

Project Title: AQUACOSM: Network of Leading European
AQUatic MesoCOSM Facilities
Connecting Mountains to Oceans from the Arctic
to the Mediterranean

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1. Executive summary

The AQUACOSM website has been designed, developed and populated with initial content. The website was launched in February 2017 and can be found at www.aquacosm.eu

Key features of the website are:

- The Homepage showcasing the project vision, latest news and events, interactive map of mesocosm facilities.
- Project information including details of work packages, partners and deliverables.
- Details of the AQUACOSM Transnational Access (TA) facilities, calls, application and selection processes, and call progress
- Links to the AQUACOSM Social Media pages
- Mobile friendly design. The website will dynamically adjust to the device of the viewer.

The AQUACOSM project has established social media pages, which serve as a complementary part of the project dissemination and outreach strategy.

The website will continue to be maintained and updated as the project progresses. The first TA programme was initiated in June 2017 and this site have been and will continue to be populated with content relating to the call.

The project social media presence will be further developed by updates, interactions and community building activities.



2. Introduction

An initial design meeting was held between members of the Outreach work package and the project coordination team to identify the design and functional requirements of the website.

Key requirements were:

- An attractive, modern and professional design with a focus on creating a clean and clear user experience.
- A homepage showcasing the project vision, latest news and events and an interactive map of mesocosm facilities involved in the AQUACOSM project.
- Easy access to project information including details of work packages, partners and deliverables.
- Details of the AQUACOSM Transnational Access (TA) facilities and calls that can be easily updated as the project progresses with the latest information.
- Links to the AQUACOSM Social Media pages.
- A mobile friendly design that allows users to access the website from any device.
- Ability to update content regularly throughout the project.

3. Main Report

Following the initial design meeting, the AQUACOSM logo and website were designed to give a modern feel. The project website requirements were analysed and a functional specification was produced. The logo and website design and specification were agreed by the project coordination prior to development.

The website homepage is designed to be an attractive showcase for the project and a vehicle for the effective dissemination of the latest project news, events and products and services available.

Key features of the project Homepage include:

- Image slider to allow the highlighting of specific news events or activities of interest.
- Information about the Transnational Access (TA) facilities available as part of the AQUACOSM project. This section features an interactive map and is part of the projects dissemination and outreach strategy for TA.
- News and Events sections to keep users up to date with the latest project news and events.
- A feature section to allow the project to showcase something of interest. At the time of writing a section on training during the project is displayed.

All features of the homepage are user editable and sections can be added and removed as required during the project.

The website navigation has been streamlined to provide easy access to:

- Project information (Work package descriptions, planned deliverables, partner's description)
- Transnational Access (TA) call and facilities information.
- Mesocosms – a full catalogue and profile (with details and images) of all the mesocosm facilities involved in the AQUACOSM project and their TA offerings.
- Contact information
- Media (graphics, leaflets etc)
- News
- Events

Additional pages and navigation items will be added during the project.

Initial website content has been identified, prepared and uploaded to the AQUACOSM website prior to launch and includes:

Figure 1: Homepage graphics and content (taken 1st May 2017)

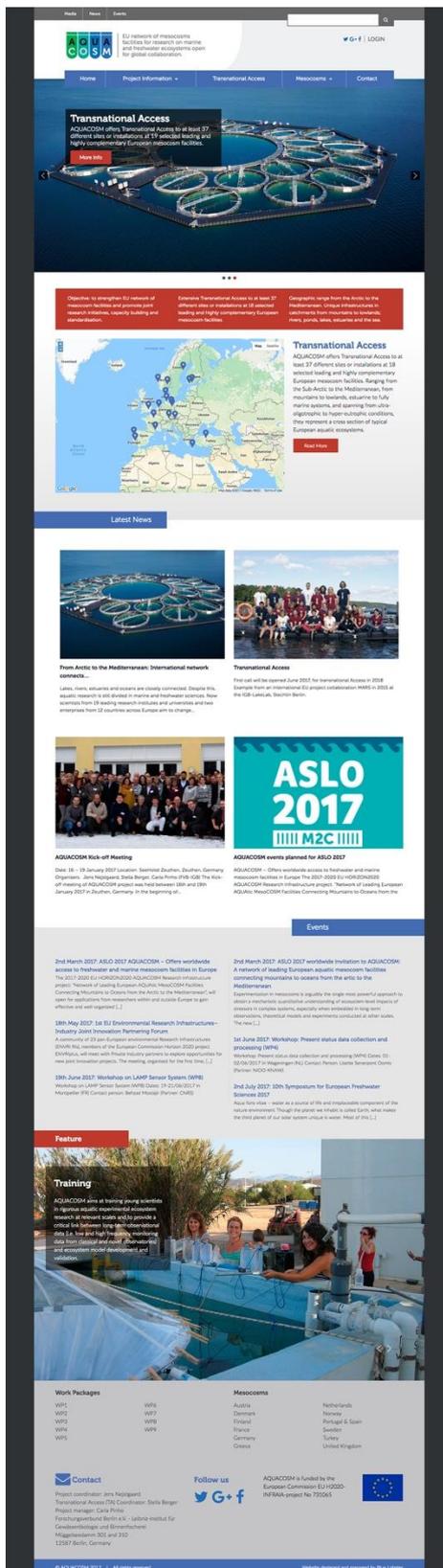


Figure 1: The AQUACOSM website was launched in February 2017 (www.aquacosm.eu).



The website content will continue to grow and evolve as the project progresses. New content will keep stakeholder end users up-to-date with the project progress, latest news, forthcoming events, new knowledge and information products, TA calls and progress of those calls.

Since the website was launched in February 2017, it has received more than 1,600 session views, with an average duration of over 6 minutes spent on the site. A long average duration indicates that the content is of interest to its users.

4. Dissemination activities and Social Media

The website itself is a dissemination tool and has been represented via the social media accounts such as Twitter (Figure 2) to disseminate information about project activities.

It will continue to be used for the communication of all project activities externally.

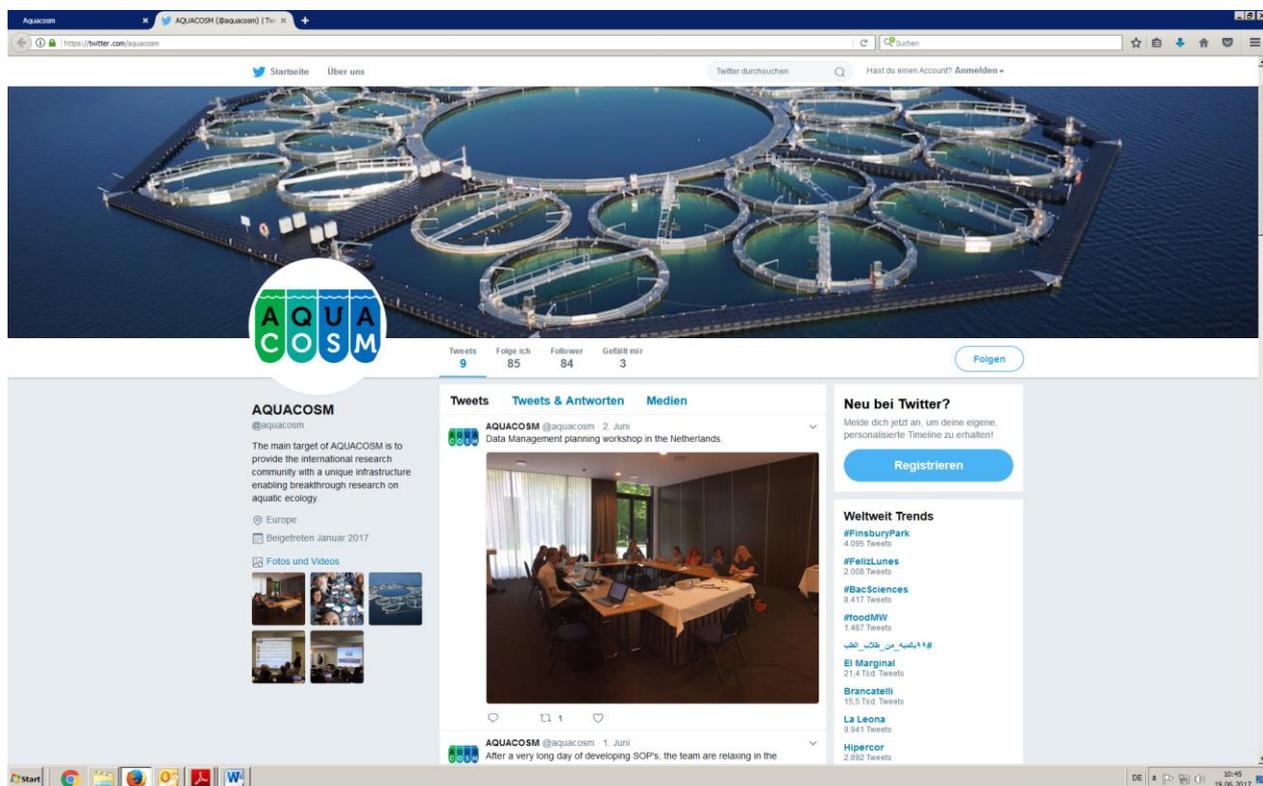


Figure 2: The AQUACOSM Twitter account

5. Partners documentation site

A project documentation site (Figure 3) was developed to serve as a library of the AQUACOSM consortium. A login button allows easy access to the restricted area for all registered users. This site serves for exchange of various types of information such as: documents related to the project management, datasets, results, coordination decisions, timetables, presentations, minutes and materials. This section will be enhanced as the project develops.

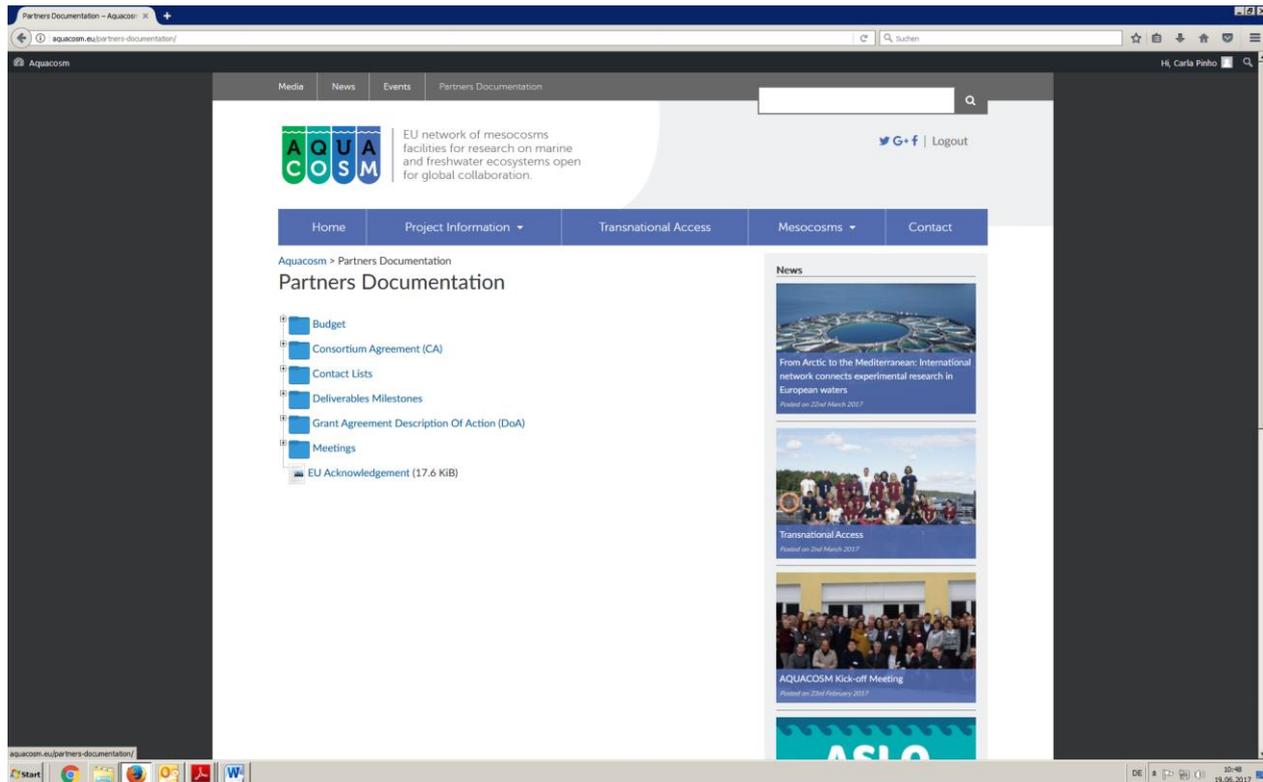


Figure 3: print screen of the partners' documentation site

6. Future activities

The website will be used to provide a repository for the mesocosms Standard Operating Procedures and metadata (developed in WP4). Interactive data visualisations will be made available.

In conjunction with the development of the AQUACOSM website, the mesocosms.eu website (<http://www.mesocosm.eu>) has been redeveloped and will continue to evolve as an international portal of mesocosms facilities. Initiated during the FP7 marine mesocosm facility project MESOAQUA, lead by FVB-IGB, the mesocosms.eu portal will be used to promote AQUACOSM visibility and long-term strategy (WP2).

Internal project communication tools will be implemented and utilised throughout the project as required by the work packages / tasks.

Where required, internal data exchange services will be made available via the internal part of the website.

The website will also be the binding element between the Networking activities (NA) and Joint Research Activities (JRA) (apart from TA) and mirror the research results of these activities.