

Aquaculture Infrastructures for Excellence in European Fish Research

The Project

AQUAEXCEL is an infrastructure project coordinated by the Institut National de la Recherche Agronomique (INRA), FRANCE

- 17 partners
- 10 European countries
- 23 facilities accessible for experiments by users from outside the consortium
- 48 month project duration
March 2011 - February 2015

The Challenge

Today, European aquaculture technology is one of the areas where Europe has the edge and can make a difference in the future. Nevertheless, the European aquaculture industry is facing increasing challenges due to a more demanding and selective market combined with competition from outside the EU. These complex challenges require technological solutions that can only be solved with the contribution of high level experts and experienced professionals, and with excellent research facilities, outstanding services, and the right biological resources.



Project Objective

AQUAEXCEL aims to integrate key aquaculture research infrastructures across Europe, in order to promote their coordinated use and development.



Methodology

AQUAEXCEL will provide the European aquaculture research community with a platform of top class research infrastructures, integrating on a European scale key aquaculture research infrastructures. The platform will encompass a wide range of production systems including recirculation, flow-through, hatchery, cage, and pond systems. Fish research will be spread across several species including sea bass, sea bream, salmon, cod, trout and common carp. Freshwater, marine, cold, and warm water environments will be represented, as will small, medium and industrial scale settings.

Expected Results

- + Access to state-of-the-art aquaculture research infrastructures by research teams who would otherwise not normally have access to these facilities.
- + Coordination of key research infrastructures in Europe, creating the basis for joint research projects.
- + An online inventory of aquaculture research infrastructures, facilities and services.
- + Harmonisation and standardisation of resources between partners (e.g. fish models and experimental methods)
- + New experimental concepts and tools: remote access to facilities (e-infrastructure), phenotyping of individual fish, upscaling of research results, development of isogenic fish lines (salmon, sea bass, common carp)
- + Transfer of knowledge activities, such as training early-stage researchers and technicians on the latest experimental methods in aquaculture research.

ACCESS one of the 23 AQUAEXCEL INFRASTRUCTURES!

Access to the 23 partner infrastructures by external research teams will be organised on the basis of regular calls for access, starting June 2011 - APPLY at www.aquaexcel.eu



Project partners



The research leading to these results has received funding from the European Union Seventh Framework Programme (FP7/2007-2013) under grant agreement no 262336. This publication reflects the views only of the author, and the European Union cannot be held responsible for any use which may be made of the information contained therein.

Poster developed by AquaTT (www.aquat.tl) 2011, version 1