

On January 23–24, 2024, the kick-off meeting for the project “*Digital Blue Carrier for a Post-Carbon Future – Curriculum Innovations in Aquaculture [DiBluCa]*”, funded under the Erasmus+ KA2 program, took place in Kaunas, Lithuania. The meeting brought together partners from four European countries and included the participation of Odesa National University of Technology (ONUT).

The *DiBluCa* project aims to develop an innovative handbook and a competitive curriculum for higher education in aquaculture, addressing sustainable aquaculture development in the face of global warming and overfishing.

Climate change poses significant challenges to global food security, both now and in the future. Production methods must be adapted, and the aquaculture sector must evolve to address climate change, creating a demand for specialized education tailored to the needs of Europe’s aquaculture industry. Current labor market conditions, increasing automation, specialization in production processes, and the expansion of production units in the aquaculture sector emphasize the need for experts in areas such as selective breeding, biodiversity, biotechnology, fish biology, fish health, and environmental sustainability. Today, expertise in these fields is more critical than ever.

The kick-off meeting in Lithuania focused on addressing these challenges and defining the tasks required to achieve the project’s goal of creating an innovative, pan-European curriculum in aquaculture adapted to modern environmental conditions. Equal partners in this initiative include Lithuania, represented by Vytautas Magnus University (Aquaculture Center at VDU Agriculture Academy), Türkiye’s Balıkesir University, Croatia’s University of Dubrovnik (Department of Applied Ecology), and Greece’s University of Thessaly (Department of Ichthyology and Aquatic Environment).

We look forward to fruitful collaboration, successful progress, and impactful results!











