

SEPTEMBER 2024

**BioAqua**

Sustainable aquaculture solutions



## MONTHLY HIGHLIGHTS

Welcome to this edition of the **BIOAQUA** newsletter! In this space, you can access all the relevant information about the project's progress during the month of June. From updates on the activities of each working group to the schedule of upcoming events. This newsletter is a window into the project.

Thank you all for being part of BIOAQUA and happy reading!

### **SPECIALS:**

Special activities during this period:

- We launched a call for [Virtual Mobility grants](#) & Extended the call for [STSMs](#).
- We uploaded a new masterclass to BIOAQUA's website, by Mario de Ario: <https://bioaqua-cost.eu/masterclasses/>
- We launched the preparation of '**Sc&Tech briefs**' (executive summaries of relevant scientific and technological trends in relation to biomolecular solutions for aquaculture towards the coming 5 years). They will be prepared as a result of a state-of-the-art exploratory analysis being managed from WG5, for which a preliminary brainstorming is dynamized during WGs audios. The first two sessions have been celebrated during this period (WG4 on 25/9, and WG1 on 27/9) which resulted into potential trends related to new pollutants and threats, opportunities to guarantee production growth, biomolecular solutions to halt antimicrobial resistance, and nature-

based approaches for improving water quality in aquaculture -- Recordings are available in the shared repository.

- We celebrated the **3rd meeting of the Management Committee (MC)**, online, divided in three parts so that interim work and thinking could be leveraged (10/9, 12/9, 30/9). Main outcome is an agreement for the budget structure during the 2nd period of the Action.
- We welcome 6 new members from Norway, France, Tunisia and Turkey. **Welcome to the team!** --> **If you want your profiles to be uploaded to BIOAQUA's website, please send your picture and short CV answering to this mail**

## WORKING GROUP ACTIVITIES



WG 1. Biomolecular solutions for water prophylaxis and biosafety.

WG 2. Biomolecular solutions as alternative methods and tools for fish-farm production.

WG 3. Fish welfare, horizontal Working Group.

WG 4. Sustainability insights, for leveraging R&I

WG 5. Informed creativity, complementary working Group.

## Highlighted activities

### WG 1. Biomolecular solutions for water prophylaxis and biosafety.

- They have started working on preparing a proposal for the Biodiversa+ call and Water4All call. If you are interested to explore a collaboration here, please contact GW leader Hilal Ay + further information regarding these projects can be found in the shared drive under the WG1 Meeting Documents folder.
- **COMING IN NEXT MONTHS:** They are working on preparing review and opinion papers, and these activities will continue for the following months. Also, they will follow EU calls to prepare project proposals.

### WG 2. Biomolecular solutions as alternative methods and tools for fish-farm production

- During the monthly WG audio, they discussed the possibility of applying for projects in cooperation with WG1.
- **COMING IN NEXT MONTHS:** They are working on the outline for a paper about AI use in aquaculture farms, to be shared with those participants who expressed interest in contributing to it -- If you are interested to explore a collaboration here, please contact GW leader Ivana Giovanna Zupičić.
- Also, during october-november they will organize a meeting in collaboration with other COST Action.

### WG 5. Informed creativity, complementary WG.

- During the 3rd MC meeting, we discussed WG5 activities of investigating potential hosts for STSMs towards a new call during the 2nd period of the Action. Overall communication plans across the WGs were also discussed, as well as several budget related decisions.
- We launched the exploratory analysis of the State-of-the-Art (SOA) described in section "Specials".
- We organised 2 webinars for october + 2 others were tried but did not work so far.
- **COMING IN NEXT MONTHS:** Towards period 2, we are organising joint webinars with collaborating Actions. In example, we are desgining one with **EURESTOP** where they could talk about "**biochemical/biological screening for pharmacological solutions against bacterial targets**", while someone from BIOAQUA could talk about some related topic (e.g.: Biosensors for early detection of bacteria in aquaculture; Bacteria present in waters that are particularly beneficial / harmful for aquaculture; Antibacterial activity of medicinal plants against fish pathogens; Aquatic ecology and ecology of cyanobacteria

and algae with particular reference to their impact on water quality and vice versa; Interactions between bacteria and jellyfish and the implications for the biogeochemical cycles in the ocean --- There are all expertises taken from BIOAQUA members' profiles in our Action website). --> **If you are particularly interested in the topic proposed by EUROSTOP and/or would like to volunteer as co-speaker, please express your interest by answering to this mail**

- Additionally, in october we will release the first 3-4 'Sc&Tec briefs' from the SOA analysis, and before the end of the year, the rest (we are planning to deliver around 12).

## Joint activities

- **COMING IN NEXT MONTHS:** We will launch the preparation of the book "Biomolecular solutions for aquaculture" to be published with Springer
- A group of Action members is working on a series of comics about BIOAQUA's topics. So far, the coverpage, look and feel and main characters are ready, and there is already a draft script for the first release. This activity will keep going during the next period; it is going to be exciting! -> **If you are interested in taking part in tis activity, please write Rajat Nag, who is leading it**

## Other news and activities of Action members...

- The Call for **Short-Term Scientific Missions (STSMs)** has been extended until end of october. This is the list of new beneficiaries: Dijana Blazhekovikj - Dimovska and Stoimir Stojanovski.
- The **Call for Virtual Mobility grants** has been launched to all BIOAQUA's members. Beneficiaries so far: Eva García Muntión, for her engagement in dynamizing brainstorming sessions within all WG audios.
- **Simona Bartkova (WG 5 co-leader)** attended MICRO2024 international conference where she presented work regarding microplastic pollution and biofilm formation. This could be a potential topic for a webinar in 2025.
- **Eva García Muntión (Chair)** is working on the reporing of the 1st period of the project (and related budget closed) & the preparation of the Grant Agreement for the 2nd period (and related MC activities ad voting).

We encourage everyone to actively participate in all the events and activities we are preparing, including various webinars, masterclasses, and gatherings. Your engagement enriches our community and enhances our collective progress. Stay tuned for more exciting updates and opportunities in the next **Monthly Highlights** and communications.

**Thank you for being part of this community!**  
**Together, we continue working to achieve the best results.**

