PROJECT, PARTNERS & BENEFICIARIES

WORKSHOP ON PHD SUPERVISION & KICK-OFF MEETING

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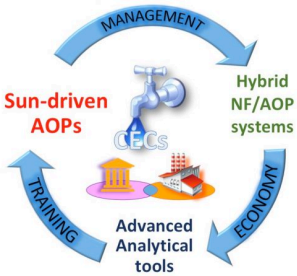
AQUAlity NEWSLETTER

Project summary

AQUAlity is a multidisciplinary and interdisciplinary as well as cross – sectoral European Training Network aiming to generate and promote 15 highly skilled scientists in the field of the removal of pollutants present in very small amount in aqueous systems.

In order to develop innovative purification technologies expected to be more effective than conventional adsorption and biological treatments, AQUAlity enrolled 15 Early–Stage Researchers (ESRs) to conduct cutting–edge research on multidisciplinary aspects of novel hybrid technologies for the removal of Contaminants of Emerging Concern (CECs), which comprehend compounds present in very small amount in aqueous systems, having the potential to cause adverse ecological or human health effects.

AQUAlity is a project funded by the European Union under the Marie Skłodowska-Curie Actions (MSCA) – Innovative Training Networks (Call: H2020-MSCA-ITN-2017). Project N. 765860



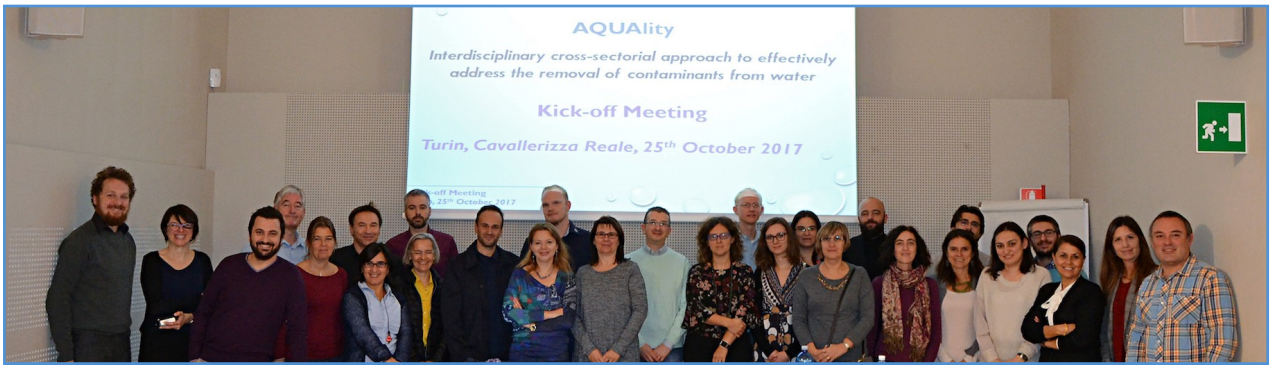
The 15 ESRs will be trained to develop their creativity, critical and autonomous thinking, and entrepreneurial skills, thus boosting their scientific skills and innovation capacity in the field of water treatment technologies. This goal will be attained via a structured training – through – research programme, consisting of original individual research projects (performed both at the beneficiary organisation and through intersectorial secondments) and education on technical and transferable skills (performed both at local level and with network – wide events).

Each research project addresses a specific issue tailored towards a PhD, and each has been peer–reviewed by the network for scientific rigor and feasibility as a PhD project.

AQUAlity is a consortium of eighteen partners. The consortium comprises 7 universities, 3 research institutes and 8 companies with a balanced participation of beneficiaries and partner organizations, academic and non-academic.

Kick-off meeting

On 25th October 2017, the coordinator - Prof. Paola Calza - welcomed the participants and officially launched the start of AQUAlity project. Then the first session was devoted to the presentation of Partners & Beneficiaries, whereas in the second session WPs objectives, tasks, deliverables and milestones to submit during the first year of the project were listed and the manager structure of the project was defined. Successively, each WP leader presented the activities to be carried out and the planning of the main training events & conferences to be organized in the next two years of the project was discussed.



Workshop on PhD supervision

The kick-of meeting was preceded by a Course held by Dr. Pia Bøgelund, from the Aalborg UNESCO Centre for Problem Based Learning in Engineering Science and Sustainability. During the two-days course (October 23-24, 2017) the following themes were developed by the participants:

- Values and strategies as supervisor. Cross-cultural supervision
- Legitimacy and independence of the PhD students
- Motivation and abandonment of the PhD student. Effective meetings and text feedback
- Different approaches to conflicts

First AQUAlity symposium

The symposium was opened by Prof. P. Calza, who welcomed the new enrolled ESRs and updated the participants about the problems relative to the management of the project, next deliverables, milestones and financial rules. In the second session, Dr. I. Oller gave full details about the ESRs recruitment status and the training events to be planned. The third session of the meeting was dedicated to brief presentations of the ESRs' projects and Prof. P. Calza presented the CV of the ESRs who did not partake the event. After lunch, parallel sections were organized to let participants plan the research activities to be carried out. A final common section for discussing WP2, WP3 and WP4 planned activities ended the day.

The second day was opened by Prof. E. Robotti, who gave an overview on the planned secondments, research and training plans. The second session was chaired by Dr. E. Sannino who gave a presentation on the dissemination and outreach activities of the project. The second part of the morning was dedicated to parallel sessions: the meeting of the Joint Governing Structure delegates, the election of the ESRs representatives in the Supervisory Board, and the Supervisory Board meeting. The Symposium ends with a final common section for planning the next project meetings: 2nd AQUAlity meeting and Summer School (Aalborg, August 2018) and 3rd AQUAlity meeting (Paris, March 2019).

NEXT EVENTS & ACTIVITIES

International Summer School on "Micropollutant Analysis and Abatement"
Aalborg, 27-29 August 2018
&
Second AQUAlity symposium
Aalborg, 30-31 August 2018

AALBORG UNIVERSITY

LABORATORIET A/S
VEJ - BYGGERI - MILJØ

Venue: Aalborg University, CREATE Building, Rendsburggade 14, 9000 Aalborg (Denmark)

Registration:
The number of participants is limited to 30. You can register by sending an e-mail to *vb@bio.aau.dk*

More information on the Website:
https://www.aquality-etn.eu/international-summer-school-on-micropollutant-analysis-and-abatement/

Summer school on Photochemistry and Depollution

The School held from 25th to 27th April 2018 in the premises of the University Clermont-Auvergne at Clermont-Ferrand (France). It was organized by the Photochemistry team of Chemical Institute of Clermont-Ferrand (ICCF) under the supervision of Claire Richard. This event aimed to update recent advances in the field of photochemistry applied to micropollutants removal. The first day was devoted to fundamental photochemistry. It started by the lecture of Dr. Maria Luisa Marin, followed by two presentations on contaminants photo-transformation and on quantum calculations as a tool to study photochemical reactions. The second day dealed with the role of natural organic matter in the fate of micropollutants with the lecture of Prof. Gudrun Abbt-Braun on natural organic characterization, and presentations on their photochemistry and a review on analytical methods. The working day ended by a visit of the ICCF laboratory. The third day focussed on the role of Fe species in the environment and advanced oxidation processes with presentations on the photochemistry of iron complexes and the lecture of Pr Alessandra Bianco Prevot on the case of Hybrid magnetic iron oxides. All the members of the ICCF team ensured the success of this event by their involvement in the scientific program or in the organization.

INFORMATION & NEWS: **Website**: *www.aquality-etn.eu* **Facebook**: *www.facebook.com/AQUAlityITN2017*