation committees will then get a chance to meet in order to have an initial discussion on their strategy for the event and agree on an approach with the facilitator on how the sessions will run (Thursday 12.30 – 13.30).

On Thursday afternoon the validation sessions will take place.

There will be a session facilitator, Dr. Richard Fitzgerald ([richard.fitzgerald@nuigalway.ie](mailto:richard.fitzgerald@nuigalway.ie)) who will coordinate the sessions to ensure everyone has an opportunity to ask questions and the sessions run smoothly and on time.

All validation committees will sit together during the validation sessions and will be visited by each vertical WP (1-6), one at a time. The sessions will be run in the main auditorium.

During these consultations the WP core group will discuss the current challenges within the core area and explain their efforts in the area to meet the problems. It will be the job of the validation committees to try and answer the “Validation Questions” for WP1-6.

#### **Validation Questions**

- Are the objectives and activities of the WP clear?
- Has the WP taken into consideration the needs of your horizontal Group?
- Are there any missing aspects related to your group?
- Do you have any recommendations for the WP activities?
- Do you have any general recommendations?
- Do you feel that educators could improve their interaction with your group?
- Any other questions?

On Friday morning there will be a 2 hour session (10.30-12.30) where the validation groups will meet separately to compile their feedback and create a 15-20 minute presentation for the whole network to be presented in the afternoon plenary session (13.30 – 15.30).

**Please do not hesitate to contact David Murphy if you would like any further clarification on how the validation exercise will work: [david@aquatt.ie](mailto:david@aquatt.ie)**