

# ADVISORY, MENTORING & TRAINING SERVICES

www.aquatt.ie





#### AQUATT - ADVISORY, MENTORING & TRAINING SERVICES

AquaTT is an Ireland-based non-profit organisation that partners with the scientific research community to deliver results, achieve positive impact and demonstrate the value of publicly-funded research. With 23 years of experience, AquaTT has proven itself an expert at securing, managing and contributing to EC-funded projects. AquaTT operates extensively within the European scientific research arena, developing knowledge management, communications, dissemination, and training capacities. AquaTT has built a knowledge-based organisation with key networks among national and European stakeholders in the marine and other sectors.

Through these projects, AquaTT works with Europe's top researchers for the entirety of each project's life cycle, from project conception right through to delivery. AquaTT's policy has been to build an experienced and multidisciplinary team of experts from different

backgrounds. Its team uses their collective expertise to design and manage innovative work packages tailored to the needs of each specific project. AquaTT has collaborated with over 250 institutes across 40 countries. It has written and managed projects under the FP7 and Horizon 2020 funding programmes.

Building upon its organisational know-how and competence, in 2011 AquaTT established a business development unit to offer services related to its core areas of expertise. Year on year revenue from the team has grown as it has developed and marketed new service offerings to potential customers resulting in contracts with national and international universities, research institutes, and public sector organisations. AquaTT's services are based on a partnership model, supporting clients to build capacity, mobilise knowledge, drive innovation and ensure measurable value creation.

#### ADVISORY

Under the FP7 funding programme, AquaTT maintained a success rate of 46% on EC funding applications (National average 22%). As of December 2014, AquaTT contributed to the securing of €10m in grant funding under the Horizon 2020 funding programme, establishing a success rate of 67% on funding applications. AquaTT has earned a reputation for project design and implementation. Its team add value and expertise during the proposal development

process. AquaTT can provide proposal development and writing services; brokerage services; project planning and facilitation services; and editing and proofing services. In addition to European research funding proposals, AquaTT has experience of planning, writing and project managing tenders and expressions of interest, nationally and internationally.

#### MENTORING

AquaTT has developed strong relationships with Irish and European universities and higher education institutes through its mentorship programmes. AquaTT provides bespoke programmes designed to help research groups, individual principal investigators and early stage

researchers to achieve higher success rates in terms of funding procurement. The mentorship programmes also feature career pathway exploration and goal-setting. AquaTT's approach is based on trust, cooperation and capacity building.

## FEEDBACK FROM RESEARCHERS WHO TOOK PART IN SOME OF AQUATT'S 2014 MENTORSHIP PROGRAMMES:



"The mentoring programme allowed me to stop and reflect on what I had achieved to date, where I want to go with my career and how I am going to get there. The one-on-one sessions were particularly useful as they gave me some new insights into some of my personal traits and how they affect the way I work. By identifying small steps that will help me attain my career goals, these goals now appear much more achievable."

"I was prepared to take some decisive steps, but lacked clear guidance and encouragement to actually start making real actions. The mentors were really well prepared and motivated themselves, which made a lasting impact on my future career steps." AquaTT has a strong track record in the delivery of training workshops relating to both funding procurement and research project management. AquaTT's training services

have been availed of by many universities and research organisations.

#### **→ FUNDING PROCUREMENT TRAINING MODULES**



# Navigating the System - The EC Funding Procurement Landscape

- ✓ Horizon 2020 Policy Context
- Understanding the different funding mechanisms
- ✓ How to assess calls
- Selecting the right call for your organisation
- Understanding the components necessary for success



### Managing the Proposal Development Process

- ✓ Building a consortium
- Group brainstorming
- Selecting a suitable project design and structure
- ✓ Negotiating roles and responsibilities
- Defining a proposal development timeline
- ✓ Templates and tools for proposal development
- Coordinating partners and incorporating contributions
- ✓ Project budgeting



# Developing a Winning Application - How to Make your Proposal Stand Out

- Understanding the evaluation criteria and process
- Adhering to administrative requirements
- Selecting a suitable writing style and technical level
- Designing an appropriate management and governance structure
- Constructing a strong impact section
- Designing a dissemination and knowledge transfer strategy

#### → RESEARCH PROJECT MANAGEMENT TRAINING MODULES



#### **PROJECT PLANNING**

- Introduction to Project Managing Research Projects
- Project Structure Description of Work to Work Breakdown Structure
- How to assess calls
- Scheduling Achieving Milestones, Submitting Deliverables
- Project Estimations and Workflows

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#### **PROJECT INITIATION**

- Project Scope What is feasible?
- ♠ Kicking-off a Project
- Partnership Profiling
- Stakeholder Profiling
- Developing Checklists and Templates
- Establishing Project Roles
- Dealing with Risk

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#### **PROJECT EXECUTION**

- Stakeholder Engagement & Communication
- Internal Project Communications
- External Communications Communicating on Behalf of a Project
- Dealing with Problems within the Partnership/Consortium
- Quality Control



#### PROJECT CLOSING

- Administrative Requirements
- Measuring and Demonstrating Impact
- Potential Pitfalls
- Preparing and Scheduling for Close-out



AquaTT is also available to provide onsite, bespoke training for companies, organisations and institutes.

#### FEEDBACK FROM PARTICIPANTS WHO TOOK PART IN AQUATT'S 2014/15 TRAINING **WORKSHOPS:**



"Good team, great programme, we came back with so many tools that will be used on a daily basis, thank you"

"High-quality exchanges with trainers, rich recommendations from experts, a good atmosphere"

"The most useful training I have had. It enabled me to see what is behind the life of a project and the way a project can be better organised"

"Really good training with high-quality exchanges among trainers and participants. Great training methods, very effective for learning and retaining information"

"All the AquaTT staff were excellent; they were friendly, professional and clearly know their topics very well"

"Professional, informative, engaged and customer-focused"

#### A SELECTION FROM OUR CURRENT PROJECT PORTFOLIO

**Horizon 2020** 

### **ECOLUMBUS**

Ensuring effective transfer of applicable knowledge generated through EC-funded marine and maritime research.

www.columbusproject.eu



Cost-effective sensors, interoperable with international existing ocean observing systems, to meet EU policies requirements

www.commonsenseproject.eu



Empowering European citizens to take direct and sustainable action towards healthy seas, healthy communities and a healthy planet.

www.seachangeproject.eu

**Horizon 2020** 



#### ParaFishControl

Improving understanding of fish-parasite interactions and developing innovative solutions and tools for the prevention, control and mitigation of major parasitic pathogens.

Horizon 2020

www.parafishcontrol.eu



Marine Microorganisms: Cultivation Methods for Improving their Biotechnological Applications

www.macumbaproject.eu



Priority Environmental Contaminants in Seafood: Safety Assessment, Impact and Public Perception

www.ecsafeseafood.eu

+ To view our full project portfolio visit: www.aquatt.ie/aquatt-projects

#### **©** CONTACT OUR TEAM

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