



## **AquaRing Final Workshop**

### **Digital documents on the aquatic world**

***Acquario di Genova, Italy, Thursday 26th March 2009***

The AquaRing portal is to be launched – a new, innovative portal opening up access to an ocean of digital documents about the aquatic world. The portal will breathe new life into archives of digital documents and collections from aquaria, zoos, and natural history and science museums from across Europe.

This roundtable event brings together experts in the field to discuss not just AquaRing's utility and functionality but the state of the art in Europe of how we deal with the wealth of digital images, videos, documents and other material which could be shared to help communicate to the public about these issues. Who provides content to AquaRing, and who could in the future? What networks exist in the field where documentation meets seas, rivers and oceans? How are these digital documents put to use? What are the future challenges ahead, and what can we imagine for AquaRing 2.0?

Participation is free of charge.

Please note that this programme is provisional and subject to change. A final version will be circulated shortly.



AquaRing is an EU project, co-financed by the European Union through the eContent*plus* programme.

## Thursday 26th March

### 09h00 Welcome to the Acquario di Genova

**Carla Sibilla** - General Director, Acquario di Genova

**Antonio Di Natale**, AquaRing Project Coordinator and Secretary General of the Fondazione Acquario di Genova Onlus, Genoa, Italy

### 09h10 EU opening up digital documents online

**Marc Röder**, eContentPlus Project Officer, eContent Plus - DG Information Society and Media Digital Content & Cognitive Systems, European Commission, Luxembourg

*The European Commission has been funding projects across Europe aimed at opening up access to digital documents. This is an opportunity to hear more about the results of this wide-ranging programme, and the prospects for the future.*

### 09h40 Keynote speech: Communication of science in the internet age

**Prof Andrea Cerroni**, Professor at the University of Milan-Bicocca, Milan, Italy

### 10h40 Break

### 11h10 Launch of the AquaRing portal

**Stefano Bianchi**, Research Team Leader, Softeco Sismat, Genoa, Italy

*The AquaRing portal is officially launched to the public today. Here we look at the unique features and content that make the AquaRing portal an innovative source of digital documents on the aquatic world.*

### 12h10 Presentation of workshop participants

**All workshop participants**

*This is an opportunity for participants present to introduce their institutions and their activities.*

### 13h00 Lunch

### 14h00 AquaRing and European content

Moderator: **Catherine Franche**, Executive Director, Ecsite, Brussels, Belgium

Speakers (TBC):

**Michel Hignette**, Director, Aquarium de la Porte Dorée, Paris, France

**Björn Källström**, Aquarium Curator, Swedish Maritime Museum, Stockholm, Sweden

**Kathleen Van Damme**, Director, Lab to Media, Brussels, Belgium

*Three speakers present their aquarium, zoo, museum or science centre, describe their work with digital documents, and explain the usefulness of a portal like AquaRing to them. The discussion will then focus around the type of digital content available online.*

### 15h30 Coffee break

## 16h00 AquaRing and existing networks

Moderator: **Bruna Valettini**, AquaRing Project Manager, Acquario di Genova, Italy

Speakers (TBC) :

**Iain Shepherd**, DG MARE, European Commission, Brussels, Belgium

**Telmo Carvalho**, Coordinator, EurOcean, Lisbon, Portugal

**Francisco Hernandez**, Head of Data Centre, VLIZ Flanders Marine Institute, Ostend, Belgium

*Three speakers present their project in documentation on the aquatic world, describe their work with digital documents, and explain how their work can benefit, and benefit from, AquaRing. The discussion will look at the potential for AquaRing and other networks and institutions in terms of collaboration.*

17h30 **Coffee break**

## 17h45 Madagascar: biodiversity meets multimedia - Unique animals and ecosystems shown through the new European portal AquaRing

**Riccardo Jesu**, Researcher

19h00 **Close**; 20h00 **Evening meal, Genoa**