

Why do we need the PANDA network?

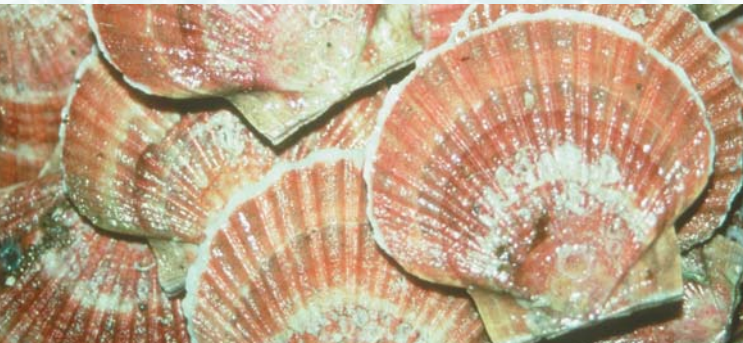
- Despite the existence of the Reference Laboratory networks for fish and molluscan diseases, untapped expertise exists in a large number of institutes, universities, private companies, *etc.*
- A mechanism is required for drawing from these resources so the European Commission can base decisions on policies, regulations and research priorities on the soundest scientific advice.
- PANDA aims to establish a network of experts and provide them with a forum for debate and exchange of information, and to provide scientific advice to the European Commission.

How will the network operate?

- Five scientific work packages will address important topical aspects of disease in aquaculture.
- A project website provides a convenient forum for debate and dissemination of information between experts in the network.
- A permanent network will be established over the next 3 years, which will continue to be useful to both members and the European Commission.

The scientific work packages

- *Risk analysis*
Identification of the most significant exotic, emerging and re-emerging disease hazards for the EU.
- *Epidemiology*
Production of a database of epidemiological characteristics of the major disease hazards for the EU, and development of surveillance and containment schemes.
- *Diagnostic methods*
Assessment of the current best diagnostic methods for the identified major disease hazards and recommendations for improvements, standardisation, validation and implementation.
- *Environmentally safe disease control*
Recommendations for the best control techniques and policy/legislation options for the application of environmentally safe control methods.
- *Training needs and opportunities*
Production of a database of training opportunities and identification of training requirements not currently met.

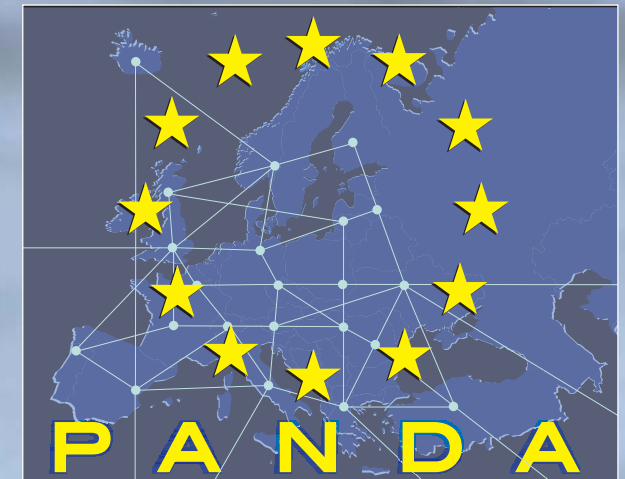


All researchers and practitioners in aquatic animal health are encouraged to join. Benefits of membership include:

- Providing input to scientific advice which will influence Commission decisions on policy and research in aquatic animal health.
- Searching the database of experts to find and make contact with other experts in your field.
- Requesting information, advice or materials via the electronic discussion forums.
- Access to information and publications produced by the network.
- Keeping abreast of the latest developments in aquatic animal health.

Further project information and registration

Visit the project website at www.europanda.net



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PERMANENT
ADVISORY
NETWORK FOR
DISEASES IN
AQUACULTURE



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

www.europanda.net