**ERASMUS+ KEY ACTION 2 project - Strategic Partnership**

Strategic partnerships are an important part of Key Action 2 ' Cooperation for innovation and the exchange of good practices of the seven-year-long Erasmus+ program for education, youth and Sport in Europe, started on 1 January 2014. Approximately 28% of the total budget of Erasmus+ is earmarked for Strategic partnerships

The action line KA2 is meant to project initiatives aimed at solving issues in one or more educational sectors. It always concerns a collaboration of at least three different organisations from three different countries belonging to the Erasmus+ program countries (the EU Member States and five associated countries to the EU).

A strategic partnership can be applied by educational institutions and other public and private organizations that contribute to the improvement and innovation of education in the widest sense of the word. There is a great deal of flexibility in terms of activities within a partnership project possible and both small-scale and large-scale initiatives are supported.

The duration of projects can range from 24 to 36 months. The grant amount that can be requested is up to € 150,000.00 per year and with it up to € 450,000.00 for a project of three years.

Important goals within Erasmus+ are structural embedding of internationalization, inclusion in policies at European, national and organizational level and impact.

In our project we strive for a successful strategic partnership project with partners able to deployment, legitimacy, dissemination and sustainability of project results. These activities will also take place after the end of the project. With our project we want to deliver relevant solutions for real issues at European, national, regional and organizational level play.

 

**Project number:** 2019-1-NL01-KA202-060275

**Title:** Future proofing a common and transparent **Vi**tal **E**uropean learning and **W**orkforce platform for sustainable **AQUA**culture practices

**Project acronym:** Aqua-view

**Summary:**

In this project a group of 8 partners from vocational colleges and universities of applied science will work to complete this project by increasing their cooperation and education on Aquacultuur to a higher sustainable and moreover European level.

The partners will prepare students, professionals in training and adults by offering them international learning units that are built around new and common innovative subjects in aquaculture. The units will be offered in an international learning environment, enriching students with both subject specific knowledge as well as a meaningful international experience.

**Context/background**

Aquaculture is a sector with opportunities and challenges: production of high-quality food in a more

sustainable way, and new breeding techniques, alternative raw materials for feed, and other

innovations contribute to this.

The Sustainable Development Goals (SDG) of the United Nations are the blueprint to achieve a

better and more sustainable future. They address the global challenges we face related to the green

sector, for example food, energy, and water.

This project contributes to the SDG’s and European objectives by targeting following subjects:

- Ensure the development of food security, food safety, and sustainability within the sector

- Levelling differences across Europe

- Optimize innovative effectiveness

- Promote new entrepreneurship with sustainability at the forefront of their operations

- Accountability to climate objectives

- Exchange of students, staff, professionals working in the sector between partners in international

education and enterprises

- Increase and enhance labour quality and -mobility within the sector

Through education on European level and scale, this project wants to responds to the opportunities,

and also wants to make a positive contribution to the challenges. Based on the needs of industry,

European Objectives, and the SDGs (related to food, soil, water and energy) this project contributes

to the development of future employable employees, able to work internationally within the sector,

and thus give shape to European labour mobility.

A high-quality workforce must be created that responds to challenges facing the sector, and

innovations needed in order to contribute to European aquaculture objectives.

**Objectives of the project**

With this project a long-term cooperation starts with a consortium of European VET schools,

University colleges, and international industry within the sector of aquaculture. They work together on

the development of training, that meet the needs of industry and the European objectives and SDG’s

in aquaculture. The project aims to achieve these goals by developing European training at EQF level

4, at EQF level 5, and in work based learning programs for lifelong learning.

**Methodology and description of activities**

To ensure the outcomes are properly connected to the aquaculture industry, within this project it is

important to examine the needs of industry. Which requirements (competences, knowledge, skills, and also autonomy, responsibility and complexity) require the companies of their staff? Based on

input from enterprises, VET- and University colleges develop outcome based learning units EQF 4,

and international training for EQF 5.

**Main project activities**

* 3 outcome based International learning units for employment at EQF level 4: workers on EQF 4,

able to work in their own and other EU countries with the different production techniques, e.g.

recirculation systems, pond and flow systems in freshwater cultivation, and cages and shell cultures

in salt-water cultivation.

* International outcome based training EQF level 5: employee/employer working at EQF 5 has

knowledge, skills, competence and experience in an international context. Industry needs staff at

EQF level 5, able to face challenges in the above mentioned objectives for aquaculture.

* Work based learning programs/Lifelong learning. Outcome based learning in a work based setting is supported by different training programs and assessment of recognized prior learning (RPL).

These programs lead to more quality in the sector and also to labour mobility.

**Number and profile of participants**

In the project are 7 project partners representing education: VET colleges and University colleges.

Most colleges also offer short term courses. The 8th partner is a an enterprise in research in

Aquaculture, and also offering short term courses. The combination of partners represents also

education on all main production methods and aquaculture species.

There is a widespread range of different kinds of aquaculture industry involved in the project as

associate partner. 1 European association, 4 national associations and 9 enterprises give input and

feedback in project products. During 3 pilots 52 learners are involved to test the learning units and other project product. They will contribute to improvements.

**Results and impact envisaged and finally the potential longer term benefits**

A long term aim is to raise the quality of skills of (starting) professionals and raising the quality

standards in the industry, thus achieving the European objectives for aquaculture.

The learning units are incorporated in education abroad, into the partner’s curricula and make it

sustainable. Student exchange contributes to the development of one Europe where labour mobility

is evident.

The establishment of an European platform for education and industry in aquaculture and a

Transnational network for professional education will ensure sustainability and long term

development of education on aquaculture.

**Project partners:**

Zone college - Netherland

Grm Novo mesto – center biotehnike in turizma - Slovenia

CIFP De desarrollo sostenible en industrias alimentarias y acuicultura - Spain

Land Niederösterreich, LFS Edelhof, Saatzucht - Austria

Malta college of arts science and technology - Malta

Odisee vzw - Belgium

M.A.R.E. SOC. COOP. A R.L. - Italy

Stichting Van Hall Larenstein - Netherlands

**Associated partners:**

They are involved and provide input and feedback in the development process in the project by

• Providing advice and information available, which could be useful to the project activities

• Facilitating contacts of project partners with appropriate data sources in their country

• Provide input on request for development of the professional profiles, the learning framework and

challenges

• Take an active role in the dissemination of the results within their own institute and region

**Associate partners representing industry in Aquaculture:**

• Federation of European Aquaculture Producers - FEAP

• National Legacoop Agroalimentare: National Association Fisheries and Aquaculture Department of

Legacoop agroalimentare associates 300 cooperatives and 95 fish farmers

• NGvA - Nederlands Genootschap van Aquacultuur

• AMA - Associazione Mediterranea Acquacoltori: Association of companies, to promote and protect

the aquaculture production chain, and shellfish farming industry

• Copego: Consortium of shellfish farmers

• Legacoop Agroalimentare North Italian association of Agri-food Cooperatives, including

aquaculture and fishing

• Aqua4c: Fish farmer, Omega Perch

• Crevetec: Shrimp farmer, and consultancy in technology and knowhow in shrimp production

• Lotaquality: Fish farmer, Burbot

• Waldland: Fish farming and retail, Carp, Catfish and Trout

• Matxitxako moluscos: Fish farming and commercializing molluscs in the open sea; retail trade in

fish, shellfish and crustaceans in specialized establishments

• Truchas Oronoz Mugaire: Fish farmer, Trout

• ACCP: Aquaculture Consulting Products BV: Consultancy in Recirculating Aquaculture Systems

(RAS)