



PROJECT, PARTNERS & BENEFICIARIES



IOANNINA: THE LAST MEETING



ESR EXPERIENCES: EPISODE SIX



COMIC BOOK

AQUALity NEWSLETTER

Welcome to the last number of AQUALity newsletter. The project is almost concluded and in this number you can find some information about our last activities, together with a brief summary of the whole project and a short final comment by the coordinator.

Moreover, the final episode of “ESR Experiences” permit us to know something more about the two last young researchers who join AQUALity: Oihane del Puerto and Lana Flanjak.

Final Meeting in Ioannina

The Final Meeting of the project took place in the beautiful Ioannina, in Greece, hosted by the University of Ioannina. After two years of remote meeting, this time the members of AQUALity got the opportunity to reconnect in person. The meeting was chaired by the representative for the Beneficiary host, Prof. Vasilios Sakkas (University of Ioannina) and the Coordinator, prof. Paola Calza (University of Turin).



A recollection of the scientific and human experience gathered during these years was the central theme of the meeting. Scientific results were shared among the members, under the supervision of each Work Package leader, which also provided a general overview and evaluation of the whole project. The evaluation of results obtained and goals reached is generally positive.

The future of the project was also discussed; a possible prosecution

and an eventual follow-up for the results attained within AQUALity has been discussed and explored.

A general overview of dissemination and outreach activities entertained during the entire duration of the project has been also provided. The dissemination of the project results and activities has been considerable, since a very high number of publications in peer-reviewed international journals were published and many oral communications to international conferences were given by all the ESRs.

In conclusion, Prof. Calza thanked all speakers and participants for the very fruitful work of the Consortium



ESR Experiences - Episode Six

Our journey about AQUALity ESRs’ life and research continue in this issue with the last two stories. Many thanks to Oihane and Lana for their contribution.

Oihane Del Puerto Bengoetxea

24th of June 2020. I left Norway behind with mixed feelings. My Scandinavian adventure got to its end and I had to leave behind a series of incredible experiences. I was returning home half a year later where I got trapped in the middle of a global pandemic without any possibility of flying home with all the borders closed. Crazy! I was very confused. I was not sure what I was going to find when I returned home, how I was going to adapt to the new normality, or what I was going to do in the near future. I did not have much time to think about it though. In two weeks I received the news that I got a position at Aalborg University as part of the MSCA AQUALity

project! Without even time to unpack all my stuff, I found myself planning a new adventure back to Scandinavia. But this time to a different country, Denmark.

Leaving our comfort zone is never easy and imagine doing it in the middle of a global pandemic! New protocols, restrictions, lockdown, fear, uncertainty, high expectations, excitement... All sorts of emotions to deal with. But all my fears went away when I arrive in Aalborg. During my stay at Aalborg University, I met wonderful and very supportive people always kind on helping



A day in Skagen, Northern Denmark

me whenever I felt lost. In an international project like this, I also had the chance to collaborate with researchers from different countries, discover new ways of working, engage in interesting scientific discussions, experience new cultures, and share some laughs with people from all around the world. As an MSCA ESR, you gain much more than just scientific knowledge. It is an inner growing process where you become a more flexible, resilient, and self-confident person.

Moving abroad during the pandemic was certainly a big personal challenge for me. Luckily, I landed in a middle of a welcoming project like AQUALity. It was an eye-opening experience to get to know all the advantages that such a multidisciplinary project offers you. Not only that, but I also found the motivation to go in Ph.D. studies. Thus, I am grateful

to AQUALity for providing me with valuable personal and professional skills that will boost my researcher career. I very much recommend a live changing experience like this!

Lana Flanjak

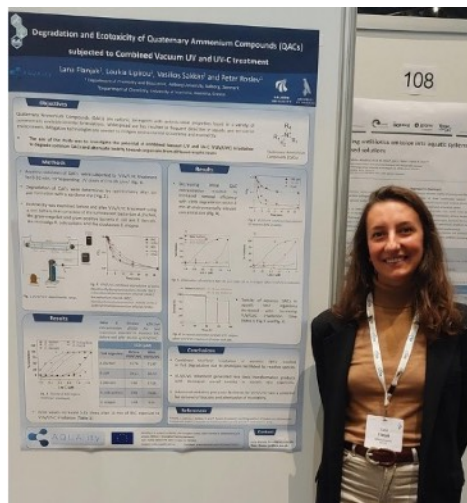
My journey as an ESR in AQUALity project began shortly after I obtained my Master's degree back in July 2021. I started working as a Research Assistant at Aalborg University, which is a partner of the AQUALity project, and I knew that this opportunity was perfect for me and my goal of getting involved in the academic community and my lifelong goal of becoming a scientist.

Ms. Flanjak is a young researcher from Croatia. She entered in the AQUALity project in 2021, and worked as a Research Assistant at Aalborg University, in Denmark. Her research focuses on AOP-mediated removal of contaminants of emerging concern.

With the valuable guidance of my supervisor, I began to delve into the theory and experimental work of AOP-mediated removal of contaminants of emerging concern.

Not only did I get introduced to new technologies in the water treatment sector, but I also developed a deeper understanding of the research process and the importance of interdisciplinarity in solving problems. Beside the scientific exploration, I was amused with the new cultural customs I got introduced to, as I moved from Croatia to Denmark. One of the best aspects of this project was meeting and collaborating with a great deal of people, some of whom have become my dear friends.

Furthermore, I especially appreciate my workplace - Aalborg University - for the ubiquitous sense of collaboration and openness with which employees and students approach and communicate with each other. The AQUALity project has overall been a blast and I am happy for the opportunities it has given me.



Poster presentation at SETAC annual meeting 2022 in Copenhagen

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/

Outreach activities

Researchers' Night 2021-2022

After the COVID19 pandemic the Researchers' Night finally returned to the street and the squares of the cities. A delegation of the AQUALity project was present in Italy (Turin), in Spain (Almería) and in Denmark (Aalborg) showing their activities and explaining the project to the people.



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:

- 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-etn.eu/who-we-are/