

# NEWSLETTER



Courtesy of Alena Gsell



## ABOUT US

The main aim and objective of the Action are to organize and coordinate an innovative and dynamic Network, connecting academia, industries and water management authorities to advance and apply knowledge and expertise on zoosporic parasites (i.e. aquatic fungi and fungi-like microorganisms) and the relation with their hosts in natural ecosystems and industrial algal biotech production.

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ParAqua Newsletter #9 – 2023 –  
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## The ParAqua Data Management Plan is now published!

By Andrea Tarallo

A major achievement has been reached in ParAqua. The Action Data Management Plan has been published! This important document outlines how project's data are to be handled

## CA20125 ParAqua Achievements

July 17, 2023

**ParAqua COST Action CA20125 Data Management Plan**

Project members: Tarallo, Andrea; Rosati, Ilaria; Garzoli, Laura; Reñé, Albert; Rasconi, Serena

Project member(s): Laura Garzoli, Ilaria Rosati, Serena Rasconi, Andrea Tarallo

Researcher(s): Tena Radclyf; Andrea Tarallo; Diana Blazheković; Enikőné; Laura Garzoli; Albert Reñé; Eszbeta Wlk-Wozniak; Ilaria Rosati; Hans-Peter Grossart

The main aims of the COST Action CA20125 Applications For Zoosporic Parasites In Aquatic Systems, in short ParAqua, are to organize and coordinate an innovative and dynamic network that connects academia, industries and water management authorities to advance and apply knowledge and expertise on zoosporic parasites (i.e. aquatic fungi and fungi-like microorganisms) and the relation with their hosts in natural ecosystems and industrial algal biotech production.

Among the ParAqua objectives, specific task of WG3 and WG2 is to compile and integrate a database on zoosporic

Read here the full document: Tarallo Andrea, Rosati Ilaria, Garzoli Laura, Reñé Albert, & Rasconi Serena (2023). ParAqua COST Action CA20125 Data Management Plan (Version 1). Zenodo.

[Link to DOI](#)

Led by WP1, the Data Management Plan provides a clear plan for collecting, organizing, and protecting the data gathered by Action members. This ensures that important information remains safe and easily accessible to scientists and others involved.

The resulting database will be a valuable resource for researchers, conservationists, and policymakers in the fields of parasitology, ecology, and biodiversity. It will bring together different sets of data, encouraging collaboration, enabling comparisons, and supporting informed decision-making to address the challenges related to zoosporic parasites.

The WP1 team is now ready to start adding valuable information contributed by project members worldwide to the database.

If you have data to contribute, please contact [andrea.tarallo\[at\]cnr.it](mailto:andrea.tarallo[at]cnr.it)

## The first episode of ParAqua Podcast is out!

By Joe Money

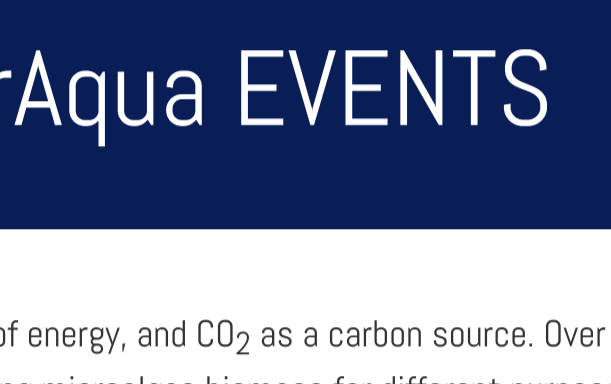
## THE PARAQUA PODCAST

We're proud to announce the publication of the first episode of the ParAqua Podcast!

In this episode Joe interviews Serena Rasconi and they discuss her research into aquatic fungal parasites and her experience as Chair of the ParAqua Action group.

If you still didn't listen to the first episode of ParAqua Podcast - do it now at [ParAqua webpage](#) or at ParAqua [spotify](#) ->

If you want to get involved with the podcast production or would be happy to be interviewed about your work please contact [joemoney\[at\]jamu.edu.pl](mailto:joemoney[at]jamu.edu.pl) for further details.



Click to listen our Spotify ParAqua channel

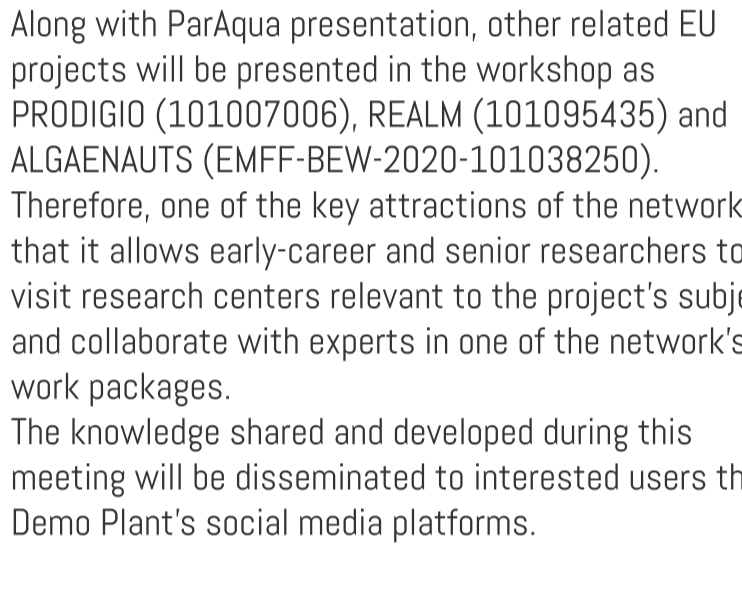
## Ready for the upcoming event in Almeria: ParAqua MC meeting and WG3 Workshop

By Ana Sanchez Zurano

## ParAqua EVENTS

Microalgae are photosynthetic organisms that use light as a source of energy, and CO<sub>2</sub> as a carbon source. Over the past few decades, there has been increasing interest in harnessing microalgae biomass for different purposes, such as biofertilizers, animal feed, nutraceuticals, and even human food. Additionally, microalgae-based bioprocesses, like wastewater treatment, have been developed. Despite the promising results of this technology, it still faces significant challenges, particularly in the context of industrial production.

The primary goal of ParAqua is to establish an innovative and dynamic network that connects academia, industries, and water management authorities to advance and apply knowledge and expertise on zoosporic parasites and their relationship with hosts in industrial microalgal production plants. This network comprises four work packages, WG1 aims to find standardized protocols and tools to identify when and where zoosporic parasites are likely to infect hosts in aquatic environments. On the other hand, WG2 focuses on understanding the functional characteristics of zoosporic parasites and how their infections may respond to future climatic conditions. Throughout the development of WG1 and WG2, the network has successfully identified the most common zoosporic parasites in microalgal cultures through various actions like training schools or Short-Term Scientific Missions (STSM).



Drawing on the knowledge and techniques developed, a MC-Network meeting and WG3 workshop are scheduled to take place in Almeria from 6th to 8th September. The main partners of the network will gather at this meeting to reassess all the knowledge generated for controlling and preventing the appearance of harmful organisms in industrial microalgae cultures. The events will serve as a platform for both young and senior researchers as well as company managers in the sector to exchange insights. During the workshop, participants will not only engage in talks and discussions but also visit the SABANA BIOTECH (Spain). Moreover, this meeting will offer an opportunity for individuals who have been part of the STSM within the ParAqua Action in recent months to present the outcomes of their research.

Along with ParAqua presentation, other related EU projects will be presented in the workshop as PRODIGIO (101007006), REALM (101095435) and ALGAENAUTS (EMFF-BEW-2020-101038250). Therefore, one of the key attractions of the network is that it allows early-career and senior researchers to visit research centers relevant to the project's subject and collaborate with experts in one of the network's work packages.



The knowledge shared and developed during this meeting will be disseminated to interested users through the ParAqua Cost Action and SABANA Microalgae Demo Plant's social media platforms.

## Recent publications of ParAqua members

## Scaling-up the production of the highly valued microalgae pigment, phycocyanin

By Daniel Kurpan and Antonio Idá

Microalgae pigments might be the next billion-dollar market and, yet, most available information relies on small scale experiments (in the mL range). We comprehensively assessed the production of food-grade phycocyanin powder, including its concentration, purification, stability, and excitation, from the microalgae biomass to the final commercial product – i.e. phycocyanin powder – using a novel pilot-scale (100L working volume) instrument.

Read more in a new paper published by ParAqua members Daniel Kurpan and Antonio Idá: Kurpan, D., Idá, A., Körner, F., Lauceri, R., Rocculi, P., Phillips, R., Schievano, A. 2023. Pilot-scale concentration and partial purification of food-grade phycocyanin from *Arthrospira platensis* via cross flow filtration: From biomass to final product. *Journal of Applied Phycology*. doi:10.1007/s10811-023-03014-y.

You can read and download at this [Link](#)  
This research will be presented on ParAqua WG3 Workshop in Almeria, so if you intend to attend – you can hear more from authors

## Activities of ParAqua members



Federico G. Körner during poster presentation.

Participation on the III Workshop Giovani AISAM, organized by the Italian Association for the Study and Application of Microalgae  
By Daniel Kurpan

On June 29th and 30th, the University of Verona (Italy) hosted the III Workshop Giovani AISAM, organized by the Italian Association for the Study and Application of Microalgae (AISAM, from the Italian).

The researchers Federico Guglielmo Körner and Daniel Kurpan participated on behalf of Algeria Srl, a ParAqua member company. They presented in both poster and oral presentation format the work "Year-round production of *Arthrospira platensis* in northern Italy: Can industrial production meet physiological productivity?".

The work assessed a wide array of biotic and abiotic factors that affect the overall status of a large-scale microalgae culture in Central European conditions. Their results are now submitted to a prestigious journal and, hopefully, soon you will be able to read more about.

## ParAqua Contact Point

**Elodie Babu**

Please contact Elodie for your questions related to refunding and working modalities for Activities participation

[elodie.babu@inrae.fr](mailto:elodie.babu@inrae.fr)

## News from ParAqua Management

## Grant Awarding Coordinator ANDREA TARALLO

Beside his very important implication as WG1 Co-Leader and coordinator of the database activity, Andrea will take over as Action Grant Awarding Coordinator.

It will be an excellent opportunity for the Action to have good support for the Grant Awarding system, welcome Andrea into this role :)

**Andrea Tarallo**  
Italy

Position: Research Technologist - Italian National Research Council - Research Institute on Terrestrial Ecosystems

Research interests

- Project management and European Research Infrastructures development
- Data harmonisation and management of the research data lifecycle

Expectations from ParAqua Action: I expect to receive a lot of data to be made open and FAIR! And to increase my knowledge in data management of zoosporic parasites data.

Hobbies: Running, Lego bricks building

## Main Contacts and Leadership

<b>MC Chair</b>	<b>Serena Rasconi (France)</b>	<a href="mailto:serena.rasconi@inrae.fr">serena.rasconi@inrae.fr</a>
<b>MC Vice Chair</b>	Alena Gsell (The Netherlands)	<a href="mailto:a.s.gsell@cml.leidenuniv.nl">a.s.gsell@cml.leidenuniv.nl</a>
<b>WG1 leader</b>	<b>Albert Reñé (Spain)</b>	<a href="mailto:albertrene@icm.csic.es">albertrene@icm.csic.es</a>
<b>WG1 co-leaders</b>	Andrea Tarallo (Italy) Laura Garzoli (Italy)	<a href="mailto:andrea.tarallo@cnr.it">andrea.tarallo@cnr.it</a> <a href="mailto:laura.garzoli@cnr.it">laura.garzoli@cnr.it</a>
<b>WG2 leader</b>	<b>Ivana Trbojević (Serbia)</b>	<a href="mailto:itrbojevic@bio.bg.ac.rs">itrbojevic@bio.bg.ac.rs</a>
<b>WG2 co-leader</b>	Hans-Peter Grossart (Germany)	<a href="mailto:hgrossart@igb-berlin.de">hgrossart@igb-berlin.de</a>
<b>WG3 leader</b>	<b>Francisco Gabriel Acien Fernandez (Spain)</b>	<a href="mailto:facien@ual.es">facien@ual.es</a>
<b>WG3 co-leader</b>	Maja Berden Zrimec (Slovenia)	<a href="mailto:maja@algen.si">maja@algen.si</a>
<b>WG4 leader</b>	<b>Position opened!</b>	
<b>WG4 co-leader</b>	Miloš Stupar (Serbia)	<a href="mailto:smilos@bio.bg.ac.rs">smilos@bio.bg.ac.rs</a>
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<b>Young Researchers and Innovators Forum Coordinator</b>	<b>Jovica Leshoski (North Macedonia)</b>	<a href="mailto:jlshoski@hio.edu.mk">jlshoski@hio.edu.mk</a>

## Announcements

**INVITATION**

**2nd International Conference on Water Environmental Protection and Sustainable Development-WEPSD-2023**

TIRANA, ALBANIA, 22-23 SEPTEMBER 2023

Website of the Conference: [2ndwepsd.wixsite.com/wepsd-2023](http://2ndwepsd.wixsite.com/wepsd-2023)

The address for communications with the organizers of the Conference is: [2ndwepsd@gmail.com](mailto:2ndwepsd@gmail.com)

The authors are invited to submit the abstract for either WEPSD-2023 or EPICATCH until 15th of August 2023 at both addresses: [2ndwepsd@cornell.com](mailto:2ndwepsd@cornell.com) and [rigerta.sadikaj@fhn.edu.al](mailto:rigerta.sadikaj@fhn.edu.al)

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