AQUA-TNET3

Promoting innovation and a European dimension through Lifelong learning in the field of Aquaculture, Fisheries and Aquatic Resource Management – Thematic Network

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PU Public	X
RE Restricted to other programme participants (including the Commission Services)	
CO Confidential, only for members of the consortium (including the Commission Services)	

Indicate any document related to this deliverable (report, website, ppt etc and give file name)*.

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SUMMARY

Objectives: To provide an analysis of the Mobility Portal based on the considerations made by the members of the wp3 core group members, the central coordination of the Project, the comments of the steering committee and the discussion about its future prospects.

Rationale: Numerous informations related to mobility requirements, lists of procedures for paperwork preparation, general requirements for mobility, and other useful references for movers have been collected and developed to promote mobility as a core duty of WP3. This information is uploaded to the Mobility portal and is publicly available; end-users envisaged are all actors in the Aqua-tnet domain looking for mobility information, including students, employers, employees, research and industry organisations. The result is the Portal as it will appear at the end of this project and this report analyses this result and discusses its suitability for the mobility purposes, its usability and future opportunities of this tool.

Results: The analysis of the Mobility Portal after the development of AquaTnet and the prospects about the future of this tool.

Teams involved: The team involved is the wp3 core member group, the secretary and coordination of the AquaTnet Project.

Geographical areas covered:
All European countries

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DL3.11 Mobility Reference Site.

Mobility in Aquaculture training

Mobility has been one of the strategic interests of the European Union, in particular regarding the area of training and education and this has been also a priority in AquTnet projects, as we are concerned with aquaculture and professional or vocational movers, but often specific mobility is not included in EU programmes.

Aquatnet had a previous phase in which a Portal started to be developed, and although we could not provide particular or own grants for movers, the Portal started to be a reference point or movers in aquaculture, fisheries and aquatic management sector. Therefore, the work-package members are looking at the portal as it is now but also in how we think it should look in the next incarnation, in particular whether the information provided is sufficiently good and complete for the stakeholders. So, the prospects will come up with some sort of plan for the future of the website. Therefore, WP3 is interested in to show both the progress done in this AquaTnet phase and the future directions.

Mobility and cooperation in the Aquatic sector

The group also considered integrating other useful informations in the Portal, some of them having already a connection by specific members or thruough organisations, one example being promoting jobs related to the Aquaculture, Fisheries and Aquatic sector. The initiatives are the following:
-To connect with PiscesTT initiative, already providing information for jobs, which will be an option that could appear in the portal (www.piscesttjobs.com).
-Another direction is the cooperation with other european projects that share some common spaces such as Aquaexcel, as it can reinforce either initiatives, both for information and for growing visibiity. (www.aquaexcel.eu)
- A third direction is the establish regular agreements with other networks with whom we already collaborate but that this collaboration could be more stable and formalised, so the long-term collaboration is readily assumed. This is the case with neteorks as DTU Aqua (http://www.aqua.dtu.dk/).

Evolution of the AquaT-net driven mobility over the last years

The AquaTnet projects have intended to provide a useful tool to promote mobility among countries in Europe and abroad, but the success has not been as good as it could have been. The first reason is that, in previous years, Aquaculture interested people could ask for a mobility grant that was managed by the projects and therefore there was not only a service of finding mobility places but also providing a grant. In

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this way a number of connected people were obtained, mostly students and companies/research centres and also a reference point that was easily spread-out thanks to the budget used for grants. The second reason is the number of possible placements, especially for hands-on aquaculture practices, which are some times difficult to maintain over the years, and even more difficult to increase the numbers. In this way, universities are usually solving by themselves the placements of their students, but few activity is going on related to the vocational mobility, as no tutorisation is normally carried out.

AquaTnet Mobility portal features and improvements

Earlier deliverables of the work package 3 deal about collection of data for providing more placments and tools for mobility and and 11 and 12 become about doing and showing the collected data, and the appearance and the final product. The work package 3 group had a quick look at the current Aqua-tnet site and decided that the map should be an obvious place although it tooks a little bit to find in the web. Thus, several improvements were suggested that had to be implemented over the last period of the project.
   - Using a filter to find Universities vs companies vs research centres would be useful.
   - The icons are not all together clear. Use the same icons for types but different colours for partner vs non-partner.
   - Icons should be made simpler.
   - And a legend included.
   - Only the map should appear in the Portal, and the additional information will appear after clicking the grants, courses or mobility information package.
   - Remove thesis defence tab from the portal as it is not very relevant to movers and place in another part of the AquaTnet project site.
   - Add a tab for 'points of interest' on to the mobility portal. This could include links to EAS, PiscesTT, etc.
   - If there is no information entered under a certain tab for any institution then the tab will not be visible at the front-end. This will solve the problem of having 'none' appear where there is no information available.

Regarding the visibility and usability of the Portal the group discussed about the real possibilities to test this before the end of the Project. Since the Portal has to be updated at the end of the project, we will have few chances to do these tests. However, some actions were proposed:
   - Asking the stakeholders to look at the portal and give opinion
   - Looking at web stats and how they change over time after map changes
   - Make an in situ survey during an eventual aquaculture meeting

Promotion and future possibilities

Regarding impact and promotion, the group considered that a promotion strategy for the future of the Portal is desirable. If you google aquaculture and mobility Aquatnet does not come up in the first page and the group was wondering if the name is not

exactly obvious. Key words on google and transparency of the name is perhaps a question and discussion for the future projects. In addition, we should make sure that people are promoting it. Links with local regional and national support, which have included in this phase of the AquaTnet project, will help to promote the map.

Work package 3 core members proposed also some ways to promote AquaTnet mobility Portal:

- Research projects and research labs could include the link with AquaTnet to increase visibility and promote impact, as it may be also good for the lab.
- Cross references with other projects or programs, both local or state/european
- Explore the possibility of contacting similar networks in other continents, especially Asia and America.

Future possibilities of the AquaTnet Portal are discussed which related to the uses that can exploit the possibilities of the Portal. Work package 3 proposes the two following directions:

1) A professional management of the database and information contained in the Portal, being either public or private but maintaining and if possible, increasing the use of the Portal.

2) Promoting a kind of "agency" for mobility in this area. This would imply a small number of people that could work in finding a contactpoint for a mobility student or worker, preparing documents, providing infromation of the placement, preparing agreements between the employer/host and the mover. This, of course, will need an sponsor that pays back this type of work, or alternatively a kind of subscription or fee to enter to this system and get the service. There are several ways to do that, but it probably has a market, providing that there are also some other tools that coud be used (companies that look for professionals or students, vacancies), or links with ongoing projects and networks.

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