BioAqua

Sustainable aquaculture solutions

https://bioaqua-cost.eu/

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EUROPEAN COOPERATION IN SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY

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BIOAQUA Webinars – Report on the Organization and Outcomes of the First Project Period

Period covered: First project period (01/11/2023 to 31/10/2024).

This document contains no personal data (except for names of speakers); only aggregated participation and event-level information.

1. Introduction and Objectives

This report presents the organization and outcomes of the BIOAQUA webinar series during the first project period. The webinars were designed to advance the Action's objectives by providing targeted training, showcasing relevant scientific developments, and fostering exchange across disciplines and sectors. The series combined methodological training (e.g., Delphi), domain-focused sessions (e.g., pathogens and genomics), and emerging tools (e.g., generative AI), while ensuring time for open discussion and knowledge exchange in every event.

2. Planned Calendar and Implementation

The calendar for the first period included a sequence of methodological and thematic webinars distributed throughout 2024, with flexibility to adjust scheduling according to speaker availability and participant demand. The plan was consolidated in the project's internal training calendar. The table below summarizes the planned.

	March	April	May	June	September
Proposed webinar	**Delphi metodology for technology foresight - 14/3/24** - Speaker: Eva García Muntión - Addressed to: All WG participants, mainly WG leaders. https://www.eventbrite.es/e/837324308547?aff=oddtdtcreator .	**The use of phagotherapy in aquaculture - 5/4/2024** - Speaker: Carlo Corradini - Addressed to: vets, pharmacies, fish farmers https://www.eventbrite.es/e/875941644037?aff=oddtdtcreator	**How to take advantage of generative AI while doing an analysis of the state of the art** - Speaker: Eva García Muntión - Addressed to: All WG participants, mainly WG leaders. **Genomic approaches for water quality assessment in aquaculture** - Speaker: Hilal Ay - Addressed to: researchers and fish farmers. https://www.eventbrite.es/e/890115287787?aff=oddtdtcreator	**Phage therapy as an alternative to prophylcatic antibiotics in aquaculture production - 10/06/2024** Speaker: Orr Saphiro - Adressed to: vets, pharmacies, fish farmers.	**Main pathogens affecting European aquaculture -16/10/2024** - Speaker: Anna Toffan - Addressed to: researchers and innovators. **Risk assessment of novel biomaterials used in aquaculture for disease prevention - 17/10/2024** - Speakers: Rajat Nar, Enda Cunnis, Carlos Mazorra - Addressed to: researchers and fish farmers.

Additionally to this, 2 masterclasses were recorded:

Computational Approaches and Big Data Analytics in Improving Fisheries and Aquaculture - Speaker: Orkid Coskuner-Weber - Addressed to: Researchers	**Identification of micro-organisms by means of Point-of-Care (PoC) biosensors** - Speaker: Ario de Marco - Addressed to: Researchers

These masterclasses can be accessed from the Action's website: https://bioaqua-cost.eu/masterclasses/

3. Webinars Organized in Period 1

All webinars reserved dedicated time for moderated Q&A and peer-to-peer exchange.

Title	Date	Duration (h)	Participants
Delphi methodology	14/03/2024	2,5	13
Phagotherapy in aquaculture	05/04/2024	3	25
Generative AI for State-of-the-Art Analysis	21/05/2024	1,5	24
Genomic approaches for water-quality assessment in aquaculture	31/05/2024	1	32
Phage therapy as an alternative to prophylactic antibiotics in aquaculture	10/06/2024	1,5	20
Main pathogens affecting European aquaculture	16/10/2024	2	25
Risk assessment of novel biomaterials used in aquaculture for disease prevention	17/10/2024	1,5	26

4. Knowledge Exchange and Discussion

Each webinar incorporated a dedicated discussion segment, typically 15–25 minutes, to encourage questions, comments, and experience sharing. This format proved essential for consolidating emerging insights, including practice-oriented takeaways for stakeholders and early-stage researchers. Moderators ensured inclusive participation and documented key points for internal follow-up without retaining any personal data.

5. Impact Assessment

The following quantitative indicators summarize the overall reach and engagement of the webinar series in Period 1:

- Number of webinars organized: 7
- Total cumulative attendance (non-unique): 165
- Average attendance per webinar: 24
- Average duration per webinar: 112 minutes
- All sessions included time for Q&A and knowledge exchange.

Beyond quantitative reach, the webinars supported capacity building among Action members and partners, increased the visibility of BIOAQUA, and strengthened links with complementary initiatives. Materials and insights are integrated into future training plans and dissemination activities.

7. Conclusions and Next Steps

The webinar series met its objectives for the first project period by delivering timely, relevant, and well-attended sessions. In the next period, BIOAQUA will continue to refine the calendar, prioritize topics of high community demand, and expand inter-Action collaborations. A continued emphasis on interactive formats will maintain robust knowledge exchange while respecting data protection and privacy standards.