



**VALIDATION OF ALL LIFELONG
LEARNING IN AQUACULTURE**

VALLA will develop and pilot methods of recognising and accrediting lifelong learning in the aquaculture sector via the European Qualifications Framework

Introduction

European aquaculture is a fast-growing innovative industry, its success relying on a joint practical and theoretical knowledge base, whose personnel regularly require specialised training. Yet training such as work placements, on-the-job training, and short-term learning courses, regarded as essential in today's competitive business, falls outside current credit systems.

The European Qualifications Framework (EQF) links national qualifications systems, acting as a translation device to make qualifications more readable, with the aim to promote mobility between countries and to facilitate lifelong learning. The EQF encompasses general and adult education, vocational education and training, as well as higher education, and applies to all types of qualifications.

A key challenge for the EQF is the status of unaccredited short-term sectoral and professional training courses. VALLA will test how some types of lifelong learning fit into the EQF targeting the aquaculture sector as a pilot case study.

Aims & Objectives

VALLA will contribute towards the aims of the EQF:

- ✓ By developing competence-based learning outcomes for a specific sector
- ✓ By providing a reference for the validation of non-formally acquired competences
- ✓ By linking such reference points to established sectoral standards

How

VALLA builds on the results of WAVE, a pan-European project that identified the skills and knowledge needed to work in aquaculture across Europe. WAVE produced a 'Master List of Competencies' (248 descriptors in 16 categories), which are descriptors of the competencies used in primary production in aquaculture.

VALLA takes WAVE one step further, with tools and protocols to move from the competency list to actual validation of the diverse types of formal and informal training in the aquaculture sector.

Beneficiaries

VALLA Tools and Protocols will benefit

- Providers of training and education**
 - ✓ Describe short training courses in terms of competence-based learning outcomes and credit points with VALLA tools and protocols
- Employees**
 - ✓ Substantiate skills and competences learned through on-the-job experience
- Job market entrants**
 - ✓ Add relevant but previously unaccredited study stays, student jobs, and other useful experience to CVs to reflect the complete extent of job qualifications

More information:

AquaTT, PO Box 8989, Dublin 2, Ireland
Tel: +353 | 644 9008 **Fax:** +353 | 644 9009
Email: info@aquatt.ie **Web:** www.aquatt.ie



www.vallaproject.com



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