



**AQUA-TNET - Krakow (Poland)  
19<sup>th</sup> September 2008**

**Minutes of WP3 core group meeting**

Attendance: Gavin Burnell  
Margaret Eleftheriou  
Bart van Delsen  
David Benhaim  
Greg Charambalakis  
Ioanna Argyrou

The core group had the task of considering in further detail the 1<sup>st</sup> draft of the TUNING template which had been prepared by the group and presented for confirmation to the whole network.

**Delays caused by events beyond core group control**

Progress had been slow in producing this first draft, mainly because of the failure of the TUNING representatives to respond to the many attempts by the AQUA-TNET network, not only to make contact, but also to further the progress of AQUA-TNET to participating as the aquaculture sector. Although a TUNING representative from the University of Crete had made a TUNING presentation at the AQUA-TNET Annual Event in Crete, nothing further had come from this contact but a vague indication that a meeting would take place in February 2008. However, the group followed up a fortuitous direct contact which was made on the occasion of a meeting of Coordinators of EQF projects in Brussels in February 2008, which the TUNING coordinator, Professor Julia Gonzalez attended. After several more attempts to obtain the TUNING template, this was finally sent to the core group in March 2008. As a result of this delay, the template was not sent to partners until after Easter. The first draft of the template was drawn up and sent to the WP3 leader in August 2008, and presented to the network at the AQUA-TNET Final Event in September 2008.

**First draft of TUNING template (Aquaculture)**

The amended first draft of the TUNING template was presented to the whole AQUA-TNET network on September 19 2008 by Mrs M. Eleftheriou and is presented as an attachment to these minutes. Having briefly described the evolution of the TUNING project in the Bologna process for the benefit of stakeholders not familiar with the details, Mrs Eleftheriou presented each part of the AQUACULTURE template in some detail to the participants, specifically requesting amendments of modifications to the text.

Having received a positive confirmation of the first draft as shown below, the task of the core group was to consider those aspects requiring further details which could



only be completed by individual network members.

### **TUNING template (Aquaculture)**

**Accepted by whole network in plenary session as shown**

- ✓ Introduction to subject area (agreed)
- ✓ Degree profiles (agreed)

Typical degrees offered in the subject area (under discussion by core group)

- ✓ Typical occupations of the graduates in the subject area (map of professions)
- ✓ Role of subject area in other degree programmes (agreed)

*Which programmes and in what way – not agreed, needs to be changed*

- ✓ Learning outcomes and competences (agreed with small amendments)
- ✓ Consultation process with stakeholders (agreed)
- ✓ Workload and ECTS (agreed but still under discussion)

*Learning teaching and assessment (Some best practice case studies to be given by network)*

*Quality enhancement (still to be tackled by core group)*

### **TUNING template (Aquaculture)**

Discussion in core group meeting

Typical degrees offered in the subject area

- *First cycle in (name subject area / specific parts)*
- *Second cycle in (name subject area / specific parts)*
- *Third cycle in (name subject area / specific parts)*

There was animated discussion over this issue. It was confirmed that there were very few Bachelor or first degrees purely in aquaculture in Europe. It was agreed that it was necessary to seek these out and to have confirmed details of the courses/modules, together with the ECTS offered. Suggestions were Bachelor in Aquaculture Studies (Bergen, Norway), Bachelor in Aquaculture (University of Thessaly, Greece), Higher Standard Diploma (Marine Sciences and Techniques Institute, France).

The Master's degree is where many aquaculture specialisations and specific degrees are provided, throughout Europe. It was agreed to give examples from the countries already chosen, but to include Belgium. It was noted once again that there remains great disparity in Master's provision across Europe, with many short, taught professional Master degrees lasting one year with a maximum of 60 ECTS, along with 'academic' Masters, lasting 18–24 months, with 120 ECTS (90 ECTS taught course, 30 ECTS for thesis). Examples to come from Norway (University of Bergen or Trondheim), Greece (Agricultural University of Athens), France (example not yet chosen) and Belgium (University of Gent).

There was no time to discuss the 3<sup>rd</sup> cycle, but the input from WP2 was



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acknowledged to be both timely and useful, especially with regard to the innovatory taught aspects.

### *Which programmes and in what way – not agreed, needs to be changed*

It was pointed out that the Joint Masters degree as described in the template no longer exists, having come to an end in 2005. There was no further discussion of this issue.

### *Learning teaching and assessment (best practice case studies to be given by network)*

It was agreed that this could follow on from the description of typical degrees (see above). It was also agreed that the AQUATT AQUALABS short courses should appear as instances of best practice.

### *Quality enhancement*

The AMEU Guide of Excellence was referred to as an example of what AQUATNET should be aiming for in this area. It was agreed that this document should be distributed to all core group members. There was no further discussion of this issue.

M. Eleftheriou

24<sup>th</sup> September 2008.