

ParAqua Young Researchers and Innovators Forum

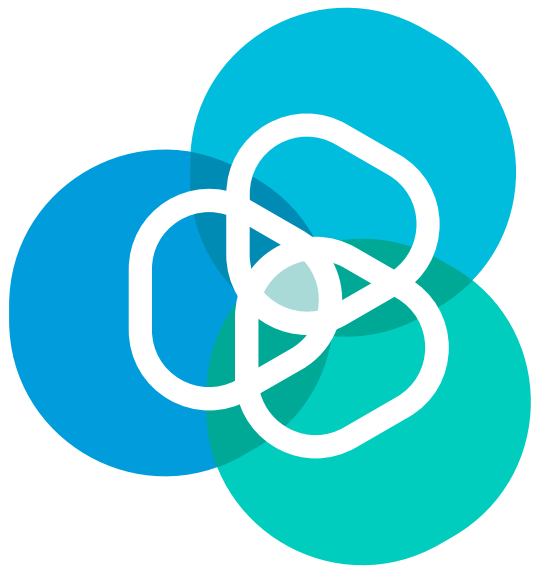
19.10.2023, online

To create a platform for the early-career ParAquanauts from management, industry and academia **to connect** and to **fully profit** from the **opportunities** within and through ParAqua.

What, who, how? Up to you!



<https://paraqua-cost.eu/>



COST ACTION CA20125 ParAqua

Applications for zoosporic parasites in aquatic systems

OUR CHALLENGE: Build an innovative and dynamic European network, connecting scientists, industries and public institutions to advance and apply knowledge and expertise on zoosporic parasites (i.e. fungi and fungi-like microorganisms) and the relation with their hosts in natural and algal biotech production systems.



OBJECTIVES

Zoosporic parasites (i.e. fungi and fungi-like aquatic microorganisms) cause severe host mortality. The economic impacts of parasitic diseases are notable in microalgae biotech industry, affecting production of food ingredients, biofuels, pharma- and nutraceuticals. But fungal parasites also constitute important drivers of natural populations, potentially influencing aquatic food webs and community dynamics, including maintaining and promoting diversity.

We will compile and share knowledge on the occurrence of zoosporic parasites and their relationship with hosts, elucidate drivers and evaluate impacts of parasitism in aquatic environments and algal biotech production. We aim to implement new tools that can be used to promote better and safer production, such as methods for monitoring and early detection, or strategies of mitigating parasitic infections. But not only. We will explore ways for valorization of aquatic parasites for the production of essential biomolecules and advocate the importance of diversity and full ecosystem approaches to promote food-web stability and resilience in aquatic systems and introduce zoosporic parasites as bioindicators for ecosystem health.

ACTIVITIES



Networking & Grants

- Workshops
- Training Schools
- Mobility Grants
- Virtual Mobility Grants



Dissemination

- <http://cost.eu/actions/ca20125>
- <https://www.paraqua-cost.eu>



@ ParAqua_CA20125

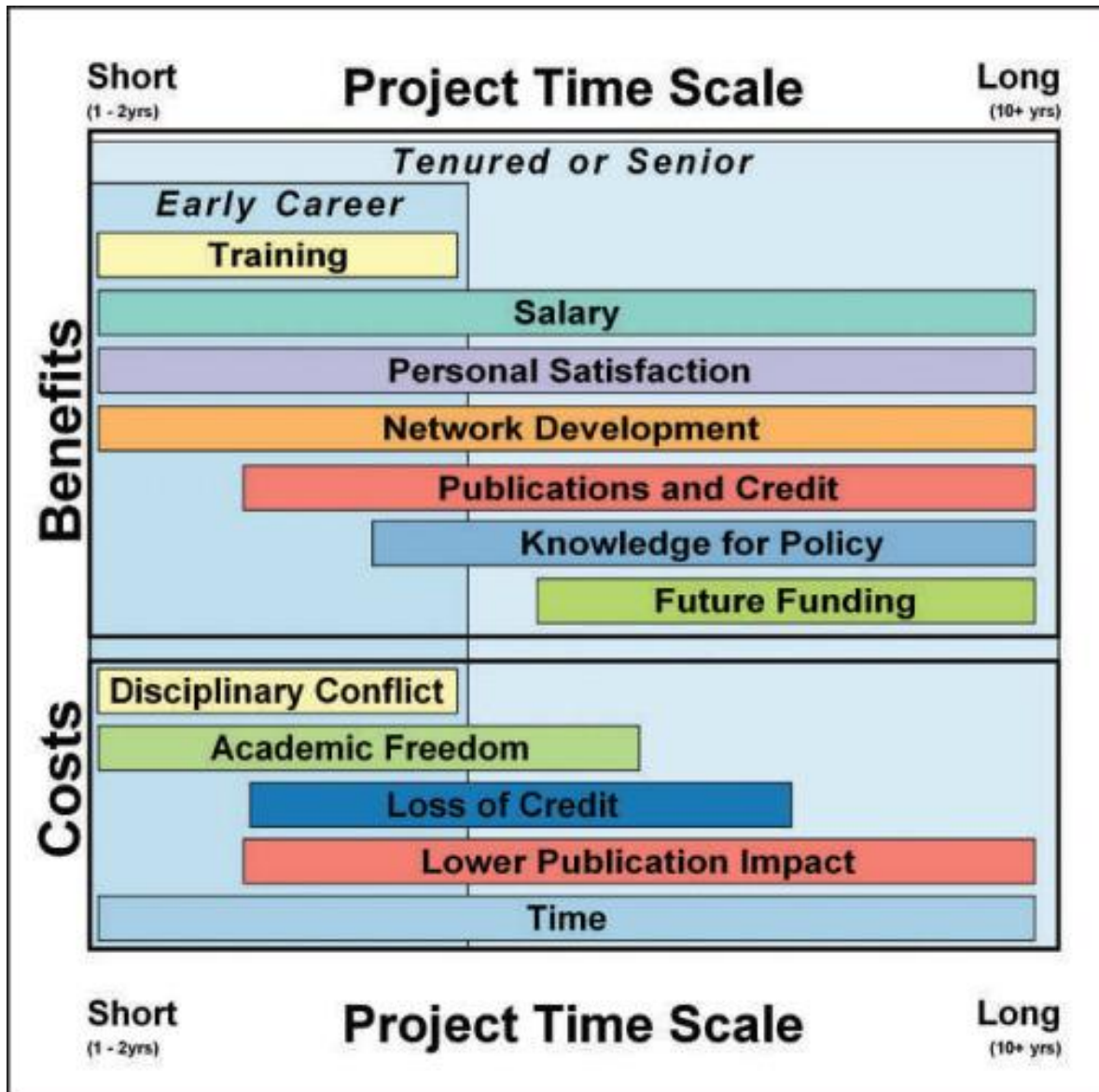


ParAqua COST Action



Pictures: Chytrid parasites infecting microalgae (pictures Silke Van den Wyngaert)/ Lake Annecy-FR (picture CARTEL)/ Algae production in ponds (picture Algen)



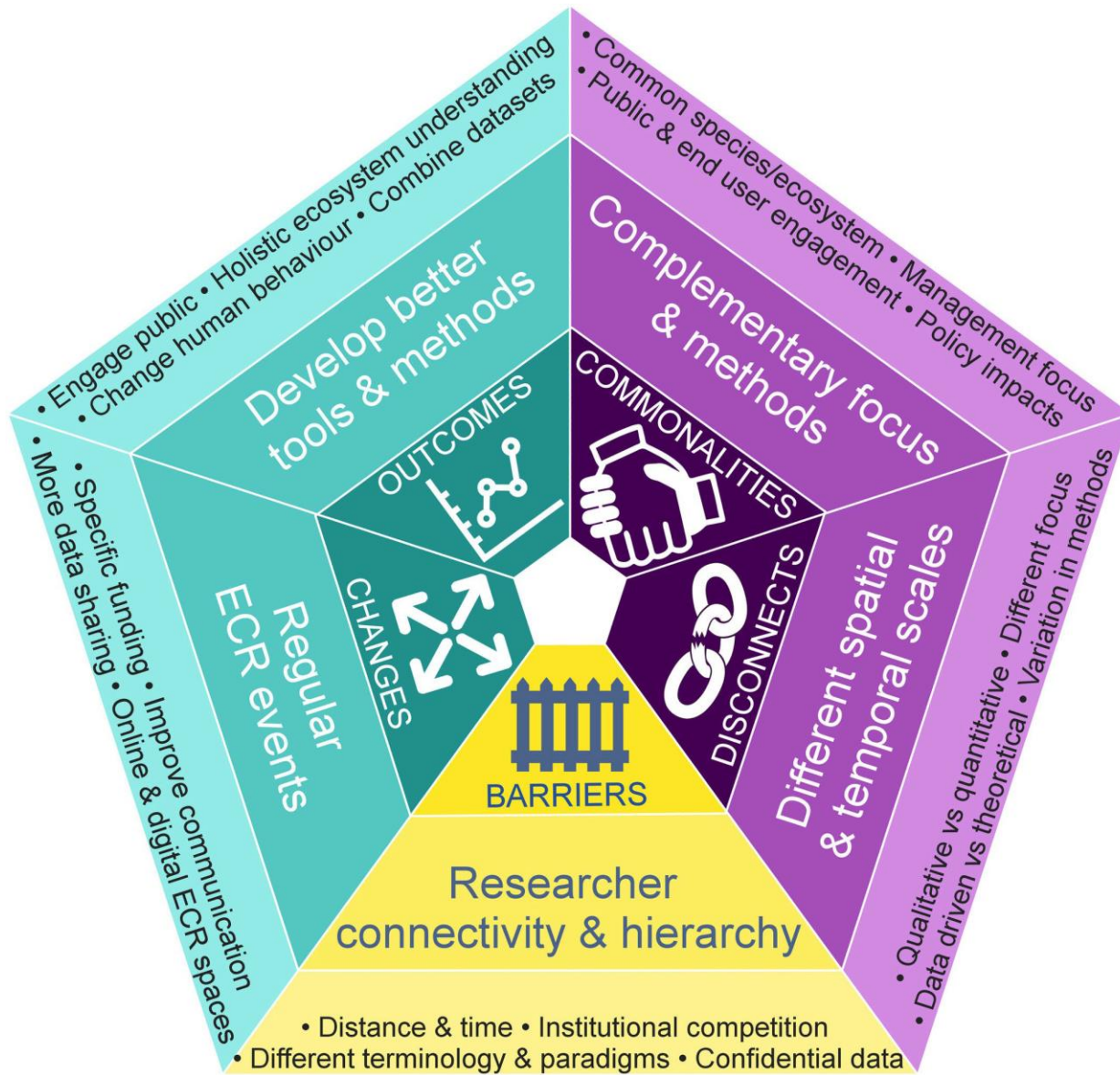


Why create a Young R&I Forum?

- Inter- and transdisciplinary research essential to tackle complex questions
- Cost can be disproportionately high for ECR's
- Requires non-traditional skills

Improving the culture of interdisciplinary collaboration in ecology by expanding measures of success

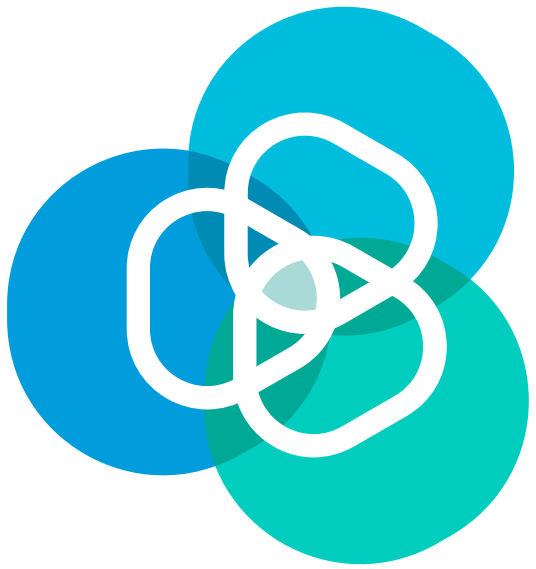
Goring *et al* 2014, *Frontiers in Ecology and the Environment*



Where can ParAqua help overcome barriers and challenges and to profit from commonalities?

common perceptions among ECRs on opportunities and barriers for intra- and interdisciplinary collaboration

An early career perspective on encouraging collaborative and interdisciplinary research in ecology
Pannell *et al* 2019, Ecosphere



Kick-off meeting Paris 27.09.2022

Collection of ideas by round robin

- Why
- What
- How
- When and Where
- Who



Why

- Expand and facilitate network
- New ideas and inspiration
- Get leadership experience
- Be heard
- Training opportunities / access to datasets
- Access and info on funding



What

- Info positions (all levels) within ParAqua network
- Active enabling of connections to seniors / institutes
- Add perspective and advice from the Y R&I to entire network
- Availability of own network tools
- Info on STSMs and other mobility tool topics
- Training



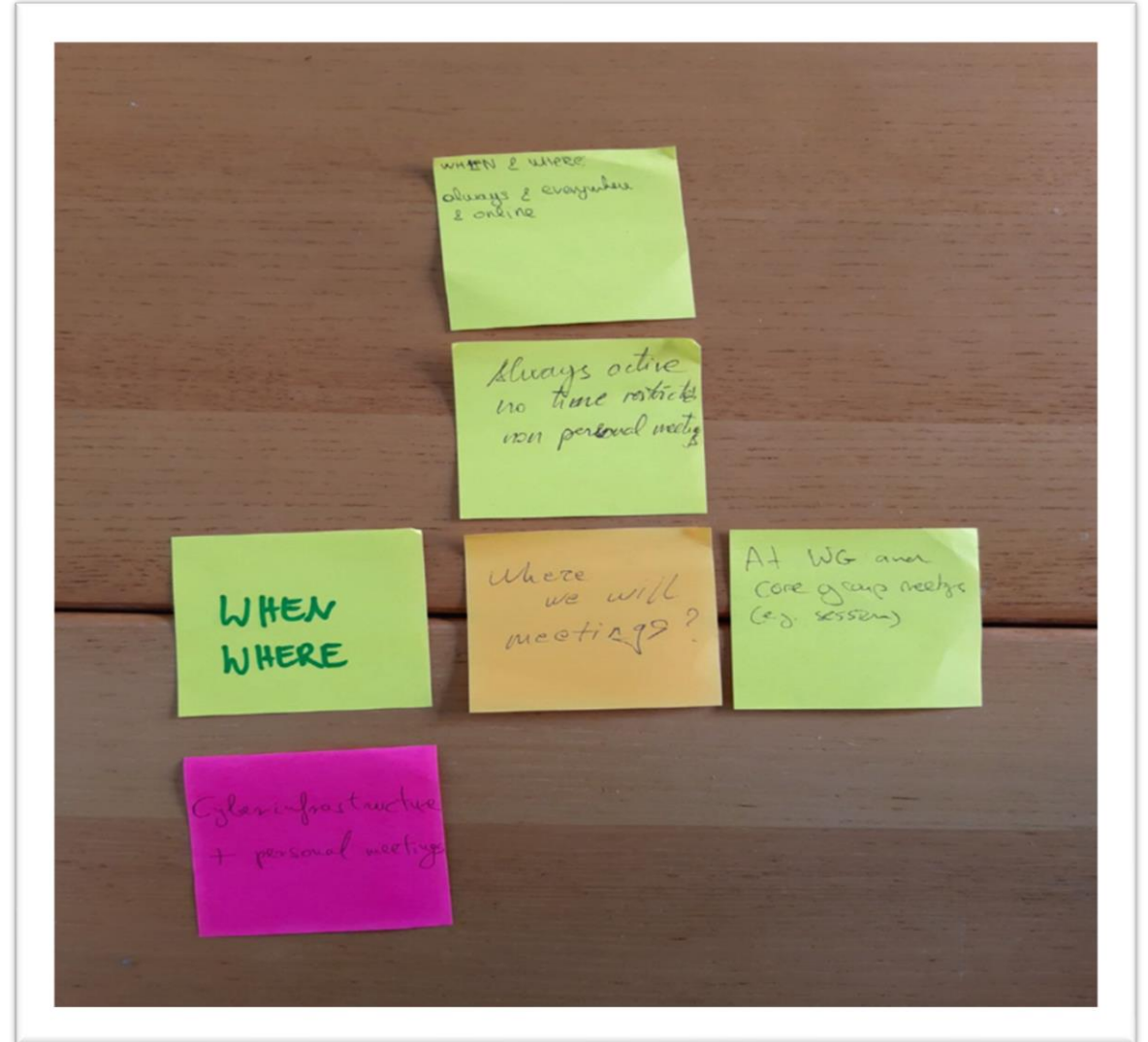
How

- Visiting labs and research trips
- Portal with themes for mobility tools, expert database, systems
- Workshops on specific skills
- Onsite and virtual meetings, linked to e.g. core group or MC meetings
- Online tools
- Writing retreat



When and Where

1. Online, non personal meetings
2. Linked to other ParAqua meetings
3. Cyberinfrastructure
4. Add-on to conference sessions



Who

- Mainly early careers, but open for all
- => What defines as "Young"? -> see COST definition



YR&I Zoom account

Regular meetings with member presentations

Invited webinars

What does that mean in practice?

Online journal club

Peer feedback to presentations and papers

Early career sessions at Action meetings

Planning and
organisation
skills

Creativity

Group oriented
leadership skills

Entrepreneurship

Teamwork

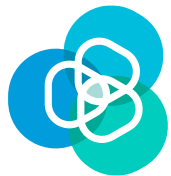
communication
skills

Decision
making

What is in it for you?

Professionalism

Motivation skills



PARAQUA

Aims for this session:

Gauge interest in the Y R&I Forum

Formulate SMART aims and actions

- 1) What do you want from the Young R&I Forum
- 2) What will you contribute to the Young R&I Forum

S	Specific Clearly State your Goal
M	Measurable Ensure you can Measure Success
A	Attainable Set Goals you know you can Achieve
R	Relevant Set Goals Relevant to your Career or Education
T	Time-Based Set a Deadline for Completion