This year many different workpackages started within AQUACROSS but few have already delivered output. Two workpackages which are supposed to provide the basis for the ongoing and future work and to which we have contributed and for which the deliverables were finalized this year.

The first (Deliverable 2.1) is a review of all relevant policy frameworks for which AQUACROSS needs to provide the knowledge base in order to develop ecosystem-based management towards achievement of biodiversity goals. The aim is twofold:

* Determine how EU policies and laws contribute to achieve and/or hinder EU and international biodiversity targets
* Determine the coherence and/or incoherence of current environmental protection policies affecting the management of aquatic ecosystems.

The second (Deliverable 3.1) is a first exploration of the conceptual framework required as part of the AQUACROSS strategy. The particular objectives of this document are:

* Reviewing available concepts and approaches that are relevant to the project objectives, as above;
* Examining key concepts and knowledge gaps aimed at improving EBM approaches along the continuum of freshwater-coastal-marine systems;
* Developing a glossary of terms to (i) foster common understanding and agreement and further applications across multiple disciplines, areas of expertise, and the relevant realms and (ii) to ensure that these concepts are consistently used;
* Specifying key research questions for the achievement of the practical objectives of the project and paving the way for a smooth uptake of outcomes by end-users;
* Using these concepts to build the basic structure of the AQUACROSS Assessment Framework, a collectively built knowledge base that will be the conceptual and operational backbone of the project.