



project news

www.macumbaproject.eu

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This issue also includes a special MaCuMBA project Education Supplement aimed at students aged 8-12, containing fun facts, activities and useful links for learning and teaching all about marine microbes!



Marieke Reuver

Marieke Reuver is leader of MaCuMBA Work Package 9 (WP9): Dissemination, Knowledge Management and Linkages. She is Programme Manager at AquaTT, Dublin.

What are the aims of WP9 and why is it important in terms of the overall aims of the MaCuMBA project?

Work package 9 of MaCuMBA deals with communicating the project's research results to the outside world. Dissemination and knowledge transfer are important components of the research process, and getting it right is vital because it is the main way we communicate with a wider audience.

Dissemination is often a neglected afterthought in busy research schedules, but the dissemination of key findings is a crucial step in publicly-funded research projects such as MaCuMBA. We believe that there is an ethical obligation to ensure that research findings are communicated to other researchers, to individuals and

institutions in the areas related to marine microorganisms, as well as to the general public.

In WP9 we use an active and systematic approach to ensure effective dissemination. By disseminating and transferring MaCuMBA's research results, we pass on the benefits and anticipate that the research will be widely known, understood and utilised. We also aim to raise awareness of the potential of the European marine biotechnology industry.

What dissemination activities have been carried out so far?

There are many ways of disseminating research findings. MaCuMBA dissemination activities so far include the development of the project's logo and branding, which are now well established. The project's public website (www.macumbaproject.eu) was launched in March 2013 and is a valuable communication tool and a repository for MaCuMBA results and deliverables.

The project factsheet has also been published as well as these quarterly newsletters. These have been widely distributed at relevant events and electronically through the project's website and media channels.

We have also established a social media presence for MaCuMBA including Facebook (www.facebook.com/MaCuMBAProject) and Twitter (www.twitter.com/MaCuMBAProject).

A short video, entitled "An Introduction to the MaCuMBA Project" has been produced and is available through Vimeo (www.vimeo.com/77120768) and on the project's website and Facebook page.

MaCuMBA-related news and events are promoted in regular press releases, which are disseminated through a variety of media channels and have led to a number of articles about MaCuMBA being published by external sources.

Has MaCuMBA established any linkages with other projects and initiatives in the European marine biotechnology area?

One of the main aims of this WP is to establish linkages between MaCuMBA and other similar initiatives in order to support the development of a coherent European marine biotechnology sector.

Projects with a similar focus to MaCuMBA are invited to

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disseminate their results through the Petri Dish Profile section of this newsletter. Projects featured so far include Micro B3 (Issue 2), MICROBES-2-MODEL (Issue 3), PharmaSea (Issue 4), SeaBioTech (Issue 5), BAMMBO (Issue 6), ULIXES (Issue 7), and the Marine Biotechnology ERA-NET (this issue).

We have also been invited by PharmaSea to contribute to an event they are organising at the European Forum for Industrial Biotechnology and the Biobased Economy 2014, which will be held from 30 September – 2 October in Reims (France). MaCuMBA's coordinator Lucas Stal will speak at the scientific session and will be involved in discussions around our domain. We are also organising an industry event together with MicroB3 and PharmaSea, which will take place in spring next year, where we will communicate our findings to the European marine biotechnology community.

How will this WP ensure that the new knowledge outputs generated by the project are effectively transferred to relevant end-users?

MaCuMBA makes use of an innovative knowledge management

and transfer methodology which has been developed by AquaTT based on years of experience in this field. We look at each research output and identify end-users based on its unique features and possibilities. Based on this information, we establish means to connect the output and end-user. It is a very targeted methodology which we find very effective for transferring relevant outputs and making a real impact.

What are the next milestones your WP aims to achieve?

MaCuMBA will lead a round table session at the BioMarine 2014 convention which will take place from 30-31 October 2014 in Cascais (Portugal). This is an international platform dedicated to marine bioresources which will bring together many of the end-users of MaCuMBA's research results. We will meet and exchange with professionals in our field, directly disseminating and transferring our innovative outcomes to our key stakeholders.

In 2015, we will organise a summer school on improved culture efficiencies of marine microorganisms. Actual research results will be communicated to students at MSc and PhD level, who will have access to the diversity of marine microorganisms and equipment to culture and study them.



Dr Fien De Raedemaeker
(VLIZ), Communication
Manager of the ERA-MBT

Petri Dish Profile:
Marine Biotechnology ERA-NET
In our series of Petri Dish Profiles, MaCuMBA Project News features other European-funded projects related to the study of marine microorganisms and marine biotechnology. In this issue, Dr Fien De Raedemaeker, of the Flanders Marine Institute (VLIZ), introduces us to the Marine Biotechnology European Research Area Network (ERA-NET).
www.marinebiotech.eu



Dr Steinar Bergseth of
the Norwegian Research
Council, Coordinator of the
ERA-MBT

How will the project build on the results of the Coordination and Support Action (CSA) for Marine Biotechnology (CSA MarineBiotech)?

First of all, among the 19 project partners, five were also partners in the CSA MarineBiotech project. All new partners were members of the Strategic Forum of CSA MarineBiotech. The CSA was a preparatory action for the ERA-MBT. The Coordinator of the CSA, Dr Steinar Bergseth of the Research Council of Norway, is also the Coordinator of the ERA-MBT.

The CSA MarineBiotech Stakeholder Group included research actors, industrial parties, and policy-makers, and consisted of 70 organisations and companies by the end of the project. These stakeholders will also be involved in ERA-MBT networking activities to promote dialogue between science, industry and policy.

ERA-MBT will need to identify complementarities between national activities. This calls for further work on mapping the marine biotech landscape along the whole value chain, as initiated by the CSA MarineBiotech. ERA-MBT will build on these previous efforts while avoiding repetition. Emphasis will therefore be on obtaining information that is functional in terms of ERA-MBT, which means a clear focus on identification of concrete areas of common interest between national funding agencies, to release complementarities and potential synergies.

ERA-MBT continues to develop and use the website established during the CSA MarineBiotech. The dissemination of knowledge and information about marine biotechnology news and developments is a major activity supported by the public part of the website. This, together with the Wiki functionality, has established a central, open information portal for the marine biotechnology community in Europe and internationally.

What are the overall aims of the Marine Biotechnology ERA-NET?

The Marine Biotechnology ERA-NET (ERA-MBT) is a consortium of 19 national funding agencies seeking complementarities between national activities to pool resources in order to undertake joint funding of transnational projects in the area of marine biotechnology. The main objectives of the project are: 1) to stimulate trans-European marine biotechnology research, innovation and enterprise activity; 2) to build communities and capacity, taking into consideration the maritime regions' different perspectives and potential; and 3) to deliver a lasting network to fund and support research and development in the area of marine biotechnology.

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What is the aim of the Open Stakeholder Consultation?

The Marine Biotechnology ERA-NET has launched an open consultation to help achieve a better overview of the existing interactions between industry and academia in the area of marine biotechnology. In particular, the aim is to identify the needs and gaps in such interactions.

ERA-MBT will collect the views of our marine researchers, industrial stakeholders and policy makers to explore and identify challenges on the road to developing marine biotechnology into a sustainable and strong driver supporting industrial development of marine biotechnology in Europe.

The aggregated results will be analysed and used to increase awareness in industrial development environments about the potential of marine biotechnology. ERA-MBT will further strive to develop mechanisms and tools to reduce or eliminate identified bottlenecks and barriers for a successful development within the area. The questionnaire is open until 15 August 2014.

How else will stakeholders be able to contribute towards the aims of the project?

Stakeholders are invited to the first ERA-MBT Stakeholder Meeting which will be held on 28-29 October 2014 in Lisbon, Portugal. The event is open to scientists, industry representatives, policy makers/advisors and other key individuals involved or interested in marine biotechnology research and development. Time will be available during the meeting for networking and partnering for project collaboration. The event will comprise three sessions:

Session I: State of the Art of Marine Biotechnology. The European Commission and the ERA-MBT consortium will present their perspective on marine biotechnology research and development.

Session II: Where do we go? Three parallel sessions will provide participants with the opportunity to discuss marine biotechnology challenges, barriers and opportunities from the perspective of academia, industry and external collaboration.

Session III: Role of Marine Biotechnology ERA-NET. This session will highlight some of the main activities that are planned in the four-year project, including how the strategic advice/feedback from Session II and other fora will be used to inform new research calls. This session will also address the structure and content of the first call.

The establishment of a LinkedIn communication forum will enable stakeholders to highlight opportunities for interlinkage and collaboration.

What are the next milestones the project aims to achieve?

During the lifetime of the project, the following activities will be carried out:

- Three thematic calls will be launched. The first research call will be announced in September 2014.
- A number of stakeholder events will be arranged to promote dialogue between science, industry and policy. The first stakeholder meeting will be organised in October 2014.
- An outlook analysis of the future of marine biotechnology will be performed.
- A Strategic Research and Innovation Agenda (SRIA) will be established.
- Funds will be directed towards transnational teams to engage in the identified SRIA.
- Outreach activities will be performed to seek complementarities and avoid overlap with other activities sharing common interests with ERA-MBT.
- Relevant information in the field of Marine Biotechnology will be provided in an online and open-access portal.
- A lasting network of funding agencies and stakeholders will be developed.



Marine Biotechnology ERA-NET partners at the Project Management Team meeting in Ghent, Belgium in April 2014.

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Culture Club:

Meet the scientists making MaCuMBA possible



Christine Shortt

Project Officer AquaTT

Christine was awarded her PhD from University College Dublin in 2011. Her research focused on the area of respiratory physiology. Following her doctorate studies, she worked in science outreach roles and as a post-doctoral researcher on a FP7-funded project. She has recently joined AquaTT and will be working as a project officer on the MaCuMBA project.



Christine Shortt

Her role in MaCuMBA will be to oversee WP9 (Dissemination, knowledge transfer and linkages) and facilitate project management (WP1), working together with Marieke Reuver and Alberto Vallejo.

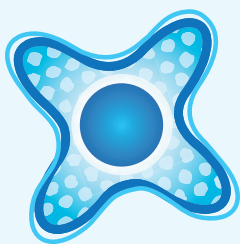
DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

Please make note of these upcoming MaCuMBA related events!

22-26 September 2014: 3rd MaCuMBA General Assembly, Cadiz, Spain

30 September 2014: Lucas Stal presenting on MaCuMBA at PharmaSea workshop at 7th European Forum for Industrial Biotechnology and the Biobased Economy, Reims, France

30-31 October 2014: MaCuMBA partners taking part in round table session at the BIOMARINE 2014, Cascais, Portugal



Under the Microscope: Marine Microorganisms in the News

New Research Finds Ocean's Most Abundant Organisms Have Clear Daily Cycles

Scientists from the University of Hawaii have discovered that communities of ocean microbes have their own daily cycles—not unlike the residents of a bustling city who tend to wake up, commute, work, and eat at the same times.

Shortened URL: <http://bit.ly/1nCmNi3>

Marine Bacteria are Natural Source of Chemical Fire Retardants

Researchers at the University of California, San Diego School of Medicine have discovered a widely distributed group of marine bacteria that produce compounds nearly identical to toxic man-made fire retardants.

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New Device Will Help Identify the Millions of Bacteria that Populate the World

Researchers at Northeastern University, USA, have developed a device that allows scientists to cultivate a single species of bacteria that can then be studied and identified.

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Ocean Microbes Display a Hidden Talent: Releasing Countless Tiny Lipid-Filled Sacs

Using novel analytical techniques, Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT) biologists have discovered that abundant ocean-dwelling bacteria continually release tiny, never-before-observed spherical structures that contain lipids: a finding that could one day lead to new approaches for manufacturing biofuels.

Shortened URL: <http://bit.ly/U6HiEA>

Ocean Sampling Day 2014: a World Story of Success

Ocean Sampling Day 2014 (OSD) was the first globally organised scientific attempt to generate a snapshot of the microbial diversity and function in our oceans, with 185 marine stations from 38 countries and five continents taking part.

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