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Deliverable 2.1 WP 2

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Deliverable number 2.1:	Overview of existing rules and best practices in knowledge transfer

D 2.1 - Overview of existing rules and best practices in knowledge transfer

Introduction

The two first months of EUROSHELL, draft questionnaires and templates were made available. They were prepared under the responsibility of the EDC and its members under the coordination of DLO, leader of WP 2. The 3 axes for a shellfish business leader were taken into account to characterize the needs: the company and its environment, its product and its market.

The participants of the roundtable sessions (see annex) were asked for examples of projects or activities in European member states that aim at efficient transfer of knowledge between producers, scientists and other experts or stakeholders.

The request was to focus on activities as examples of 'best practices' and how this could be defined, as a basis of the development of guidelines for knowledge transfer. The following list of activities per country was brought up by the participants.

Knowledge transfer activities and projects in Europe

Italy

- Recently developed: courses for producers on legislation (per region)
- Rimini: Most interaction between science and sector about veterinary issues. Transfer among the producers, not with scientists.
- In need of knowledge to improve the market.
- FLAGS have just started.
- A new society (SIRAM: www.siram-molluschi.it) was setup that organizes meetings where scientists and representatives of producers and some producers meet. The meetings are paid by sponsors. Outputs of conference are public proceedings; there are no magazines for the Italian shellfish industry.
- Sometimes exchange of knowledge on a national scale (through trips).
- In Italy, there is no national shellfish organization but there are various regional organizations and the main one, AMA, represents Italy within the EMPA.
- Magazine: no

France

- Differences between regions. In some areas the industry has its own technical centers such as SMIDAP in the region of Nantes and CREA in Marennes-Oleron, that specifically aim at transferring knowledge.
- A certain percentage that the producers pay for their quota to their organizations is used to fund innovation projects. In this way, the producers have direct influence on what is on the research agenda.
- A specific aspect of knowledge transfer concerns education. In France there are various secondary schools - Lycée de la mer (25 throughout France) – that provide training for aquaculture and fisheries. Producers have the obligation to follow courses/get diplomas at these schools to receive permits.
- Like the UK, France also has projects that involve PhDs and the transfer of knowledge. These projects are co-funded by the industry (through FLAGS and CNC).
- There are various types of annual regional meetings organized by Ifremer, CRC and CNC about specific topics.
- There are various magazines specific for shellfish culture ("Cultures marines", xx).

The Netherlands

- The Netherlands developed a structured policy to drive innovation in the fisheries and aquaculture through projects and networks such as the Fisheries Innovation Platform, the Fisheries Knowledge Groups, Blueports and FLAGS.
- For the different sectors in the industry there are specific knowledge groups such as for oyster culture, and these groups discuss about main knowledge gaps and priorities for solutions.
- The shellfish industry organizes annual seminars (<http://www.wageningenur.nl/en/Expertise-Services/Research-Institutes/imares/Projects/PRODUS-Sustainable-shellfish-culture.htm>) and biannual symposia (www.schelpdierconferenties.nl).
- The industry participates in research and funds various PhD projects and a chair on sustainable shellfish culture at Wageningen University.
- There is a weekly magazine for fishery and aquaculture (Visserijnieuws).

Ireland

- BIM has training courses ;
- There is exchange with farmers from France ;
- Funds for farmers to attend workshops and conferences abroad ;
- Magazine: check

Spain

- Ad hoc regional meetings (usually more scientists than producers), also area meetings.
- Forums/technical committees to establish research priorities: regional and national.
- MSC courses on aquaculture;
- secondary education aquaculture training courses (not compulsory);
- One of the organizations is now hiring a scientist (on veterinary issues);
- Students have study trips, not the producers.
- There is a shellfish magazine (xxx).

UK

- Transfer of knowledge through the associations.
- Incidental funding for consultancy by scientists.
- SAMS (Oban) developing courses.
- Project where PhD/Master's students are asked to answer specific problems that producers have. They learn to apply their knowledge, and teach the producers how to approach a problem scientifically.
- Knowledge transfer partnership association: 30% paid by industry and 70% paid by the government.
- There are various magazines for shellfish ("Shellfish News", "The Grower").

Table 1 Summary of knowledge transfer practices as validated during the first stakeholders meeting

knowledge transfer	IT	SP	FR	NL	UK	IE
<i>structures</i>						
Organisation	regional, national	regional	regional, national	national	regional	national
FLAGS	yes		yes	yes		
Knowledge Groups				yes		
<i>activities</i>						
meetings	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes
excursions	national		national			inter national
<i>education</i>						
workshops	yes			yes		
courses	yes	yes	yes			
schools			lycee			
<i>communication</i>						
magazines	?	?	yes	yes	yes	?
<i>research</i>						
industry institutions			CREAA, SMIDAP			
research funding		yes	yes	yes	yes	