

F. 1. Aims and objectives

The wider and long-term objective of SSNS is to make a viable contribution towards achieving sustainable seafood nutrition security in the project region. More specifically the project will have a long-term impact in securing the sufficient, safe, as well as environmentally, socially and economically sustainable production of seafood in three of the region's biggest aquaculture and capture fisheries producing countries. In addition, SSNS aims to improve the quality of HE & enhance its relevance for labour market & society.

The more immediate, specific objectives of SSNS are:

1. To develop new specialized curricula and an innovative MSc programme on sustainable seafood nutrition security thus helping build the capacity of the partner countries' (PC) HEIs, improve the level of competences and skills offered, and address the existing absence of a similar programme.
2. Promote cooperation, exchange of know-how and good practices in the subject area between EU and PC HEIs.
3. Establish viable synergies and links with the regional aquaculture and fisheries industry in order to address their needs in specialized personnel in SSNS, training needs and enhance the employability of SSNS graduates.

SSNS will achieve these objectives by:

- Addressing the current gap in the region for a specialized MSc programme in SSNS, thus providing the regional aquaculture and fisheries industry with a steady stream of highly-qualified staff (either new HEI graduates or retrained existing professionals) that will head the effort to achieve the long-term goal of sustainable seafood nutrition security. The same long-term goal will also be served with the establishment of Sustainable Seafood Centers (SSCs) in PC HEIs that will act as foci for research and innovation in the area thus ensuring that SSNS will remain high in the regional priorities agenda for a long time after the project has been completed.
- Developing tailor-made SSNS VET courses to cover the immediate personnel training needs of the local and regional businesses in the short-term.
- Build the capacity of the PC HEIs by 1. developing new innovative curricula in the subject area, 2. training their academic staff in the new courses and appropriate delivery methods, 3. developing a SSNS training VLE to support the PC HEIs' academic staff during and after the project 4. enhancing their infrastructure with the establishment of SSCs.
- The competences and skills offered by the PC HEIs through the SSNS programme will be a product of a detailed participatory needs assessment process in which the regional aquaculture and fisheries industry will also participate. SSNS students will also need to test their acquired skills and competences in an internship programme.
- Viable synergies and links with the regional aquaculture and fisheries industry will be established, through 1. the SSNS internship programmes, 2. the VET component, 3. info days organized by all PC HEIs and 4. targeted dissemination activities including the SSNS Final Conference.
- The employability of SSNS graduates will be enhanced by 1. the fact that SSNS will address existing labor needs of the industry, 2. by participating in the SSNS info days in which they will come in touch with local businesses and 3. by completing internships in local business thus gaining valuable job experience and building their work profile.
- Cooperation, exchange of know-how and good practices in the subject area between EU and PC HEIs will be achieved with 1. five capacity building study visits (2 in Europe for curricula development and 3 in Asia for training), 2. the SSNS VLE that will ensure the proper online training of PCs academic staff during and after the project and act as a research portal for publications, cooperation and exchange of new ideas, 3. the active involvement of European partners in all stages of the project, including the delivery of SSNS where they will provide feedback for its improvement during and after it has been completed.