



Project no. SSPE-CT-2003-502329

PANDA

Permanent network to strengthen expertise on infectious diseases of aquaculture species and scientific advice to EU policy

Coordination Action

Scientific support to policies

Deliverable 4 - Database of network members

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Dissemination Level		
PU	Public	
PP	Restricted to other programme participants (including the Commission Services)	PP/RE
RE	Restricted to a group specified by the consortium (including the Commission Services)	PP/RE
CO	Confidential, only for members of the consortium (including the Commission Services)	

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1 Technical overview of the database

1.1 Technical specification

The database is built on the NET Framework 2.0. The back end database is an Access 2000 database. This back end is linked to the front end and the rest of the website by a custom application programmed in the language C# (c-sharp). The source code for this application is available on request, but due to its length has not been appended to this report.

1.2 Database tables and fields

The Access database stores members details in the fields listed in Table 1. This includes personal information (name, address, email address etc) as well as information on their fields of expertise (e.g. species of interest, workpackage of interest and a free text field where several paragraphs describing their skills and experience can be entered. Other tables (linked to the members details table via the primary key) store information relating to forum permissions and priveledges. A further separate table in the access database stores What's New items. All queries are handled by the custom website application.

1.3 Submission of details

Prospective members submit their detailed information online via the registration form on the project website. The form is displayed in Figure 1. Once completed and submitted, he record is appended to the access database. Members are able to update and resubmit their details online whenever they want to. Administrators are permitted to edit or remove members details as appropriate.

1.4 Search facility

When logged into the website members are able to search the database and view details of other members. The keyword search looks through the following fields:

- FirstName
- Surname
- Organisation
- Free text field describing fields of interest

Members details who have matched the search can then be viewed. Email addresses remain hidden however.

1.5 Communications within the network

The forum facility (on another part of the website) is the method provided for members to communicate with each other. Administrators can communicate latest developments by use of an email broadcast tool in the admin area. This broadcast can be sent to all members or a filtered subset as specified by the administrator

1.6 Security and accessibility

The site is designed using the latest XHTML and CSS technologies, making it accessible to partially sighted users. The site is designed to work with Internet Explorer 6.0 and above, Mozilla FireFox 1.0 and above, therefore catering approximately 99% of the Internet population. The site is designed to prevent spammers from registering themselves on to the network. Unfortunately it is not technically possible to prevent it 100%, however, regular vetting serves to identify individuals who are not relevant to the network.

1.7 Hosting and backup

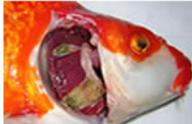
The website and the database are hosting in-house on CEFAS servers. The database is kept behind the firewalls, only allowing access to it via the website. Backups are made daily (differential), weekly (full) and monthly (full – kept for 12 months). Access to the website for developers is given via FTP (File Transfer Protocol).

1.8 Maintenance requirements

As Microsoft are constantly updating their platforms further changes to the website structure may be needed at some point in the future to integrate properly into new technologies. Additionally, ongoing vetting of new members is required.

Figure 1. Online registration form

PANDA - Permanent Advisory Network for Diseases in Aquaculture



Menu

- Home
- What's New?
- About Us
- Publications
- Meetings
- Useful Links
- Contact Us
- Register
- Login
- Forums

Registration - Fields marked with a * are required

* Title:

* First Name: * Last Name:

* Organisation: * Street:

Area: * City:

* County: * Postcode:

* Country:

* Email: * Tel:

EAFP Number: Fax:

* Field of Activity: Fish Diseases Mollusc Diseases Crustacean Diseases
(You must select at least one)

Specialist Areas:

* Area of Interest: (You must select at least one)

- Risk analysis of exotic, emerging and re-emerging disease hazards
- Epidemiology database and methods for disease surveillance and containment
- Diagnostic methods: evaluation and recommendations for standardisation and validation
- Environmentally safe strategies for disease control
- Training needs and opportunities in research and diagnostics

* Please provide some information about yourself and your work:

Setup Your Login Details:

* Username:

* Password:

* Repeat Password:

2. Recruitment of experts to the network

Many initiatives have been undertaken to encourage experts to join the network. Major actions are listed in the Table 2. In addition to these, other experts have been encouraged to join by word of mouth, either through existing members or associated organisations. Although it is not possible in most cases to directly attribute increases in membership to each initiative, some tentative assessment of the success of these initiatives can be made.

The most effective individual initiative for recruiting new members was through the promotional stand at the EAFP conference, where experts could discuss the project with consortium members, and enrol on-line there and then. Although an enthusiastic response was usually encountered during oral and poster presentations this did not always translate to additional members joining the network when they returned home. A number of experts are believed to have joined simply by finding the project website with no prior prompting or awareness of the project.

Table 2. Main initiatives taken to increase network membership

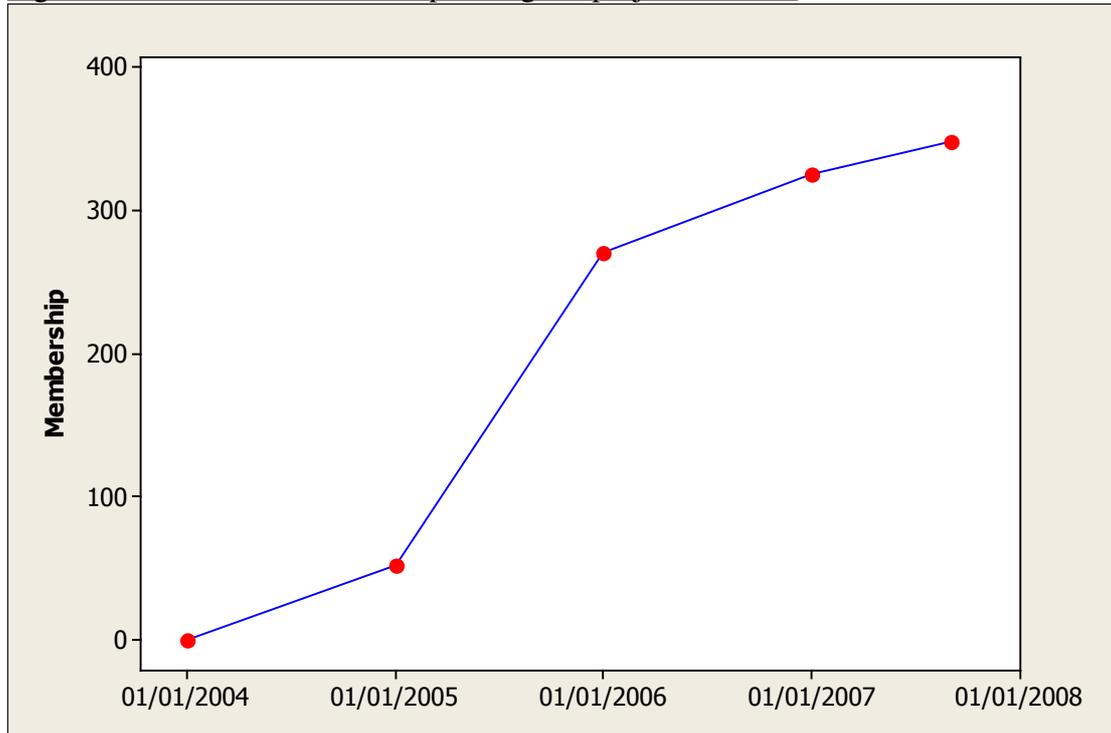
Target Audience	Date (and venue)	Action
European Association of Fish Pathologists (EAFP)	February 2004	Article presenting the PANDA project published in the EAFP Bulletin
Federation of European Aquaculture Producers (FEAP)	March 2004, Budapest	Oral presentation giving overview of PANDA project at FEAP Presidents meeting
ICES Working Group on Pathology and Diseases of Marine Organisms (WGPDMO)	March 2004, Åbo, Finland	Oral presentation giving overview of PANDA project
National Reference Laboratory for Fish Diseases Network	June 2004, Brussels	Oral presentation giving overview of PANDA project at annual meeting
National Reference Laboratory for Mollusc Diseases Network	June 2004, Brussels	Oral presentation giving overview of PANDA project at annual meeting
Fish Health Commission of Greek Maricultures	October 2004, Greece	Oral presentation giving overview of PANDA project at meeting
Asia-Europe Meeting (ASEM)	October 2004, Barcelona	Oral presentation giving overview of PANDA project at workshop on Aquatic Animal Health Improvement
Technical Assistance Information Exchange Unit (TAIEX)	February 2005, Ljubljana, Slovenia	Presentation and discussion of PANDA networking activities at TAIEX seminar on Networking on Aquatic Animal Health in Adriatic Countries
National Reference Laboratory for Mollusc Diseases Network	March 2005, La Tremblade, France	Oral presentation on project and promotional leaflet distribution at annual meeting
Society for Veterinary Epidemiology and Preventative Medicine (SVEPM)	April 2005, Nairn, Scotland	Poster presentation at SVEPM conference
National Shellfish Association Congress	April 2005, Philadelphia, USA	Poster presentation and promotional leaflet distribution
Federation of European Aquaculture Producers (FEAP)	May 2005, Hydra, Greece	Oral presentation on project and promotional leaflet distribution at FEAP General Assembly
Readers of Aquacultuur, the branch bulletin (in Dutch)	May 2005	Article entitled 'Het EU PANDA project' published in Aquacultuur
National Reference Laboratory for Fish Diseases Network	June 2005, Aarhus, Denmark	Two oral presentations
American Fisheries Society (AFS)	July 2006, Minneapolis, USA	Promotional leaflet distribution at AFS Eastern Fish Diseases Workshop
European Association of Fish Pathologists (EAFP)	September 2006, Copenhagen, Denmark	Promotional stand, leaflets and newsletters at EAFP conference
Shellfish culturists	October 2006, Brest, France	Poster presentation at 8th International Conference on Shellfish Restoration
Fish Health Section of Asian Fisheries Society	October 2006, Colombo, Sri Lanka	Presentation on the PANDA project and circulation of leaflets at Symposium on Diseases in Asian Aquaculture
International Society for Veterinary Epidemiology and Economics (ISVEE)	August 2006, Cairns, Australia	Promotional stand, leaflets and newsletters at the International Symposium for Veterinary Epidemiology and Economics, oral presentation on epidemiology database

Attempts to involve experts from the more general field of veterinary medicine (e.g. those working with terrestrial animals) have been channelled through the Society for

Veterinary Epidemiology and Preventative Medicine, and the International Society for Veterinary Epidemiology and Economics. Although several members are or have been to some extent involved in terrestrial animals, the vast majority are specialists of aquatic animals.

The number of experts registered on the database has increased steadily throughout the project lifetime, with the biggest increase being in 2005. As of 31/8/07 348 members of the network were registered on the database.

Figure 2. Increase in membership during the project lifetime.



3. Analysis of membership

A brief analysis of membership demographics and capabilities is presented in Table 3 and Figures 3-5. Members are resident in 55 countries around the world. Although the majority of members (67%) are European residents, network members represent all inhabited continents.

A wide range of primary specialisms are listed covering all relevant disciplines. Although the majority work with fish diseases, molluscs and crustaceans are also well represented.

Table 1. Membership by country

Country	Registered experts
United Kingdom	60
Spain	30
France	19
Norway	19
Greece	13
Portugal	12
Denmark	10
Germany	9
Ireland	9
Finland	8
Italy	8
Netherlands	7
Belgium	6
Poland	3
Switzerland	3
Hungary	2
Iceland	2
Lithuania	2
Slovenia	2
Austria	1
Czech Republic	1
Macedonia	1
Romania	1
Slovakia	1
Yugoslavia	1
Sweden	1
Ukraine	1
<i>Europe total</i>	<i>232</i>
United States	23
Chile	12
Canada	8
Mexico	3
Peru	2
Argentina	1
Brazil	1
Colombia	1
Haiti	1
Ecuador	1
Panama	1
<i>Americas total</i>	<i>54</i>
India	12
Turkey	9
Russian Federation	5
Iran	4
Vietnam	2
Bangladesh	2
China	2
French Polynesia	2
Japan	2
Taiwan	2
Israel	1

New Caledonia	1
Philippines	1
Thailand	1
<i>Asia & Middle East total</i>	<i>46</i>
Australia	12
<i>Antipodes total</i>	<i>12</i>
Egypt	2
Malawi	1
South Africa	1
<i>Africa total</i>	<i>4</i>

Figure 3. Membership by continent of residence

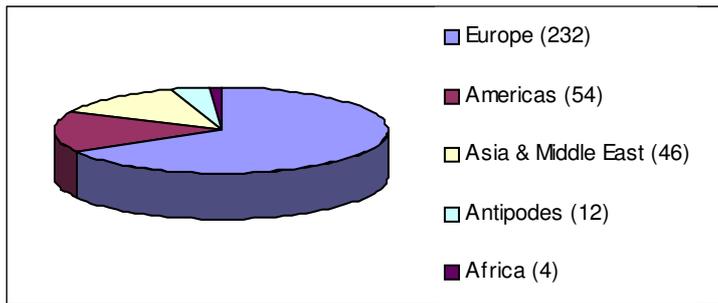


Figure 4. Primary specialism (where specified)

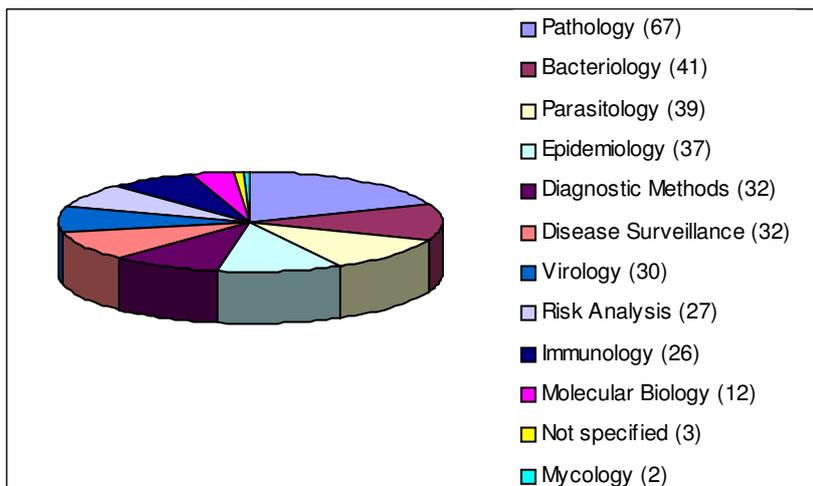


Figure 5. Species of interest

