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Supply Chain Competition in Sustainable Aquaculture Begins

Seven teams of Master's students begin competition to improve holistic and measurable quality in sustainable aquaculture

The [Sustainable Supply Chain 2019](#) competition in Sustainable Aquaculture officially opened on 26 Feb. The 1-hour introductory webinar was hosted by organisers at [ISEKI-Food Association](#) and the [University of Bologna](#) and attended by members of the 7 competing teams. Teams are made of 3 to 5 Master's students and come from Europe, the Middle East and the Americas, making for a truly international competition.

For the next 4 months, each of the 7 teams will prepare a project that addresses a specific challenge in sustainable aquaculture. The challenge is identified by the student teams themselves and must relate to improving holistic and measurable quality that consumers understand. Teams will design and develop a solution that can be exploited by industry.

The competition is a part of the [NextFOOD project](#). It is an innovative learning experience as students gain in soft skills such as problem solving, team work and communication while they improve their technical skills. Principles of action-oriented participatory learning were used in the set-up and the realization of the competition. The several on-line meetings during the 4-month competition have students giving webinars and organizing course content.

Winners to attend Aquaculture Europe 2019 and NextFOOD 2020 conferences

A team of academic and industry experts will evaluate the student projects at an ISEKI-Food Virtual Workshop in mid-June. At this open workshop (anyone can attend), teams will present their projects and take questions from the audience. The winners will be announced. A member of the winning team will present the team project at the [Aquaculture Europe 2019](#) conference in Berlin DE in Sept 2019 and at the NextFOOD 2020 project meeting in Thessaloniki GR in spring 2020. The winning team will also receive a cash prize.

This competition is the first of a 4-year series, one of the case studies of the NextFOOD project. NextFOOD's core mission is to identify, describe and disseminate effective approaches to food production and forestry.

For further information please contact:

Dr Katherine Flynn
Project Manager, ISEKI-Food Association
m: +33 669 107177
kflynn@iseki-food.net

www.nextfood-project.eu



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