

## Why do we need the PANDA network?

- Despite the existence of the Reference Laboratory networks for fish and molluscan diseases, untapped expertise exists in a large number of institutes, universities, private companies, etc.
- A mechanism is required for drawing scientific information and advice from these resources so the European Commission can make better informed decisions on policies, regulations and research priorities for aquatic animal health.
- PANDA aims to establish a network of experts and provide them with a forum for debate and exchange of information, and to provide collated scientific advice to the European Commission.

## How will the network operate?

- Five scientific work packages will address important topical aspects of disease in aquaculture.
- A project website provides a convenient forum for debate and dissemination of information.
- A permanent network will be established over the next 3 years, which will continue to be useful to its members and the European Commission after the completion of the project.



Table 1: The PANDA consortium

Partner	Representative	Function / work package
CEFAS Weymouth, UK	Barry Hill	Project coordinator
Danish Veterinary Institute, Aarhus, Denmark	Ellen Ariel	Steering group member
IFREMER, La Tremblade, France	Franck Berthe	Steering group member
IRTA, Tarragona, Spain	Chris Rodgers	Risk analysis
National Veterinary Institute, Oslo, Norway	Edgar Brun	Epidemiology
CIDC, Lelystad, The Netherlands	Olga Haenen	Diagnostic methods
Federation of European Aquaculture Producers, Belgium	Panos Christoflogiannis	Environmentally safe disease control
National University of Ireland, Galway, Ireland	Maura Hiney	Training needs and opportunities

## The scientific work packages

### • Risk analysis

Identification of the most significant exotic, emerging and re-emerging disease hazards.

### • Epidemiology

Production of a database of epidemiological characteristics of the major disease hazards for the EU, and development of surveillance and containment schemes.

### • Diagnostic methods

Assessment of the best diagnostic methods and recommendations for improvements, standardisation, validation and implementation.

### • Environmentally safe disease control

Recommendations for the best control techniques and policy/legislation options for the application of environmentally safe control methods.

### • Training needs and opportunities

Production of a database of training opportunities and identification of training requirements not currently met.

## Who should get involved, and why?

- All practitioners in aquatic animal health are encouraged to join the PANDA network.
- Contribute to scientific publications and advice to the Commission, use the network to contact other experts in your field and exchange information, or simply keep abreast of the latest progress.

## Further project information and registration

Visit the project website at [www.europanda.net](http://www.europanda.net)

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