



**"Strengthening Circular Economy
and Valorisation of side-streams
in RAS Aquaculture"
AQUALOOP International Conference**

AquaLoop cross-border student exchange program

**Bremerhaven, Germany | 25 February 2026
Nerijus Nika, Klaipeda University, Lithuania
Basia Dmochowska, University of Gdańsk, Poland**

Interreg  Co-funded by
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WP3: TrainingLoop

Circular aquaculture training pool

The purpose of TrainingLoop is to prepare different generations of stakeholders: school kids, students and young professionals for the circular approach in aquaculture, in order to boost their career opportunities.

TrainingLoop programme for **secondary school youth** development and implementation



TrainingLoop programme for **students'** development and implementation

TrainingLoop programme for **professionals'** development and implementation





cross-border student exchange program

What?

A week long exchange program based on the AquaLoop project pilots, hands on experience, laboratory work, study trip, cross-border cooperation and networking.

For whom?

Aquaculture (and related majors: biology, marine biology, etc.) undergraduate and graduate students from the AquaLoop project partner universities: University of Rostock, University of Gdańsk, and Klaipeda University.

Why?

To get familiar with AquaLoop pilots, circular economy practices in aquaculture, partner institutions, and students from Germany, Poland and Lithuania.



When?
January – March 2025

Where?
University of Rostock (DE)
University of Gdańsk (PL)
Klaipeda University (LT)



Pilot 1: Testing Algae Applications in Recirculating aquaculture systems (RAS) to improve aquaculture circularity potential in the SB region, University of Gdańsk



Pilot 2: Increasing the nutrient efficiency of commercial aquaculture through increased application of circular economy concepts, University of Rostock



Pilot 3: Development of the Fish-Shrimp-Vegetables integrated system of aquaponics to showcase the potential of circular economy principles in RAS, Klaipeda University



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Are you enthusiastic about circular economy & aquaculture, and you study at one of the AquaLoop project universities? Then, the program is for you!

More on: www.aqualoop.edu.pl

OVERVIEW
Joint certified program
Based on AquaLoop pilots
3 universities + companies

January–June 2025
1 week long
19 Bachelor's & Master's students
University of Rostock (DE)
University of Gdańsk (PL)
Klaipeda University (LT)



Challenge-Based & Experiential Learning
Pilot-based, practical skills development in circular practices in blue economy

Entrepreneurship & Innovation Skills Development

Enhanced cooperation between industry and academia fostered through study visits during exchange stays

Interdisciplinary & International Collaboration
Networking and cultural exchange between 3 countries & further collaboration between project partners and their students in the scientific field

Program participants, photo credit: KU, UG, UR

UG and KU students at the University of Rostock & Institute for Fisheries at the State Research Centre Mecklenburg-Vorpommern in Hohen Wangelin



UR and KU students at the University of Gdańsk & K2 Fish Farm



UG nad UR students at the Klaipeda University & Martynas Klevinis Arctic Char Farm





cross-border
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Evaluation scores ranged from 96% to 100% among the participants, in all categories: communication, organization, collaboration, and overall satisfaction. The program was highly recommended!

Contacts

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Speakers Mattis Rieger, Johannes Franke, Finn Wendt, Konrad Bräutigam & Moritz Trautmann

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Student Exchange Programme – Gdynia 2025

Personal and Professional Development

- ❖ Learning new methods and approaches:
 - maintenance routine of RAS systems cultivating *Litopenaeus vannamei*
 - microalgae cultivation and growth monitoring (using RAS waste-water)
 - method of determining energy available for growth in shrimps
- ❖ Working in an international environment:
 - Communication, Teamwork, Language Skills



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Student Exchange Programme – Gdynia 2025

Feedback/Recommendations for Future Exchanges

- ❖ Positive aspects:
 - ✓ Well-organized and interesting visit of K1/K2 trout farm
 - ✓ Exchange with other students
 - ✓ Very welcoming and familiar atmosphere in general
 - ✓ Overall a great experience!
- No specific suggestions for improvement
- The programme met all my expectations!



Student Exchange Programme – Gdynia 2025

Personal and Professional Development

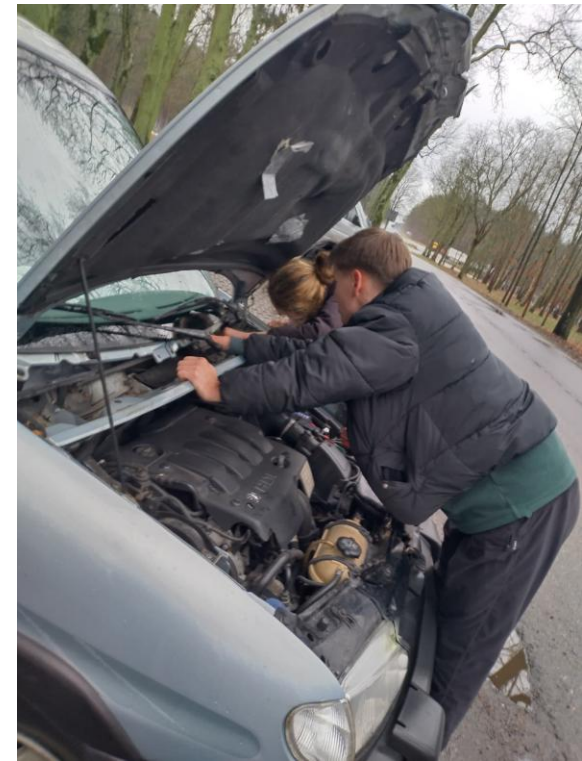
- ❖ Basics of cultivating Shrimps and Microalgae
- ❖ Collecting data for research on this organisms
- ❖ Visiting a modern trout farm
- ❖ Working in a new environment



Student Exchange Programme – Gdynia 2025

Recommendations for future participants

- ❖ Take every opportunity given
- ❖ Overcome personal inhibitions



Student Exchange Programme – Klaipeda 2025

What did we gain from the student exchange?

- ❖ New aquacultural insights
- ❖ Exciting activities



Student Exchange Programme – Klaipeda 2025

Recommendation for future student exchanges?

- ❖ Insights into local aquaculture companies
- ❖ Insights in local research topics
- ❖ Networking with students
- ❖ Local activities

