

AQUA-TNET Workpackage 5: Innovation in Teaching

Meeting 26-27th June 2006, University of Gent, Belgium



Notes on Workpackage 5 core group meeting:

Attending – John Bostock, Jean Dhont, Juhani Pirhonen, Juame Fernández-Borràs, Bent Rønsholdt, Jose de Lara Rey and Stefan Oli Steingrimsson. Anders Kiessling and Elin Kjørsvik joined for the second session.

John Bostock gave a short introduction to work package 5 and the tasks for the meeting. Each participant then gave a short introduction to themselves, their institutions and their interest in this workpackage.

The main part of the meeting was taken up with a series of presentations and associated discussion as follows (copies available separately):

- Jean Dhont: Presented an overview of EC policies and initiatives for the promotion of teaching innovations and eLearning
- José de Lara Rey: Demonstrated the use of virtual reality style simulations for use in computer assisted adult education. These included boat handling and shellfish farming practices
- Jaume Fernández-Borràs: Provided examples of innovations in teaching from other sectors, especially the use of case studies and how they can be adapted for aquaculture.
- Anders Kiessling: Provided a case study on experience of eLearning in Nordic Countries, particularly the NOVA project
- Bent Rønsholdt: Provided an introduction to the pedagogy of eLearning, and appropriate quality standards
- Juhani Pirhonen: Provided an overview of pedagogy of computer assisted learning, pointing out that many different labels are used. He also looked at step-by-step and action-based simulation
- Jean-Dhont: Gave a second presentation of the use of Virtual Learning Environments (VLEs) in education, especially to share information
- John Bostock: gave a presentation on the potential future use of mobile devices (PDAs, Media players, Mobile Phones etc) in education.

These presentations and topics will provide the basis for future dialogue with stakeholder groups and the provision of resources and services through the Aqua-TNET website. Following the presentations, the group discussed objectives of the workpackage, and especially its scope and emphasis. It was agreed that the emphasis should be at least as much on learning as teaching (probably more), and on the use of information and

communications technology in enabling and stimulating learning. In broader terms, the group expressed a strong interest in the topic of lifelong learning and the changes in pedagogy required by new educational tools and wider social changes.

The workpackage outputs were discussed, and were noted to include the presentations and reports from the meeting, contributions to the portal pages, a questionnaire to collect data for future project services, and a database of innovative teaching and learning resources. The latter was seen as something to be developed over the next year, as further work is required to determine appropriate design. Initial discussion suggested that it should contain the following data fields:

- Web address of resource
- E-mail address of contact person
- Institutional details
- Language(s)
- Categorisation e.g.
 - Technical topics
 - Type of resource
 - Licensing conditions
 - Pedagogy/Learning styles

It was suggested that there are already a number of learning object databases from which it might be possible to take existing standard metadata descriptors.

For the more immediate web-site questionnaire. It was agreed this should collect data on existing use of information and communication technologies and computer assisted learning for aquaculture teaching and learning at the institutional level. Interesting leads might then be followed up at a personal level. Key data might include:

- Institution identifiers
- Identity of person completing the questionnaire
- Courses offered (expected to already be in the database)
- References to any innovative materials or tools produced or used
- Offers of resources for collaboration
- Requests for teaching resources or collaborations

It was agreed that draft questions should be circulated for further comment.

The group discussed the availability of video conferencing facilities, noting the suggestion for a virtual workshop during the second year. However, there was insufficient time to develop this idea further.

Workgroup 5 Participants

Name	Organisation	Email
John Bostock	University of Stirling, Institute of Aquaculture	j.c.bostock@stir.ac.uk
Juhani Pirhonen	University of Jyväskylä, Department of Biological and Environmental Science	Jpirhon@byti.jyu.fi
Jaime Fernández-Borrás	Dpt. Fisiologia, Fac. Biología, Univ. Barcelona	jaime.fernandez@ub.edu
Bent Rønsholdt	Department of Life Sciences, Aalborg University	i5br@tnb.aau.dk
Jean Dhont	Lab of Aquaculture & Artemia Reference Center – Gent University	Jean.Dhont@UGent.be
José de Lara Rey	Technical University of Madrid	jose.delara@upm.es
Anders Kiessling	Norwegian University of Life Sciences	anders.kiessling@umb.no
Stefan Oli Steingrímsson	Hólar University College	stefan@holar.is
Elin Kjorsvik	Norwegian University of Science and Technology	elikjo@bio.ntnu.no