

# LJUBLJANA, SLOVENIA

## SEP 28-OCT 1 2026



Photograph by Aleš Frelj

Ljubljana

# AQUACULTURE IN GLOBAL CHANGE

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Since 1976, EAS has been bringing people together for the sustainable development of European aquaculture. As we celebrate our 50<sup>th</sup> birthday, we look back on key moments and key persons that made EAS what it is today. And we also look forward - continuing to expand our student activities and network and propose benefits for members that are suited to their profile and needs. We will celebrate this milestone throughout the year on social media, and in person at Aquaculture Europe 2026 in Ljubljana, where we invite EAS members to join the celebrations.

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## “Aquaculture in Global Change”

Food systems, including aquaculture, are being challenged by changes resulting from global warming. These affect all forms of aquaculture, in inland and coastal marine regions, and especially small and medium sized operators that may not have the financial and operational capacity to implement adaptation and mitigation measures.

Seasonal “extremes” in water temperature, availability and oxygen content and (for coastal areas) salinity, pH, sea level will have varying effects on aquaculture production that may require the diversification of cultured species.

Diseases, parasites, predators, non-indigenous species and algal or jellyfish blooms can also decrease production and challenge aquatic animal welfare. These effects may require the relocation of sites or the allocation of new sites for production. However, these changes may also provide opportunities to diversify to new species production or the combined production of species that can better mitigate effects. Opportunities also lie in the development of a clear and transparent credit system for the carbon sequestration and other ecosystem services that aquatic animal groups, whether in freshwater or coastal habitats, provide.

Taking place in the beautiful Slovenian capital of **Ljubljana**, AE2026 will put the focus on adaptation to climate effects, the latest research on species adaption capacity and the health/welfare/nutrition/breeding factors that underline this. While Slovenia has a low aquaculture production, it has plans for development of existing and new production methods and species and it is at the heart of central/southern Europe - adjacent to Italy, Croatia, Hungary and Austria – and hence providing a regional focus for both inland and marine aquaculture.

**The AE2026 parallel sessions will cover the full scope of European aquaculture scientific disciplines and species and will comprise submitted oral and poster presentations. AE2026 will also feature an international trade exhibition, industry forum, student sessions and activities, satellite workshops and updates on EU research.**



In addition to the thematic sessions, AE2026 also includes parallel and ePoster sessions. Oral presentation slots in our AE events are **15 minutes**.

This is an initial list of sessions that will be open for online abstract submission. This list could be subject to change.

Allocating space for aquaculture | Aquaponics | Communicating science | Conservation & restoration (all species) | Consumer studies | Early life development | Environment - Biological threats & predators | Environment - Interactions | Environment - Microplastics, litter & ecotoxicity | Environment - Monitoring, forecasting & indicators | Health management – Biosecurity & prevention | Health management – Treatment & monitoring | Health & welfare management – Microbiome | Integrated Multitrophic Aquaculture (IMTA) | Integrating omic approaches | Market & value chain economics | Nature-based solutions & regenerative farming | Nutrition - Alternative ingredients | Nutrition - Functional ingredients | Nutrition - Physiology & digestability | Offshore & multi-use | Operations in aquaculture facilities | Precision - Digital twins, modeling & AI | Post-harvest - processing, packing and value addition | Precision - Sensors, robotics/ROV and control | Public perception and social license | RAS - Water, solids, gas | Reproduction & broodstock management - Freshwater | Reproduction & broodstock management - Marine | Selective breeding & genomics | Species - Algae (Micro/Macro) | Species - Molluscs & other shellfish | Species - Percid fish | Species - Shrimp & crustaceans | Species - Trout | Training & life-long learning | Welfare



## Welcome to Ljubljana ! You will be enchanted !

Ljubljana is the capital and largest city of Slovenia, located along a trade route between the northern Adriatic Sea and the Danube region. The city's symbol is the Ljubljana Dragon. It is depicted on the top of the tower of Ljubljana Castle in the Ljubljana coat of arms and on the Ljubljana-crossing Dragon Bridge. It represents power, courage, and greatness.

The city centre is traffic-free and very easy to walk. Many bridges, including the famous triple-bridge cross the Ljubljanica river and the river is lined with cafés, bars and restaurants. It is dominated by the Ljubljana Castle, which is accessible on foot, by bus or by funicular and gives fantastic view of the city.

AE2026 will take place at the Gospodarsko Razstavišče Exhibition and Congress Centre, about 20 minutes walk from the city centre.

Ljubljana Jože Pučnik Airport is 24 km to the northwest of the city and most European cities are within 1-3 hours flying time. It is also possible to fly to Venice and rent a car from there.



## Engaging with Industry

The Aquaculture Europe events are all about communication with the sector. AE2026 will feature a trade exhibition, where regional and international companies will present their latest products and services. Standard and Corner booths are available, and each booth is 6m<sup>2</sup> (2x3m) and features walls, carpet, two chairs and one table, spotlights, one power outlet, fascia identification sign and include two full conference registrations. Additional staff can register through our exhibitor portal at significantly reduced rates.

The AE events also feature special forums for industry, where presentations and panel discussions focus on relevant and timely issues for the sector. Other industry-oriented events will take place around the trade exhibition, and technical tours will be organised.

The AE event is a focal point for meetings of European associations, satellite workshops of EU projects and other events. We can provide options for your meeting.

## Students@AE2026 – Our rising stars

Students are a vital part of the European Aquaculture Society (EAS) and play an essential role in the Aquaculture Europe conference. Each year, around 400 students attend the event, contributing energy, innovation, and fresh perspectives to the aquaculture community.

To support their professional growth and engagement, EAS organises a range of dedicated student activities aimed at encouraging networking, skill development, and active participation.

Among the key activities are the student workshop, which focuses on current topics and often includes interactive elements such as hackathon-style challenges, and the student reception, offering a chance to relax, connect, and enjoy the social side of the conference in the vibrant setting of Ljubljana, Slovenia. Additionally, the Meet'n'Eat session provides an informal opportunity for students to meet, share ideas, and discuss various topics during the lunch break.

### Celebrating Student Excellence

EAS is committed to recognising the outstanding contributions of students to the aquaculture field. At AE2026, the following awards will be presented:

- Student Spotlight Award, which highlights the top three student abstracts submitted to the conference. Finalists will be invited to present their work in a dynamic three-minute pitch session, showcasing the next generation of aquaculture innovators.
- Best Student ePoster Award, presented by EAS
- Ibrahim Okumuş Award for Best Student ePoster, presented by the EAS Student Group (EAS-SG)

Students are encouraged to actively participate, share their research, and take advantage of these opportunities to grow within the international aquaculture community.



Student Workshop at AQUA 2024 in Copenhagen, Denmark.



Students enjoying dinner and great company during AQUA 2024 in Copenhagen, Denmark.



From left to right: Nataly Gómez Gómez, Valentina Romboli, Victoria Becker, and Bente E. Torstensen – finalists of the Student Spotlight Award at AQUA 2024.

## Steering committee

Nives Ogrinc - Chair (Jožef Stefan Institute), Daniel Źarski (Institute of Animal Reproduction and Food Research, Polish Academy of Sciences) and Irena Fonda (Fonda Fish Farm)

## Program co-chairs

Simona Sušnik Bajec (University of Ljubljana) and Tanja Šegvić Bubić (Institute of Oceanography and Fisheries, Split, Croatia)

## Local Organizing committee

Tjaša Kodela (Fisheries Research Institute of Slovenia), Ana Rotter (National Institute of Biology), Sanja Sandić (University of Primorska), Luca Bargelloni (University of Padova), Ana Gavrilović (University of Zagreb) and Sara Kancelar-Juvan (Ljubljana Convention Bureau)



## AE2026 daily highlights

### Monday, 28 September

Registration & Exhibitor move in  
Pre-conference tour  
Opening Ceremony  
EAS Awards  
Welcome Drink

### Tuesday, 29 September

Plenary Session  
Student Spotlight Award  
Trade Show  
Conference sessions  
ePoster Session/Happy Hour  
EAS General Assembly  
Student Reception

### Wednesday, 30 September

Plenary Session  
Trade Show  
Conference sessions  
Student workshop  
ePoster Session/Happy Hour  
Presidents Reception

### Thursday, 1 October

Registration open  
Conference Sessions  
Trade Show  
Plenary Session  
Poster Awards

### Friday, 2 October

Post-conference tour

Photograph credits via Ljubljana Tourism

## Contacts



General conference inquiries: [eas@aquaeas.eu](mailto:eas@aquaeas.eu)  
Registration, requests for invoices & visa requests: [worldaqua@was.org](mailto:worldaqua@was.org)  
Exhibitors, sponsors, media & meeting room requests: [mario@marevent.com](mailto:mario@marevent.com)

## Abstract Submission



Deadline May 1, 2026.



Oral slots are limited, please submit before the deadline.



Please submit your abstract online via [www.aquaeas.org](http://www.aquaeas.org). There you will find guidelines for abstract preparation and sample.

If you are unable to submit online, please contact the Aquaculture Europe conference manager at [worldaqua@was.org](mailto:worldaqua@was.org).

## Registration Rates

Type of Registration	Register by July 15, 2026	Register by Sept 15, 2026	After Sept 15, 2026
EAS Member Rate*	€ 495	€ 550	€ 610
EAS Member Student Rate**	€ 155	€ 210	€ 275
Non-member Rate	€ 590	€ 650	€ 710

Trade Show Pass only, valid whole period: € 50  
\*you must mention your member ID  
\*\*include valid proof

See you in Ljubljana!

more information,  
abstract submission  
and registration at  
[www.aquaeas.org](http://www.aquaeas.org)