

Finance application procedure at the AQUIMER Pole of Competitiveness

I : Project eligibility criteria:

The objective of the AQUIMER Pole of Competitiveness is to encourage the competitiveness of companies by meeting their needs and by helping them to develop and build long-lasting activities through innovation and the technological improvement.

In order to be eligible, the project at the centre of the application must satisfy the following criteria:

1. Fall within the scope of one of the Pole's themes, that is to say:
 - The promotion of fishing and aquaculture products and co-products
 - The strengthening of company technicality and environment,
 - The improvement of sanitary safe.
2. Bring together at least two companies and a laboratory, technical centre, training organisation,
3. Have participants established in the Nord-Pas-de-Calais Region,
4. Be of an innovative nature,
5. Utilise research and development of quality,
6. Have significant impact (employment, value creation, area appeal...),
7. Show strong commitment from the partners.

II : Labellisation application procedure at the AQUIMER Pole of Competitiveness:

A standard application file which contains the essential part of the information required by each of the financial backers, is available (cf. Labellisation application file).

This file contains all the elements which are needed scientific, technical, economic and societal assessment of the project:

- a **summary sheet** which gathers together general information relating to the project,
- a **sheet per partner**,
- a **detailed presentation of the project**.

Generally speaking any project whose content complies with the criteria for eligibility and with the Pole's strategic objectives may be presented at any time.

However, some national calls for proposal (FUI, ANR...) are launched several times a year and we will not fail to keep you informed of the schedules and how to apply.

Projects should be sent to the Director of the AQUIMER Pole of Competitiveness, Monsieur Thierry MISSONNIER

By mail: 16, rue du Commandant Charcot
62 200 Boulogne-sur-Mer

By e-mail: contact@poleaquimer.com

An acknowledgement **of receipt** will be sent to the project owner by AQUIMER. The project partners may be contacted by the coordination unit in order to clarify certain points in the dossier.



III: Project assessment procedure

On the basis of a statement of intent:

- Registration by the Pole's coordination unit who, at this stage, may accompany the project owners in their quest for partners, the pre-qualification of the project in relation to the Pole's themes
- Review of the application for labellisation dossier (nature of the partnership, study content) by the Scientific Committee of Experts which issues an opinion of appropriateness of the project in relation to the criteria validated by the Pole's governing bodies (Board of Directors) and the latter's specifications and performance contract.

This opinion of appropriateness concerns the economic and scientific admissibility of the project. For some projects the Scientific Committee of Experts will call upon an external expertise. On the other hand, the Committee will not call upon an external expertise for projects whose subject makes them eligible for national funding plans of the FUI, ANR type or OSEO innovative projects if the owner can validate an independent extra-regional assessment.

The Scientific Committee of Experts has the authority to hear, if necessary, the project owner. Bilaterally, the project owner may request to be heard by the Scientific Committee of Experts.

The summary sheet completed with the Scientific Committee of Experts opinion of appropriateness is transmitted to the Board of Directors, the only authority which has the power to grant labellisation. In the absence of a consensus, a vote may be taken and labellisation is then granted on a simple majority vote by the members of the Board of Directors.

After the meeting of the Board of Directors, the Pole informs the project owners and transmits a summary table to the different Pole authorities, which include the Board of Directors and the Scientific Committee of Experts.

Confidentiality

The Pole's staff, the Scientific Committee of Experts and the members of the Board of Directors have signed an oath of confidentiality with regard to information transmitted by the project owners.

Moreover, the owner is informed of the make-up of the the Scientific Committee of Experts and the Board of Directors prior to application. In the event of it identifying a person likely to contribute a non-objective opinion about the project, it may request that the latter have no knowledge of the dossier.

