

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

**LIFELONG LEARNING PROGRAMME
ERASMUS
Academic Network**

Minutes of the **WP6 – Positioning Lifelong learning - meeting** (year 1)

21-22 September 2009

Held at the Hellenic Centre of Marine Research (HCMR), Crete (Greece)

Project Acronym: AQUA-TNET

Project title: Aquaculture, Fisheries & Aquatic Resource Management TN

Contract number: 2008 – 3209 / 001 – 001

Project number: 142245 – LLP -1 – 2008 – 1- BE – ERASMUS - ENW

Agenda

Monday 21st September

<u>Time</u>	<u>Detail</u>	<u>Presented by</u>
14.00	Welcome & round-table introductions Presentation and discussion of the agenda Presentation and review of the WP6 workplan <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Review expected outcomes and results ➤ Agree on working methodology & timetable 	David Murphy
15.30 learning	Current EU and institutional policy with regard to Lifelong learning <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Presentation by Margaret Eleftheriou ➤ Group discussion 	
17.00	Financial and Administrative Guidelines <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Reimbursement of claims 	Marieke Reuver
17.30	Closure of meeting day 1	

Tuesday 22nd September

<u>Time</u>	<u>Detail</u>
9.00	Designing & executing the questionnaires <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - 6.2: Stakeholder Survey – Lifelong Learning Systems - 6.3: Educational Survey – Current Lifelong Learning Provision
14.00	Annual Event Planning <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Theme - Structure and Agenda
16.00	Wrap up <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - To do list - Agenda for the next meeting - Planning the next meeting
17.00	Closure of meeting

List of Attendees:

Name	Organisation
David Murphy	AquaTT UETP Ltd (Ireland)
Marieke Reuver	AquaTT UETP Ltd (Ireland)
Sathappan Saravanan	NAFC Marine Centre (UK)
Giovanni Sansone	University of Naples (Italy)
Sonia Seixas	Open University (Portugal)
Alberto Reis	National Laboratory for Energy and Geology (Portugal)
Margaret Eleftheriou	Aqualex Multimedia Consortium Ltd (Ireland)
Greg Charalambakis	V.T.C. Diastasi Vocational Training Centre (Greece)

Minutes WP6 Core group meeting

Welcome and Introduction

Margaret Eleftheriou, the local organiser, welcomed everybody to the first WP6 core group meeting.

All participants introduced themselves, and their interest in the WP subject, lifelong learning.

- Marieke Reuver explained her role in the AQUA-TNET project.
- David Murphy described AquaTT and the AQUA-TNET project.
- Greg Charalambakis explained the Vocational Training Center “DIASTASI” is a dynamic company in the field of vocational training, education and development of human resources.
- Saro Saravanan explained that the NAFC Marine Centre offers vocational courses, higher national certificate courses in Fisheries, Aquaculture, Navigation and Engineering. It caters for the industry needs and offers several short term and tailored courses. It hopes to also deliver online aquaculture modules, and long-distance courses in the future. They would like to get more involved in lifelong learning and generic skills development to support the local industry.
- Giovanni Sansone told that the University of Naples wants to improve formation programmes, not only for university, but also for fishery communities (more vocational). They just started a new programme. He thinks the Lifelong learning WP is the most important and interesting aspect in AQUA-TNET, and that comments and suggestions coming from it, directed to the EC, will be much appreciated.
- Sonia Seixas is a new member to AQUA-TNET and she teaches lifelong learning courses at the Open University of Portugal. The institution offers both university and vocational courses, which are all ECTS credited (accredited by the university).
- Alberto Reis is a new AQUA-TNET member too. He is involved in several research projects and does partly teaching. He is interested in helping to establish the bridge between research, university and private sector.

Presentation and discussion of the agenda

No comments on the agenda. It is remarked that the programme can be changed during the meeting, if necessary.

Presentation and review of the WP6 work plan

It is commented that if partners have better ideas and suggestions regarding the content of work package 6 in general, than has been initially described in the project proposal, these ideas are welcome.

Current EU and institutional policy with regard to Lifelong Learning

Margaret Eleftheriou presented the current EU policies regarding lifelong learning, in particular the European Universities Charter on Lifelong Learning. For full details please check the PowerPoint Presentation and [http://www.eua.be/fileadmin/user_upload/files/Publications/European Universities Charter on Lifelong learning.pdf](http://www.eua.be/fileadmin/user_upload/files/Publications/European_Universities_Charter_on_Lifelong_learning.pdf).

After the presentation the partnership discussed the situation at their own institutions regarding lifelong learning policies.

Sonia Seixas had not heard about the European Universities Charter on Lifelong Learning before, but her institution already deals with all the issues mentioned. The Open University of Portugal has been in the front line regarding the subject.

The University of Naples has a policy. It is uncertain if LNG has a policy. Saro Saravanan introduced the UK lifelong learning policy, which is not known to the rest of the participants. There is also a webportal with more information.

David Murphy explained that there is a difference in a policy being there, and the fact if it is practically implemented as well. Examples are given that show the policies don't always come down to all levels at an institution, so also our AQUA-TNET partners don't always know if their institution has a lifelong learning policy. AQUA-TNET is interesting because it gives information on these kind of things, and everybody gets informed about the developments. At the political level there is now pressure to do something with lifelong learning. The universities have to provide examples that show that they are taking lifelong learning into account, and training their staff in it.

Validation of informal learning is discussed; one partner commented that he thinks the workforce is not interested in having their training and work experience validated, as for them it is more important to be able to do the tasks. Other partners do not agree, e.g. if one changes jobs, it is important to being able to show your competences, which preferably have been validated and accredited. Currently it is important to get a formal recognition for the informal. Acquired skills and knowledge should be validated and accredited, and then a next employer can be assured that the new employee really knows it.

Sonia Seixas emphasises that for her it would make her job a lot easier, as at the moment she has to examine case by case in order to assess prior learning, taking a lot of time and personnel. She commented the ECTS system is a good system, as that gives a clear and immediate idea of prior learning and knowledge.

The partnership discussed the different ways they do assessment of prior learning. The conclusion was that if we could all work in a common currency, then that would make life a lot easier. That is what the AQUA-TNET WP6 are trying to do.

The role of universities in lifelong learning is discussed with the core partners. Suggested roles are:

1. Are universities going to recognize prior learning?
2. Are they only going to give courses?
3. Are they going to be an accreditation body, or training, or assessment?

Partners give current practices at their institutions. It is concluded that there are different applications of the term Lifelong Learning, which causes confusion. Is it about assessing lifelong learning, or providing lifelong learning? Also the learning pathways are very varied, everybody is unique, while in the past it was more uniform. Nowadays jobs have changed completely; people change jobs much more and more quickly, in different types of jobs as well, which don't really relate. There is nothing which structures that more or less. Lifelong jobs don't exist anymore.

It is commented that it is important to have generic skills, because you can transfer them from sector to sector, and from job to job.

- **The aim of this WP is to disseminate the information we know and gather regarding lifelong learning, to all partners in the network.**

Financial and Administrative Guidelines

Marieke Reuver explained the financial and administrative guidelines.

- **Please check the Project Handbook of the Lifelong Learning Programme for exact details: http://eacea.ec.europa.eu/llp/projects/2008/documents/llp_2008/project_handbook_2008_en.pdf**
- **Submit your Invoice or "AQUA-TNET2 Reclamation of costs of externals Form" within 45 days after an event, accompanied with original evidence of costs**
- **Only the lowest fares are eligible for reimbursement**
- **Subsistence costs must not exceed ceilings as set by EC**

WAVE & VALLA

The WAVE and VALLA projects, which are very interesting for WP6, are presented and discussed.

WAVE identified and recognized the skills and knowledge needed to work in the European Aquaculture sector. It developed a master competency list for European Aquaculture in 10 languages (www.waveproject.com)

VALLA builds upon the success of the WAVE project, and develops and pilots methods of recognizing and accrediting lifelong learning in Aquaculture via the European Qualifications Framework (www.vallaproject.com). VALLA made an occupational map of the European aquaculture sector, as well as an online "Learning Outcome" tool, which are demonstrated to the WP6 partners.

Validation and accreditation aspects are discussed; they are important, but it will take a few years to get to that stage. National governments have to regulate.

David Murphy explains the VALLA project will organise "train the trainer" workshops, where the VALLA online "Learning Outcome" tool will be tested.

- **Sonia Seixas and Alberto Reis will be send information regarding the VALLA "train the trainer" workshops**

Two other future projects which are interesting are:

1. Vocational AQUALABS: this project will identify the generic skills needed in aquaculture research, by consulting all stakeholders. Researchers will be

surveyed to find out whether they possess the skills identified and at what level. Modules will be developed to fill the gaps, using a skill/competency/learning outcome based approach.

2. Aquaret2: in aquaret1, e-learning training materials for renewable energy were designed. Aqua-RET 2 aims to update & further develop its innovative training materials for the marine renewables sector, targeting also new audience and wider geographic locations. New short training courses will be designed, with new material bridging the gap between competence requirements and labour market needs.

- **Marieke Reuver will send Sonia Seixas and Alberto Reis information and material from Aquaret**

Designing & executing the questionnaires

A detailed discussion was held regarding the two questionnaires WP6 will have to do. Focus was placed on what is required in the end; who are the stakeholders, what do we want to know from them, what is going to happen with the results, what kind of results do we want?

- **David Murphy and Marieke Reuver will finalise the 2 questionnaires before the AQUA-TNET Annual Event**
- **The training provider questionnaire will be handed out during the Annual Event, and results will be discussed during the core group meeting**
- **The stakeholder questionnaire will be distributed during the FEAP AGM in Finland, October 8-9**

Annual Event 2009

- **WP4 will be approached to suggest interaction and cooperation during the event, because of overlap and cross-over between the WP's**
- **The "training providers" questionnaire will be handed out and results will be discussed**
- **If there is a EUA representative, (s)he will be asked to participate in the core group meeting.**

Wrap-up

- **It is suggested to do the next core group meeting in about 6 months. Venue will be one of the partner institutions.**
- **In the next VALLA meeting WP6 partner involvement in VALLA will be discussed**
- **VALLA will keep WP6 informed over the next 6 months**
- **WP6 will be consulted on a regular basis regarding the online "Learning Outcome" tool**