

Press Release

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Integrated aquaculture based on sustainable water recirculating system for the Victoria Lake Basin

Lake Victoria, surrounded by Uganda, Tanzania and Kenya, is the second largest freshwater lake in the world and of key socio-economic importance for the region, supporting a population of around 30 million, through large scale fishing, agriculture, tourism and other local industries. Despite its crucial importance, Lake Victoria has suffered the consequences of overexploitation of its resources (mainly fish stocks) and alarming pollution. One of the main challenges around the lake is poor sanitation and water provision infrastructure and measures and solutions on water supply and sanitation are urgently required.

The VicInAqua project will develop innovative multipurpose self-cleaning water filtration solutions adapted for sanitation of different wastewater systems to be reused in Recirculation Aquaculture Systems (RAS) around Lake Victoria. The main goal of this project is to enable the supply of clean water to RAS and agriculture through a single solution for water treatment of different waste water streams (domestic waste, fish production and processing industry). The system will have a smart power supply by renewable energy (PV, biogas, solar) and remotely monitored with sensor technologies. The technology development and demonstration at pilot scale will be combined with capacity building of local and regional actors. Solutions offered by VicInAqua are focussed on robustness, energy efficiency and economic viability in order to be adapted to the local challenges and to achieve

high acceptance in peri-urban areas, where the sanitation infrastructure are poor and the demand for water is high.

The VicInAqua system is primarily designed to use for fish cultivation as here high quality water use is essential. For the pilot system, a tilapia hatchery utilising RAS technology will be designed and constructed. The RAS technology conserve water and reduce waste discharges. The hatchery being developed within the project framework will produce high quality fingerlings to supply pond aquaculture in the area. The RAS will be tailored to the local conditions and the output of the self-cleaning membrane bioreactor. The pilot will ultimately be up-scaled for adoption by aquaculture operators around the lake.

Kyra Hoevenaars of the **AquaBioTech Group**, said: *“The Recirculating Aquaculture System technology of the hatchery is tailored to the local needs, skills and environment. It is a circular economy approach combining water treatment and renewable energy with aquaculture and agriculture. The project promotes hatchery development and unlocks the potential for sustainable aquaculture development in the region.”*

The **AquaBioTech Group** with the rest of the partners of the project will also host trainings and information sessions for stakeholders and conduct dissemination activities at multiple aquaculture exhibitions and conferences in Europe and Africa starting from the World Aquaculture Conference held in Cape Town, South Africa.

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Notes for editors:

A number of photographs can be provided upon request

VicinAqua project

The VicinAqua project is a Horizon 2020 project funded by the European Union research and innovation programme under grant agreement No 689427.

The eleven consortium partners led by the Karlsruhe University of Applied Sciences (De) include Steinbeis 2i (De), Institute on Membrane Technology, National Research Council (It), University of Calabria (It), Jomo Kenyatta University of Agriculture and Technology (Ke), AquaBioTech Group (Mt), OxyGuard International A/S (Dk), BPE International Dr.Hornig GmbH (De), Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock and Fisheries (Ke), Science, Technology and Innovation Policy Research Organization (Tz) and the National Agricultural Research Organisation (NARO) (Ug).

<http://www.vicinaqua.eu>



AquaBioTech Group

The **AquaBioTech Group** is an international consulting company strategically located in the centre of the Mediterranean on the island of Malta, although operating globally with clients and projects in over fifty-five countries.

The **AquaBioTech Group** undertakes a variety of aquaculture, fisheries and aquatic environmental projects through its regional offices and selected partners throughout the world. The vast majority of the company's work is related to the marine or aquatic environment, encompassing aquaculture developments, market research / intelligence, through to project feasibility assessments, finance acquisition, project management, technology sourcing and technical support and training.

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