

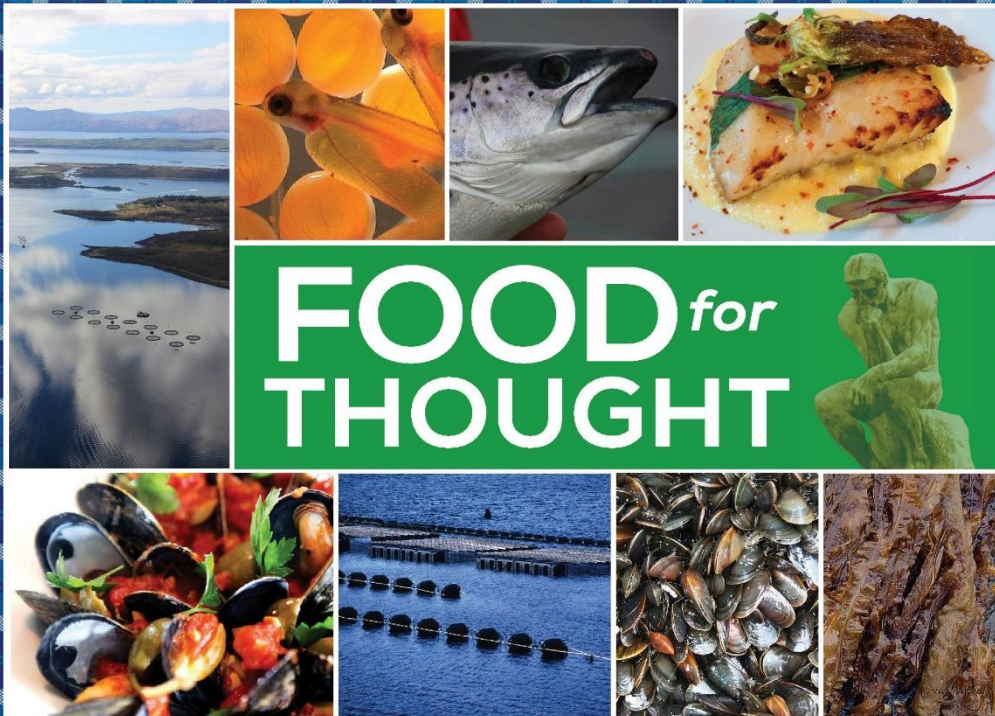
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PROPOSAL FOR THE ESTABLISHMENT OF AN EAS THEMATIC GROUP FOR AQUACULTURE EDUCATION, TRAINING AND KNOWLEDGE EXCHANGE (AQUA-TNET)

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Introduction

AQUA-TNET is familiar to many EAS members as a network focusing on lifelong learning in aquaculture, fisheries and aquatic resources. Its roots can be traced back to 1996 and between 2005 and 2014 it was a stand-alone EU Erasmus funded Thematic Network involving over 90 organisations. Working groups within the project addressed issues such as EU policies and applications to aquaculture PhD and Masters Programmes, developing lifelong learning opportunities, generic skill needs and training, enhancing student mobility opportunities and experience, promoting language learning and linguistic diversity in aquatic science and supporting teachers to innovate and acquire digital teaching skills.

With the ending of EU financial support for such networks many former members are keen to continue communications and the promotion of collaborations in teaching and learning through the establishment of an EAS Thematic Group. This can be a focus for future activity and ongoing engagement with the European Aquaculture Technology and Innovation Platform and funded EU projects involving education, training and knowledge exchange through Horizon 2020 or Erasmus+

Rationale for an EAS Thematic Group

An EAS Thematic Group for Education, Training and Knowledge Exchange will provide a visible and potentially long-term focus for the promotion of innovation, communication and collaboration aimed at enhancing the quality and quantity of opportunities for learning within the European aquaculture sector. Potential activities of the group will include the organisation of special meetings e.g. in conjunction with EAS annual events; producing communications for inclusion in the EAS Newsletter, website or other media; promoting ongoing communications through suitable forums such as LinkedIn and Facebook groups. It may also provide a communication channel to promote engagement with other organisations and projects.

Objective of meeting

EAS members with an interest in education, training and knowledge exchange are invited to attend this session to discuss the objectives and organisation of a Thematic Group. Participants will be invited to appoint a moderator and any other roles considered appropriate and plan initial activities.

References

EAS (2016) Terms of reference for EAS Thematic Groups

Eleftheriou, M & Seixas, S. (Eds) 2015. Special Issue: Advances in Teaching and Learning in Aquaculture. *Aquaculture International* 23 (3) 699-881

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