Welcome to AQUAlity newsletter. COVID19, instead of being overcome as we hoped in summer, is still out there, disrupting lives and, in the best of circumstances, work and travel agendas. AQUAlity meetings, secondments and research continue to undergo severe changes due to the restrictive measures imposed by the authorities. However, we continue to make the most of our work with the constraints we have, and in this sixth number of our newsletter you can find, as usual, a short report of the latest activities, together with the fifth episode of "ESR Experiences", written by two young ESRs. Stay safe, keep strong and enjoy the reading!

Sixth AQUAlity Meeting

The Sixth AQUAlity Symposium meeting, like the Fifth one, could not be attended in person, but COVID19 didn’t stop us! Such meeting took place all the same, totally in teleconference mode.

The project meeting lasted a whole day and featured among its participants also Luciano Carlos, Joint Governing Structure Chair: it started with the session dedicated to WP1 (Project management), chaired by Project Coordinator Paola Calza. She gave welcome to a new person involved in the project, new ESR5 Oihane del Puerto Bengoetxea, who was selected to work at Aalborg University, substituting Reni Dimitrova who had resigned and left the project in March 2020. Peter Bondgaard Mortensen, already involved in the project from the beginning, now took on the role of reference person for Partner Organisation Eurofins, substituting Ulrich Precht, who left Eurofins and AQUAlity.

Paola Calza then gave welcome to a new Partner Organisation involved in the project, IFE (Institute for Energy Technology), Norway, which will be available with its expertise and will host some ESRs on secondment. A new member of the Supervisory Board was then elected: since Ulrich Precht left the consortium because he left Partner Organisation Eurofins, Peter Bondgaard Mortensen, working in Eurofins too, was formally appointed to take his place in such board. Oihane del Puerto Bengoetxea was also elected to sit in such Board as an ESR Representative. Then, Paola Calza pointed out the steps made since the 5th AQUAlity meeting. Plans for deliverable submission in light of COVID19 lockdown were revised by Paola Calza and discussed in more detail in the sessions on WPs 2, 3 and 4, which included also result presentation by each ESR working on the WP. Then, the training, dissemination and outreach activities performed so far were described, and possible rescheduling of project events, after COVID19 emergency, was outlined. In conclusion, Prof. Calza thanked all speakers and participants for the very fruitful meeting.
ESR Experiences - Episode Five

Our story of AQUALity ESRs’ life and research continue in this issue. This time we have to thank Dimitra and Bethel for their contribution.

Dimitra Papagiannaki

More than 2 years and a half have passed since I started my PhD within the AQUALity project. Even if studying abroad was always a dream of mine, feelings of fear and scare for the unknown were keeping me back. When the opportunity of joining this project came, I could never imagine what was about to happen! Even now I cannot believe how lucky I am for living it!

Without a doubt living and working/studying abroad is a big experience in life. But being an ESR in a Marie Skłodowska-Curie ITN project is a whole new level of awesomeness. Your life is just a big challenge, trying to balance it between travels around Europe for conferences and training events, adjusting in new working environments at every secondment and, above all, performing fruitful research. I certainly felt afraid many times, afraid of not being prepared enough to manage everything. But being a member of a consortium full of people ready to help, and working with supportive supervisors, helped me to deal with it, even now, during the unconventional reality forced by the COVID-19 pandemic. Above all though, being able to meet different cultures and build friendships with people from all over the world are some of the best things that happened in my life and I wouldn’t change them for anything!

Apart from this, being an industrial PhD student has offered me a different experience than that of the majority of my fellow ESRs. Having the opportunity to perform my main activities in the Research Center SMAT S.p.A, the company which is in charge of the water cycle in the Metropolitan Area of Turin (Italy), showed me the bigger picture in the water treatment industry and helped me to form a multi-disciplinary professional profile. In this my secondment at Aalborg University has contributed as well, because it has taught me also how to bridge the gaps between academia and industry.

That said, being an ESR in AQUALity has been a life-changing experience. It has allowed me to widen my horizons, grow up, build my confidence and collaborate with top scientists around Europe. What I am most grateful for, though, are the friends that I’ve found in my fellow ESRs. I would highly recommend an MSCA journey to anybody. Don’t be scared to put yourself in a challenge, just throw yourself into the game!

Chukwuka Bethel Anucha

Back in 2017 when I applied for the early stage researcher (ESR) position in AQUALity, part of what had influenced my choice of host institution was not just only how fitted into the research theme I was but also my familiarity with the host country. In making this choice, I had picked countries in Europe and also Turkey but, was not certain coming to Turkey, though it caught my attention initially.

After all, I ended up in Turkey finally and precisely Trabzon sometime in October, 2018. Before my journey to Trabzon and Turkey in general, little did I know about this country except an air travel transit which I had made through Istanbul International Airport back in 2012. However, as time goes on, it dawned on me that I was in a country with formidable history and fascinating culture. From the Ancient Anatolians of the 11th century, to the Byzantines and Turks, the Seljurks and the sultanate of Rum, the Ottman Turks, Turks in the Balkans, Battle of Akara, Retrenchment and Recovery, Fall of Constantinople, Suleman the Magnificent, Sinan, Pampered heirs,
activities were developed by AQUAlity people. Due to the Covid19 pandemic, the Researchers’ Night was mainly made of online activities. Nevertheless, some Researchers’ Night 2020 Outreach activities has been a QUAlity experience!!!!

my childhood dream of travelling, meeting people and studying! WOW, what a different way of achieving it!! It has been a QUAlity AQUAlity experience !!!!

Localy celebrate from the first Sunday of May to the end of August as part of appreciation and recognition of the natural beauties of this wonderful city of Trabzon. During one of these festivals, I had the opportunity to taste anchovy dishes of various kinds, trout and savoy cabbage variations, blended with a cup of cay (tea) which you never miss when visiting as they cultivate it alongside hazelnuts to exportable volume.

Moving abroad from my host institution and as part of the fulfillment of AQUAlity obligations, my journey has taken me so far first to Italy and then Greece for a 2 and 3 months secondments respectively. During my training activities in these countries, I have had very wonderful experiences. On the job, from getting fully acquainted with the very important basics of my research to out of the laboratory -outside World activities; in all, I have met, interacted, and exchanged lovely ideas with great minds who have had huge influence on me rendering selfless efforts and support to enable me have a fulfilled research experience during this 36 months.

So far along the spent 24 months out of 36, AQUAlity has offered me once in a life time opportunity in reaching my childhood dream of travelling, meeting people and studying! WOW, what a different way of achieving it!! It has been a QUAlity AQUAlity experience !!!!

**Outreach activities**

**Researchers’ Night 2020**

Due to the Covid19 pandemic, the Researchers’ Night was mainly made of online activities. Nevertheless, some activities were developed by AQUAlity people.

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**The AQUAlity project**

- This project has received funding from the European Union's Horizon 2020 research and innovation programme under the Marie Sklodowska-Curie grant agreement No 765860. AQUAlity is an Innovative Training Network (Call: H2020-MSCA-ITN-2017).
- AQUAlity is a multidisciplinary European Training Network focused on creating the next generation of integrated Urban Water System management innovators: the project will train 15 highly skilled scientists in the removal of pollutants present in aqueous systems in very small amount.
- Info: [www.aquality-etn.eu/the-project/](http://www.aquality-etn.eu/the-project/)
• Cristina Jiménez Holgado and Dimitra Papagiannaki presented the AQUALity project in a video at the Researchers’ night in Torino. The video is available on YouTube in the Sharper Night Official channel: [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=egsjORUZ6A4&ab_channel=SharperNightOfficial](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=egsjORUZ6A4&ab_channel=SharperNightOfficial)

• Ilaria Berruti, Dennis Deemter and Iván Sciscenko prepared a video about their investigation at the Plataforma Solar de Almería: [Tratamientos solares de agua](#). Ilaria and Iván also participate in the outreach activity “Cafe con ciencia”, a lecture with high school students.

• Dimitra Papagiannaki gave an online lesson with Rita Binetti at three classes from different high schools about the SMAT activities and the AQUALity project for water cleaning.

• Fabrício Bortot Coelho, in collaboration with Katarzyna Janowska, Vittorio Boffa and Giuliana Magnacca, showed the abatement of water pollutant by means of a thermo-catalyst in a video on YouTube (also available on our Facebook page): [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=A2MQjPXAsro&fbclid=IwAR0jJGxG_5-LgEVGRuaeqncYIzIypHjagz9TJ02ZL0R1A_T2vrM0k7HJoY](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=A2MQjPXAsro&fbclid=IwAR0jJGxG_5-LgEVGRuaeqncYIzIypHjagz9TJ02ZL0R1A_T2vrM0k7HJoY)

### Comic book

The graphic story created by Iván Sciscenko was edited and translated in some of the languages of the AQUALity people by Cristina Jiménez Holgado (Spanish), Nuno Gonçalves (Portuguese), Chukwuka Bethel Anucha (Jargon), Davide Palma (Italian) and Dimitra Papagiannaki (Greek). Other translations are currently in progress. The different versions of the comic book are now available as pdf files on the AQUALity website in the Outreach section.

### The AQUALity consortium

- **7 universities:**
  - Università di Torino, Italy
  - Aalborg Universitet, Denmark
  - Università del Piemonte Orientale, Amedeo Avogadro, Italy
  - Universitat Politècnica De Valencia, Spain
  - Panepistimio Ioanninon, Greece
  - Ecole Polytechnique, France
  - Karadeniz Teknik Üniversitesi, Turkey

- **8 companies:**
  - Ligttech International A/S, Denmark
  - Società Metropolitana Acque Torino S.p.A., Italy
  - IRIS, Italy
  - FACSA, Spain
  - ISALIT, Italy
  - MIRTEC, Greece
  - Eurofins VBM Laboratoriet, Denmark
  - NIVA, Norway

- **3 research institutes:**
  - CNRS Clermont-Ferrand, France
  - Plataforma Solar De Almería, Spain
  - INERIS, France

[Info: www.aquality-etn.eu/who-we-are/](http://www.aquality-etn.eu/who-we-are/)