Shaping the PhD educational environment: an Aqua-tnet case study

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Aqua-tnet?

European Thematic Network in the field of Aquaculture, Fisheries and Aquatic Resource Management
Years supporting the marine sector (1992–2007)
A multidisciplinary multi-stakeholder Thematic Network

- AQUA-TNET unites academic and vocational aspects of the Bologna reforms
- AQUA-TNET supports the establishment of the European Higher Education Area
- AQUA-TNET covers Aquaculture, Fisheries and Aquatic Resource Management sectors
PhD curriculum development

Goal:

- Irrespective of the large variety in regulations and habits,
  gather information on topics that could be of importance to increase the quality of the PhD cycle
PhD curriculum development

- Review the outcome of the work of the European Association of Universities related to PhD programmes
- Review the work developed by AquaTNET project: demonstrate the information available in the portal site of AQUA-TNET
PhD curriculum development

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
PhD curriculum development

Clues for success:

• Critical mass and critical diversity
  - Doctoral education is dependent on the research environment. Institutions must develop a critical mass and diversity of research in order to offer high quality doctoral education.

• Recruitment, admission and status
  - Admission to a doctoral programme is an institutional responsibility
  - Transparency and accountability will be strengthened by having a single, identifiable place to apply
  - Admissions should be based on a well-defined, public set of criteria
PhD curriculum development

Clues for success:

• Supervision
  - *Supervision must be a collective effort with clearly defined and written responsibilities of the main supervisor, supervisory team, doctoral candidate, doctoral school, research group and the institution*

• Outcomes
  - *The main outcome of doctoral education are the early stage researchers*
  - *The outcome of their research must testify to the originality of the research and be suitable for dissemination within the scientific community*
PhD curriculum development

Clues for success:

• Career development
  - it is the institution’s responsibility to provide support structures for professional development. Offering training in transferable skills, including understanding the ethics of research, is central

• Credits
  - Applying the credit system developed for cohorts of students in the first and second cycles is not a necessary precondition for establishing successful doctoral programmes.
  - Applied wrongly, rigid credit requirements can be detrimental to the development of independent research professionals. High quality doctoral education needs a stimulating research environment driven by research enthusiasm, curiosity and creativity, not motivated by the collection of credits
PhD curriculum development

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PhD curriculum development

Clues for success:

• *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*
Master, mobility and PhD portal

- European web-based database
- Master courses
- Master programmes
- Short courses
- Work experiences
- PhD courses
- Finished PhD
Master portal
PhD portal

Interactive members map

Search institutions
Search MSc courses
Search MSc programmes
Search PhD courses
Search mobility courses
Search people

PhD Course Results

Fish Salting (BT8112)
PhD portal

Interactive members map

Search institutions
Search MSC courses
Search MSC programmes
Search PhD courses
Search mobility courses
Search people

PhD Course Results

- The role of androgens on oocyte growth in Atlantic cod (Gadus morhua): Identification and patterns of differentially expressed genes in relation to histological evaluations.
- Superchilling of muscle food - Storage stability and quality aspects of salmon (Salmo salar), cod (Gadus morhua) and pork.
- Genetic management of Atlantic Cod (Gadus morhua L.) hatchery populations.
- Functional development and response to dietary treatment in larval Atlantic cod (Gadus morhua L.) Focus on formulated diets and early weaning.
- Effects of photoperiod manipulation on growth and reproduction in Atlantic Cod (Gadus morhua).
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PhD portal

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PhD Course Results

Study of qualitative aspects of "Orbetello sea bass" that could be used for certification

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Contact Details

Thank you for your attention

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