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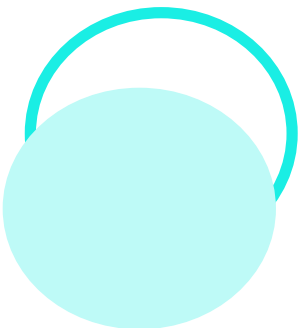


NEWSLETTER

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Issue #2

Development of Aquaculture and Fisheries
Education for Green Deal in Armenia and
Ukraine: from education to ecology



Project meetings

THIRD PROJECT MEETING UNIVERSITY OF DUBROVNIK

The third project meeting focused on the preparation and drafting of the midterm report, which summarises the 1.5 years of dedicated project activities. The work package leaders presented their current reports summarising the work done by the universities, the challenges encountered and the status of completed and ongoing tasks. The meeting emphasised teamwork, perseverance and strategic planning and underlined our joint efforts and commitment to achieving the project goals.



FOURTH PROJECT MEETING UNIVERSITY OF PORTO

During the meeting, the partners reviewed the progress of the individual work packages, discussed challenges and outlined the next steps for AFISHE, which is due to be completed by the end of 2025. They focused on key achievements, ongoing activities and strategies for a successful completion of the project. In addition, a presentation was given on "Training: How to Create and Implement Double and Joint Degrees in the EU" which provided valuable insights into the development and implementation of collaborative academic programmes.



Development of the modules - two-week training

The AFISHE project organised a two-week training course for teachers developing new modules for aquaculture and fisheries. A total of 44 participants from Ukraine and Armenia took part in these training courses, which were organised by the University of Porto, the University of Dubrovnik and the Slovak University of Agriculture in Nitra.



The training provided trainers with the necessary expertise to create and deliver courses on topics such as aquaculture technology, seafood safety, fish diseases and biodiversity conservation. Participants took part in expert-led discussions, research collaborations and visits to aquaculture facilities to gain practical insights.

Through the AFISHE project, universities in Armenia and Ukraine have strengthened their academic capacities and adapted their study programmes to European standards. The initiative promoted international cooperation and contributed to sustainable aquaculture practises in line with the UN Sustainable Development Goals and the EU Green Deal.



Opening of the new research laboratories

As part of the AFISHE project, three state-of-the-art aquaculture laboratories have been set up at universities in Ukraine and Armenia. This is an important step towards promoting research and education in the field of aquatic bioresources and sustainable fish farming.



National University of Water and Environmental Engineering (NUWEE), Ukraine



At NUWEE, the Integrated Multitrophic Aquaculture Laboratory will serve as an important training and research facility for students of the "Aquatic Bioresources and Aquaculture" programme. Equipped with state-of-the-art technology, including recirculating aquaculture systems (RAS), water quality monitoring instruments and a fish feed production line, the facility will enhance hands-on learning and promote innovation in sustainable aquaculture.



Sumy National Agrarian University (SNAU), Ukraine



The Aquaculture Research Laboratory was opened at the Sumy National Agrarian University. This facility was established with the support of the EU Erasmus+ programme and specialises in hydroecology, hydrobiology and aquaculture breeding research. The opening event brought together the university management, researchers and industry representatives. They emphasised the role of the laboratory in promoting international cooperation and training students with sought-after expertise in modern aquaculture. A co-operation agreement was also signed between SNAU and NUWEE to facilitate joint research initiatives.

Armenian National Agrarian University Scientific Center of Zoology and Hydroecology of NAS RA



A new laboratory developed in collaboration with the Armenian National Agrarian University has been opened at the the Scientific Center of Zoology and Hydroecology of NAS RA. This laboratory aims to strengthen academic education and research in the fields of fish farming and hydroecology. Representative of the University emphasised the importance of this facility for training highly qualified specialists equipped with the latest technological and scientific methods. The opening of these laboratories emphasises the growing importance of sustainable aquaculture and international cooperation in this field. With the advanced facilities now available, students and researchers will have new opportunities for high-quality training and ground-breaking research that will contribute to the future of aquaculture.



Training for teaching and non-teaching staff

Teachers from Ukraine and Armenia took part in specialised training sessions at their institutions as part of the AFISHE project to improve their teaching methods and practical skills in aquaculture and fisheries research. The sessions focused on student-centred learning, digital tools, interactive assessments and modern educational strategies such as gamification and project-based learning.



Educators also explored socio-emotional support and innovative teaching methods for both face-to-face and online environments. These initiatives play an important role in modernising higher education by providing educators with tools that promote critical thinking and contribute to the sustainability of aquaculture.



In addition to the training of teaching staff, non-teaching staff at NUWEE and SNAU also received specialised training to support laboratory work in aquaculture research. These trainings provided hands-on experience with advanced equipment used in fisheries laboratories and covered topics such as water quality monitoring, automated fish feeding systems and recirculating aquaculture systems (RAS) management.



At NUWEE, experts provided intensive training on the maintenance and operation of aquaculture facilities, with a focus on sustainable fish farming practises. Participants gained practical insights into water treatment, disease prevention and feed production techniques. At SNAU, staff participated in training at the Institute of Fisheries in Kyiv, where they worked with state-of-the-art laboratory technologies and gained important skills to support faculty research and enhance students' lab experiences.



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