

**SOCRATES THEMATIC NETWORK
AQUACULTURE, FISHERIES AND AQUATIC RESOURCE MANAGEMENT 2008-11**

**LIFELONG LEARNING PROGRAMME
ERASMUS
Academic Network**

Minutes WP5 & 8 core group meeting(year 1)

4th & 5th May 2009

Held at the Universidade Aberta, Lisbon (Portugal)

Project Acronym: AQUA-TNET
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List of Attendees

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<i>Attending part meeting by video conference:</i>				
Moulton	Michael	MM	Norwegian University of Life Sciences	Mike.moulton@umb.no

Apologies for absence were received from Jose de Lara Rey, Stefan Steingrimsson, Panos Christofilogiannis and AquaTT. Note that the minutes reflect the original agenda order rather than the modified timetable actually adopted.

Minutes

Action

- 1 The meeting commenced with welcomes and introductions. A particular welcome was extended to new members of the working group (JH, CD, RK, GS and SS).
- 2 John Bostock provided an introduction to WP5/8 and the outputs of previous project which are now fully documented on the AQUA-TNET website (WP5 deliverables page). Particular attention was drawn to the workgroup report (Google document) and the expectation that it can be further developed and perhaps integrated into other WP5 services during the new project. JB introduced the new members to the basics of access and version control.

It was noted that the web site has not yet been updated to reflect the new workpackage structure. John Bostock to discuss this with Aqua TT before further updates are made.

JB to ensure all members have access to Google document and AQUA-TNET WP5 member page

JB to check
with Aqua
TT
concerning
updating
website

3 John Bostock provided an introduction and over-view of WP5 tasks for the current project and anticipated schedule. The key objectives were identified as:

- Connecting with our constituency and stakeholders to
- Stimulate more innovative teaching
- Support teachers in learning new tools and approaches

The key issues driving the workplan are:

- Starting from where people are now
- Linking with the activities and outputs of others who are striving for the same goals
- Integrating with other workgroups and European education strategies

The planned activities and workplan were then reviewed in detail (see separate presentation and workplan table). The remainder of the meeting dealt with activities relating to first year deliverables.

4 A major element of the WP5 strategy is the identification and publication of innovation in aquaculture/fisheries teaching, i.e. based on case studies. In order to start this process, four members of the workgroup presented examples of their use of ICT and innovative teaching approaches. These are documented in separate presentations as follows:

JB/AquaTT
to ensure
presentations
are made
available
online

- Producing videos for promoting learning – example from Finland - Juhani Pirhonen
- Model used by Universidade Aberta Lisbon for on-line teaching - Sonia Seixas
- Teaching methods used in University of Kuopio and taking the benefit of ICT in teaching - Jouni Heikkinen
- Use of podcasts in education and training – Clive Dove

5 The meeting then considered wider issues and trends relating to

innovation in teaching as part of continuing horizon scanning and current awareness. Three presentations were made (available separately):

- Bernd Ueberschär presented a critical appraisal of Internet based education, highlighting concerns about the depth of learning in the “cut and paste” generation, and loss of privacy through the use of open but persistent social networking tools. He suggested that Katja Liesenbach from Frankfurt University (Johann Wolfgang Goethe University) might be invited to an AQUA-TNET meeting as she has carried out detailed work in the area of identity management in e-learning environments. This is a relatively new concept that would allow students to maintain appropriate degrees of anonymity for different online activities.
- Gonçalo Santos gave a student perspective on changing expectations as new tools and approaches become available. Particularly the concept of “On-demand learner support” as students expect to be able to access materials and support wherever they are and at any time.
- John Bostock gave a presentation on the concept of “Communities of Practice” which is attracting increased interest as a conceptual basis for Internet-based collaborative action and learning. It was suggested that the concept could be used to build links between academia and society and that AQUA-TNET and certainly WP5/8 could be considered a Community of Practice.

- 6 Mike Moulton (WP8 leader) joined the meeting via Skype video conference in order to introduce and discuss the WP8 programme and activities. This worked well, although more attention should be paid to lighting at future events to ensure a good picture.

Improve lighting at future video conferences

It was agreed that there has been some confusion as to the role of WP8 as support to the other workpackages, or as support to the wider network constituency. It was clear that members wished to provide the widest possible service, but that limited resources may mean that some activities would need to be limited to requests from the other workgroups.

Online guide

It was agreed that developing the online guide to teaching tools and methods could be a WP8 activity. Whilst some improvements might be made to presentation, the structure and planned content were felt to be well established and a firm basis for development. It was however noted that more attention may need to be given to making the service fun to use and ensuring that people are inspired and want to participate. Linking with case studies and using real-world scenarios may be a way of developing this in due course. It was also suggested that short videos could be produced for use on the site – mostly based on screen capture

with accompanying narration. Converting to a Wiki format to allow broader participation in contributing and editing remains a possibility, although it was felt that the existing group should establish the main content first. There may also be significant limitations in presentation using a wiki.

It was noted that the group should mainly respond to demand when considering the guidance that should be developed. However, it was also suggested that many potential users of the site might not know what they want at the outset, and that clear guidance based on the experience of others (e.g. members of the workgroup) would be an important element.

It was also suggested that greater emphasis should be placed on pedagogy and how technology may support this and add value, rather than placing the primary emphasis on the technology. E.g. perhaps each section should start with the pedagogical justifications and rationale for the tool or method. The possibility of involving pedagogical experts in developing some sections was raised, or perhaps there may be possibilities for education students to carry out projects in this area linked to the project. Jean Dhont indicated that he could speak with colleagues at Gent about this.

JD to approach pedagogic experts at Gent concerning inputs

With improving content the main priority at present, it was agreed that members should contribute sections most closely linked to their presentations (at this and other meetings) and interests. Jean Dhont will coordinate this.

It was suggested that a more active presence on say Flickr and YouTube would be useful to provide further examples and material linked to the guide.

JD to coordinate inputs to further complete the guide

JB to investigate Flickr & YouTube groups and liaise with project coordinators as appropriate

Help desk and FAQs

A help-desk is proposed as a service to the other workgroups. This could be implemented through a relatively informal, but nevertheless documented, procedure with any requests coming through the

workpackage leader and being assigned to others in the workgroup as appropriate.

It was agreed that a helpdesk to service the whole network and particularly teachers would be most practicable as a peer-to-peer discussion forum in which WP8 members also participate. Facilities for this already exist on the website, so it would simply be a matter of publicising them and ensuring WP8 members receive notifications of new posts.

BU to discuss with other WPs at Stakeholder meeting in Gent

It was suggested that WP members look at other FAQ services to provide clearer ideas about what could be offered through WP8. Alternatively it should be possible to link to relevant FAQs published by others. The FAQs should be fairly closely linked to the forum so that people can check them before posting new messages.

All members

WP8 competences analysis

Members felt unable to define their own competencies within the meeting. It was suggested that required competences are identified with reference to the guide and feedback on stakeholder needs etc., and members can then volunteer knowledge and skills against a clearer frame of reference. This information might then be used when defining responsibilities for support activities

MM & JD to coordinate

7 It was agreed that the group require effective means for maintaining communication and collaboration. A discussion on this was stimulated by two short presentations:

- John Bostock presented the results of a WP5/8 member survey which had been carried out in the preceding weeks using Google Forms. This showed that most members are now using some form of social or professional networking, but no service was universal. Very few members are using mobile services or more comprehensive paid-for project management solutions.
- Jean Dhont then gave a presentation of online project management tools with options for the group to consider

After some discussion, it was suggested that the group experiment further with free but partial solutions such as Google Docs, Doodle and Twitter etc. Sónia Seixas offered to set a Moodle page up for the group to explore this as a low-cost tool for collaboration, to provide a document store, and to give members with an insight into this Virtual Learning Environment (assuming appropriate authorisations are given by Universidade Aberta.

SS to establish Moodle page for WP5/8

All members to increase use of Web 2.0 tools

8 The group then discussed the tracking of relevant education conferences and how to promote these to network members. At present a list of events is provided through a Google Spreadsheet with shared editing rights so that WP members can make updates. John Bostock demonstrated an alternative approach using Google Calendar. Whilst this provides some advantages, it was felt that the spreadsheet format is simpler to maintain and easier for users to find and access relevant events. However, it was suggested that the date field was split into a start date and an end date, which would allow easier sorting and filtering of the spreadsheet.

John Bostock to update Google Spreadsheet and share with new members

Budget is available for WP5 members to attend some of the events in Europe. It was estimated that this might be around 6 events over the three years. It was agreed that members could express interest in attending particular events and that priority should be given to those most relevant to AQUA-TNET activities and where members make a presentation (dissemination) and are most cost effective (e.g. local or in lower cost destinations). There was insufficient time to look through the events in detail, but members are encouraged to do this and discuss this further via e-mail or other collaborative tools. It would be expected that anyone attending an external event would report back to the group and pass on relevant materials where possible.

All members

9 The first major task for WP5 is the design and implementation of a survey of AQUA-TNET members to provide information for further activities and help with the identification of case studies for promotion as examples of innovative practice. John Bostock introduced the issue with a short presentation of key considerations. The group then discussed possible approaches.

It was agreed that the number of questions should be limited – perhaps 25 was the absolute maximum. The use of answer options rather than free text was thought to be better for promoting a response, and easier for analysis. However, some scope for people to communicate information or opinions outside the constraints of the questions was also considered important. There was significant concern that several workpackages would be conducting surveys at the same time, which might lead to confusion and survey fatigue. Further discussions are required with AQUA TT concerning how the surveys would be conducted, however, Bernd Ueberschär recommended LimeSurvey (www.limesurvey.com).

JB to liaise with Aqua TT concerning survey methodology

The group spent some time discussing specific questions. A framework for this was established using Google Docs, with all members present having edit rights. However, there was insufficient time to develop these and members felt it would be better to work on this collaboratively, especially once feedback had been received from the forthcoming

stakeholder meeting.

JB to re-activate development of survey via Internet

- 10 The group discussed the preparation of a document for the forthcoming stakeholder meeting. This provoked some discussion as to whether the stakeholder groups represent all the stakeholders with interests in WP5. With lifelong learning a key theme of the project, the students group should perhaps take a wider remit to include all types and ages of learners. Teachers are a particular focus for WP5 and although there is no teacher stakeholder group, most of the project participants (except those in the stakeholder groups) are teachers. Also under-represented are policy makers and others in the public sector responsible for policy implementation either relating directly to the aquaculture and fisheries sectors, or education.

Bernd Ueberschär had agreed to attend the meeting as representative of WP5/8. It was agreed that he should prepare any necessary document or preparation in consultation with John Bostock and Mike Moulton once further details of the agenda are available.

BU, JB & MM to collaborate on any necessary documents

- 11 Plans for the annual event were discussed. The timing of this had not yet been confirmed, but could be 8-9th June 2009. A priority for this meeting would be to discuss the planned survey to promote participation, but also to consider coordination between workgroups planning to conduct surveys (especially 1, 4, 5 and 6), in order to minimise the risk of confusion and “survey fatigue” among AQUA-TNET members. If the event is delayed until later in the year, it may be possible to launch or pre-test the survey at the event.

12 *Any other business*

It was agreed that that the group should seek opportunities for funding additional activities in our area of interest where proposals may benefit from our existing collaboration. Having strong communication and collaboration tools in place would certainly help this process.

John Bostock thanked participants for their time and contributions and particularly thanked Sonia Seixas for hosting the meeting so well at the Universidade Aberta

All members to seek additional project opportunities relevant to WP5/8

