

## AQUAEXCEL and AQUAEXCEL2020: Research infrastructures projects for the benefit of European aquaculture

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# AQUAEXCEL and AQUAEXCEL<sup>2020</sup>: RESEARCH INFRASTRUCTURE PROJECTS FOR THE BENEFIT OF EUROPEAN AQUACULTURE

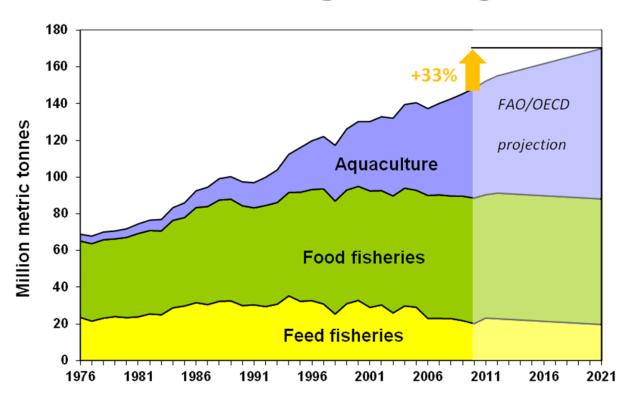
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INRA, France

Paris, CRB Anim international seminar, 12 May 2017





## Aquaculture: a growing challenge



EU level: production is now stagnating and 85% of seafood is imported

- → EU strategy to develop aquaculture production
- → Research to improve competitiveness and sustainability





## AQUAEXCEL<sup>2020</sup> – At a glance

## Aquaculture Infrastructures for Excellence in European Fish Research (towards 2020)

AQUAEXCEL	AQUAEXCEL <sup>2020</sup>
2011-2015 (4 years)	2015-2020 (5 years)
17 partners, 27 facilities	22 partners, 39 facilities
9.2 M€ grant	9.7 M€ grant

Main goal: to integrate and open the key aquaculture research infrastructures in Europe, covering all EU fish culture systems and competences





## Types of activities

Transnational Access (TNA): Give 'free of charge' access to the world-class infrastructures and resources of the consortium

Networking Activities (NA): Co-ordinate partners infrastructures (resource and know-how sharing, communication) and give visibility

Joint Research Activities (JRA): Joint R&D to improve the services provided by the infrastructures

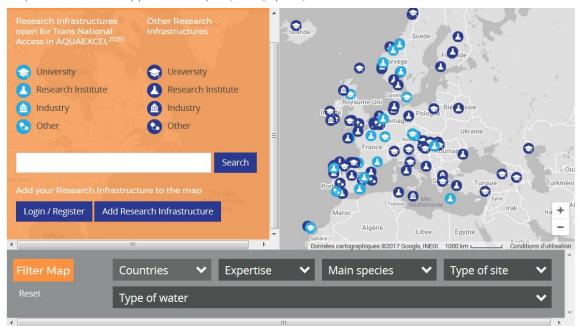
## **AQUAEXCEL Networking activities**

The RI Map on www.aquaexcel2020.eu

AquaExcel Archive

#### **Interactive Map**

For questions related to the map please contact AguaTT (claudia@aguatt.ie).



Page created on: Wed, 05/10/2016 - 17:32. Last update: Wed, 03/05/2017 - 12:37.

Currently 108 entries
Interactive menu

Searchable

Detailed information available





## **AQUAEXCEL Networking activities**





## **AQUAEXCEL Networking:**

#### training courses

RAS technology @ Wageningen





**New Monitoring Tech @ NTNU** 









**Extended in AQUAEXCEL**<sup>2020</sup>

9 courses in total

## **AQUAEXCEL Joint research**

#### Access your infrastructure from your living room

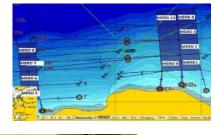


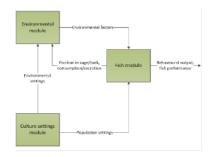
**IMARES** 



## **AQUAEXCEL Joint research**

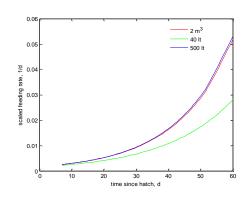
#### Effect of experimental unit size on results

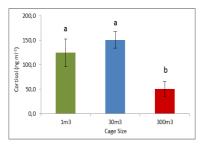












#### AQUA EXCEL 2020

### **AQUAEXCEL Joint research**

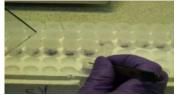
#### Early individual tagging of sea bass and sea bream



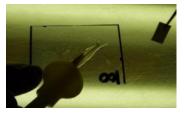
Insertion of the NonaTec tag in the abdominal cavity of a 400 mg juvenile seabass







Sampling of the caudal fin for DNA collection







Sampling mucus on Whatmann paper and storage at -20°C

- → Survival OK for BW>400 mg
- → No effect on growth
- → Effect on swimming behaviour (disappears after 42 days)
- → Reading success >80%
- → Survival OK
- → DNA collected starting
- 71 dpf (43 mg)
- →DNA quality/quantity OK for routine genotyping for fish> 87 dpf (248 mg)



Early individual electronic identification of sea bass using RFID microtags: A first example of early phenotyping of sex-related growth

<u>()</u> ----

Sébastien Ferrari <sup>a,b</sup>, Béatrice Chatain <sup>h,c</sup>, Xavier Cousin <sup>a,d</sup>, Didier Leguay <sup>a</sup>, Alain Vergnet <sup>c</sup>, Marie-Odile Vidal <sup>c</sup>, Marc Vandeputte <sup>c,e</sup>, Marie-Laure Bégout <sup>a,\*</sup>

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I femer, Che min de Maguelone, 34250 Palanas-les-Rots, I I NRA LPGP, Campus de Beauleu, 35042 Rennes, France





## **AQUAEXCEL Joint research**

#### Isogenic fish lines: the lab mouse of fish research



#### Already there:

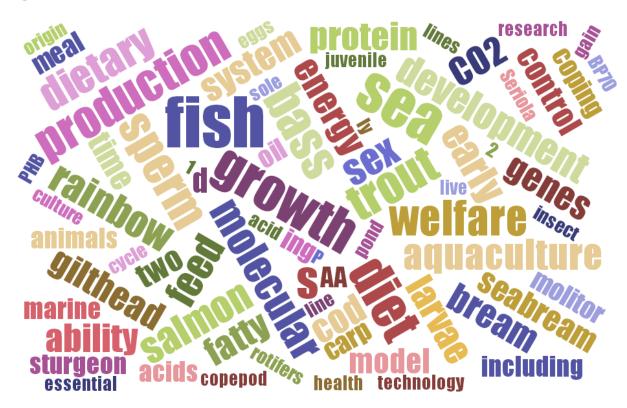






## **AQUAEXCEL** transnational access

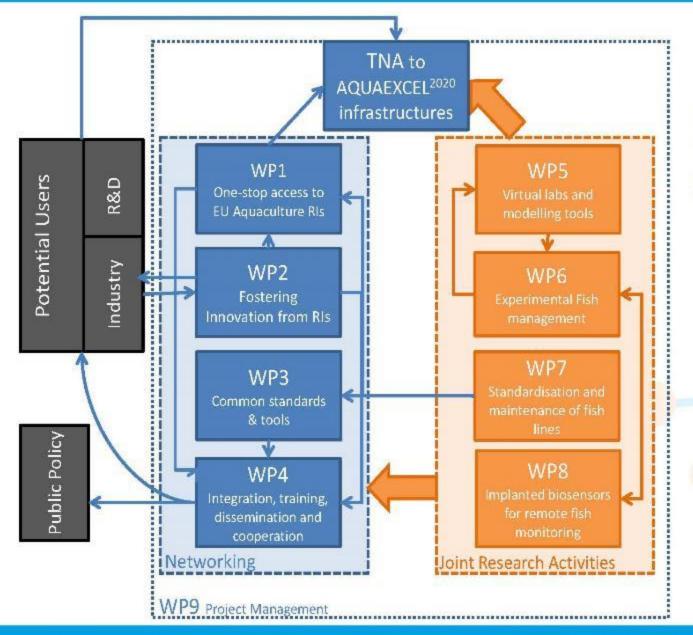
136 projects submitted → 97 financed



170 projects foreseen in AQUAEXCEL<sup>2020</sup>







# Project structure

Four workpackages focus on strengthening joint research activities, whilst four more involve TNA, industry links, developing common standards and tools and providing training and dissemination





## **Networking activities**

- Management of the TNA calls
- Fostering innovation through analysis and promotion of results by and Industry-Research Advisory Panel
- The Digital Fish: organize and share fish lines data
- An open access bioinformatics tool (Fish and Chips)
- Common procedures for cryobanking
- Data collection and interoperability
- "one stop shop" Web portal www.aquaexcel2020.eu
- Face-to-face and distance learning courses



## Joint research for better experiments

- Virtual modelling of aquaculture experimental facilities to help design/interpret experiments
- Experimental fish management: effect of life history on results, how to achieve maximal feed intake
- Development and maintenance of stable fish lines for experimental purposes
- Internal nano-sensors to monitor fish physiology/behavior in real time



### **Transnational Access**

#### The numbers

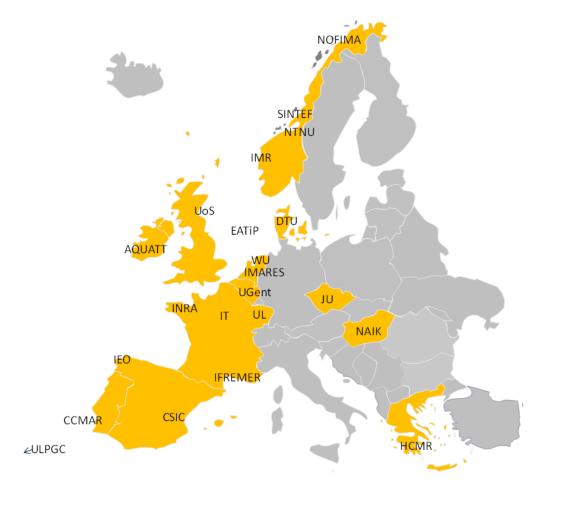
21 Host Organisations

39 Research Installations

~170 Funded Projects

~217 Users

~300 Applications









Apply for Fully EC-Funded

Access to Top-Class Research

Infrastructures with AQUAEXCEL<sup>2020</sup>



AQUAEXCEL<sup>2235</sup> offers access to top-class research infrastructures for both basic and applied research, giving aquaculture research groups the opportunity to utilise AQUAEXCEL \*\*\*\* Installations

The AGUAEXCEL sum project regularly invites proposals from European rescuich groups for scientific research that utilises the distallations of any of the participating Aquaculture Research

These installations are made available to the research on minutity for Transpational Access-(TNA) with the support of the European. Chon's Horizon 2020 Research and hinevation Interested researchers can propose aquaculture research projects that:

- wolve research on any of the svallable fish species at the selected aquaculture research
- Are compliant with the EATiP Strategic Sesearch & Imposation /-genda-
- avolve visits of one or two people to a mayorch infrastructum that provides ristal attors not available in their own country. for periods of up to the-- months.

Access to the research infrastructures and associated travel and subsistence expenses will be paid for under the project.

THE FIRST CALL FOR ACCESS IS NOW OPEN - DEADLINE FOR APPLICATIONS 29 JANUARY 2016 For more information: www.aquaexcel.eu



ENVIRONMENTS.

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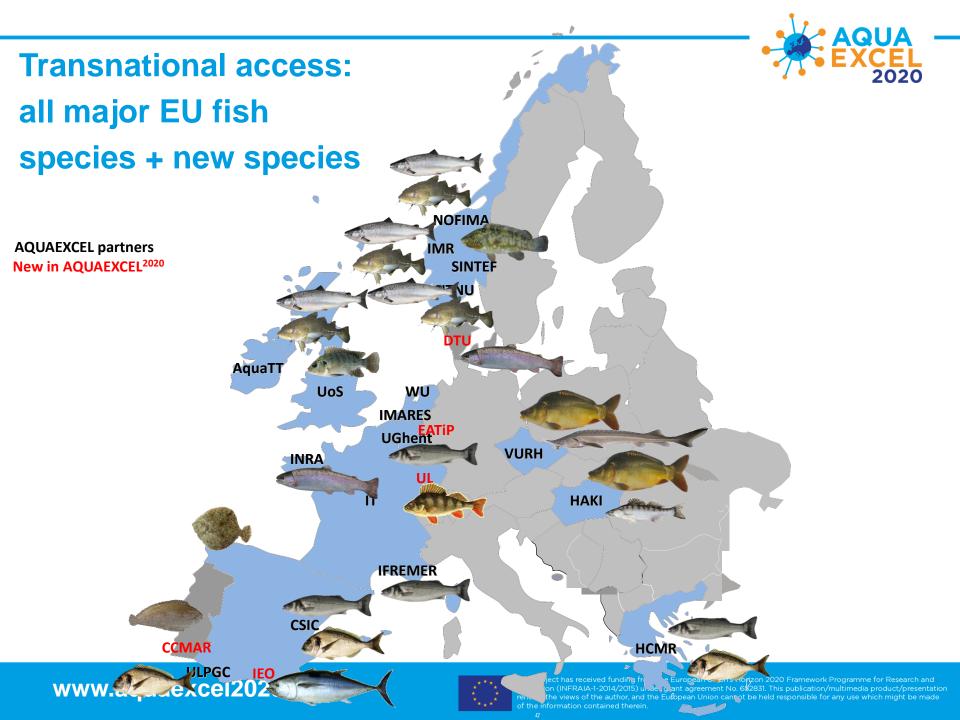


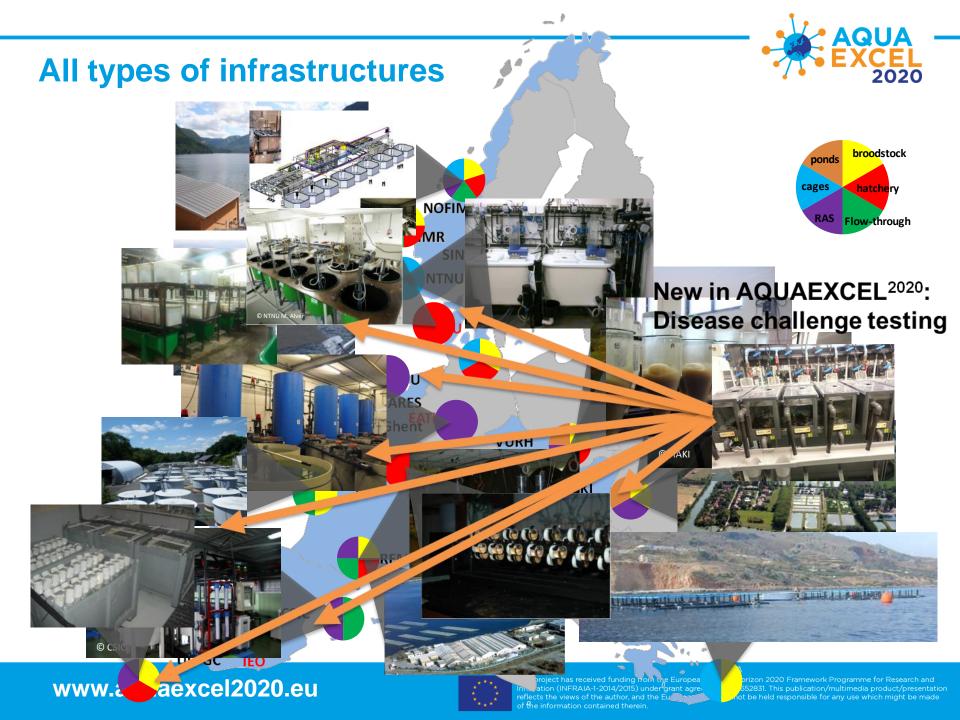
## The TNA offer

#### Access to the partner research installations for

- Researchers from public & private organisations
- Maximum 2 people for up to 3 months (remote access also possible)
- Use of facilities not available in own country
- Free (travel and subsistence expenses paid)









## What is the vision for 2020?

#### In 2020, we will...

- have 180 TNA projects completed, many by SMEs and young scientists (trained in our AE<sup>2020</sup> courses)
- be able to track the background info of all our results
- See AQUAEXCEL<sup>2020</sup> results in all EU aquaculture conferences
- provide a documented catalogue of isogenic experimental lines of salmon, trout, sea bass and carp
- obtain better, industry meaningful results with less fish
- Follow experiments in real time with implanted fish and benchmark them with a priori simulation models

...prepare AQUAEXCEL<sup>2025</sup> ?





### What are the benefits?

#### For project partners

- Building a community of leading research organizations
- Sharing of experiences/ methods and tools
- Developing new experimental approaches
- Developing new collaborations through TNA
- But NOT subsidizing routine operation of the infrastructures
- Preparing an ERIC ? Need for national support!



## Challenges for an infra project

#### What do you need to build an infrastructures project?

- Have a shared vision among top-level EU partners
- Identify complementarities / synergies among partners
- Have the right words in the Work Programme:
  - Easy for Networking Activities
  - Think well for Joint Research Activities: this is NOT problem-solving research
- The greatest challenge: an attractive TNA offer
  - What are your products and services?
  - Would you use them if available in other institutions?
  - Does not subsidize unused structures (20% rule) !!

## Thank You



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