

NICK PANNECOUCQUE



He graduated at the KU Leuven university as master in Bio-science engineering in Food technology. After a brief experience in the private sector, he started teaching at the Provincial Technical Institute (PTI) in Kortrijk, Belgium. PTI is a secondary horticultural school offering both general education and VET education.

The Provincial Technical Institute is aiming for innovation within the agrifood sector and the school is involved in several projects to boost innovation. He is part-time project coordinator and part-time a teacher in Biology, Chemistry, Food technology and leading laboratory works.

In recent years, he has coordinated both Erasmus+ projects and other EU-funded projects in the agrifood sector such as:

- an Interreg funded project called Smart-Aquaponics where we aimed at developing a smart app to (I) monitor or (II) simulate an aquaponics setup. The project allowed me to deepen my knowledge on aquaponics and how I can instruct this food producing technology to my pupils. The school cooperated with research institutes which allows us to keep up with new evolvements in private industries.
- concluded Erasmus+ projects such as ETISA and IMPACT where we respectively deepened our knowledge on aquaculture by job shadowing activities abroad and collaborated with other agricultural schools to identify key actions to protect ourselves against influences of climate change on schools.
- A project called CheRAS where we aimed at identifying and overcoming bottlenecks in the cultivation of Australian crayfish (*Cherax quadricarinatus*). Other projects have used this research to determine whether it could be economically viable to breed this species in recirculating aquaculture systems.

Cooperating closely with the local businesses is also a priority for their school to keep updated with the new technologies. Together with Petersime, world leader in producing broiler hatcheries they are conducting experiments to optimize feed conversion in broiler chicks while maintaining animal welfare.

To keep preserving the bee population, they maintain several colonies at school and they are part of Arista Bee Research which aims to develop Varroa-resistant bee populations through genetic selection.

The results of those cooperations are used in his teaching practices.

The school has applied for an Erasmus+ accreditation which will allow them to offer internships abroad for their pupils, and to offer training opportunities to their teachers.