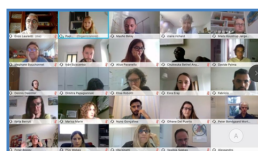




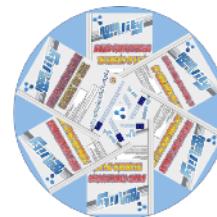
PROJECT, PARTNERS
& BENEFICIARIES



SIXTH MEETING
#WEAREATHOMEAGAIN



ESR EXPERIENCES:
EPISODE FIVE



COMIC BOOK

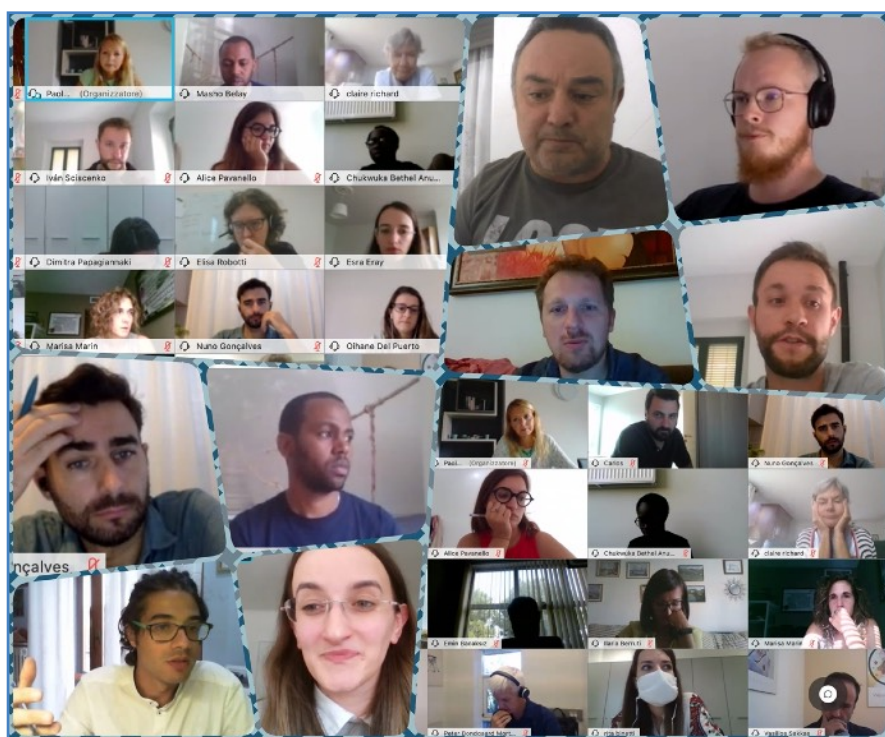
AQUALity NEWSLETTER

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.



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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

Ms. Papagiannaki studied Chemistry at the University of Ioannina (Greece). She obtained her Master Degree in Analytical and Environmental Chemistry working on untargeted analysis of biological matrices using high resolution techniques and statistical analysis tools. Her research interest within the AQUALity project focuses on the development and evaluation of new analytical methods for the identification of CECs using advanced analytical techniques and on the assessment of the removal capability of new hybrid photochemical membrane treatments.

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



The good old times (in Trabzon, after the 4th AQUALity Meeting)



Dimitra and Zsuzsanna at SMAT plant

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 Seljorks and the sultanate of Rum, the Ottoman Turks, Turks in the Balkans, Battle of Akara, Retrenchment and Recovery, Fall of Constantinople, Suleiman the Magnificent, Sinan, Pampered heirs,

Mr. Anucha obtained his first degree in Chemistry from the University of Port Harcourt (Nigeria). After graduation, he acquired experiences in the areas of drinking water treatment and machine maintenances, wastewater treatment and environmental waste management & controls. Then, he has got a masters in Chemical Innovation and Regulations in an Erasmus Mundus programme jointly administered University of Barcelona, Spain and University of Algarve, Portugal. His research interest within the AQUALity project focuses on the photocatalytic oxidation of contaminants of emerging concern (CECs) by TiO₂ /ZnO dye-sensitized photocatalysts.

Threat from the North, Azov, Russo-Turkish wars, Eastern Question, The Strait Convention, The Holy Places, The Steps to War, Balaklava and Inkerman, Treaty of Paris, Young Ottomans and Turks, to the Crescendo of war, and the list goes on and on thus making a confirmation why this country is often referred to as the the centre of the World where you can have a taste of Middle East and Europe. 2 years into the AQUALity programme has left me in awe appreciating the lovely and beautiful scenery of Trabzon, the city of my host institution Karadeniz Technical University (KTU). Trabzon is located between the amazing coast of Black sea and Zigana mountains. Known for its all round the year touristic activities as it constantly attracts

people from all over the World to see her historical and beautiful archeological landmarks. With my time so far here, I have had the opportunity visiting natural beauties of the city like the Black sea beaches and cliffs, Sumela Monastery, Trabzon Haggia Sophia Museum, the Zigana Strait, Uzungol again and again, while embracing what to me remains one of the most wonderful, amazing and natural geo-landscapes in the World today.

The beauty of Trabzon did not stop at its natural wonders and history. The people are warm and welcoming and always ready to offer you assistance as a foreigner even when you don't ask. So far, I have met very amazing people with big hearts, in the making sure that I settle in well and get the best of experience in this Project; much gratitude to my supervisors at KTU my host institution, Prof. Dr. Emin Bacaksiz, Dr. Ilknur Altin, and numerous great people whom I cannot mention all their names here for their outstanding support to me.

Locals 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 fulfilment 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 !!!!



Çay time at Sumela

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.

The AQUALity project

- This project has received funding from the European Union's Horizon 2020 research and innovation programme under the Marie Skłodowska-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/

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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.



- 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:
 - Liqtech 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-etp.eu/who-we-are