



Program: FP7 Cooperation

## Deliverable D2.4

Validated during the second stakeholders' meeting on January 15 and 16, 2014

Project acronym:	EUROSHELL
Project title:	Bridging the gap between science and producers to support the European marine mollusc production sector
Project coordinator: (CNC)	Comité National de la Conchyliculture
Grant agreement number:	312025 – FP7 KBBE 2012.1.2-11
Funding scheme:	Coordination Support Action
Deliverable number 2.4 :	Methodology for the delivery of research outputs

## Methodology for the delivery of research outputs

For the delivery of research outputs it is proposed to setup and work out **extension networks**. The network should facilitate the process of knowledge exchange in both directions, from science to practice as well as from practice to science.

It requires **networking at different scales**, from very local, where direct contact is easier, to the European level to benefit from the experiments of each one.

### Structuring the network

The following structures are useful networks at the European level: EMPA, EATiP, FARNET. Structures which oversee at the national level need to be determined for each country.

For hosting extension workers, **FLAGS play a role in some cases**. However, **a new mission must be attributed to them** because for the moment, these groups do not have the competence for transferring knowledge. Their mission is to finance and carry out projects gathering various actors of the concerned territory for its sustainable development. If there are not enough FLAGS on the territory to ensure the missions of transferring knowledge as close as possible to the producers in an adequate way, then another structure could be designated to host the extension worker.

**The extension worker ensures a link between scientists and producers** via FLAGS and local structures (regional committees, producers' organizations...), and discussion groups.

**Technical centres** also play an important role in the network. They are the **physical point of meeting** between producers, scientists, trainers, who allows them to **experiment together**.

If possible, **local discussion/extension groups**, gathering about ten producers, are created in each production area.

### Operation of the network

By using the tools set up within Euroshell on the **knowledge database**, as well as the **cartography** to know where the resources are, the extension workers should be able to bring the producers' needs to the scientists and transfer information to them which they can obtain by using the tools or by contacting directly a research organization. They organize **regular information meetings on specific subjects** according to the producers' requests.

**The extension workers are related to each other** so that they can propose common meetings with producers from various areas, organize visits, etc. **They meet regularly at a general assembly** to exchange on the best practices.

### Local discussion groups

Modelled on extension groups of farmers in France or discussion groups of dairy producers in Ireland, discussion or extension groups can be set up in the shellfish sector. They can be initiated then overseen by the local representative structures. They should have **regular**

meetings to discuss the encountered problems and to try to bring solutions together. Scientists or other experts are regularly invited to bring their knowledge on specific subjects. The results are reported in the knowledge database. A group member can also intervene in other groups to bring some advice.

## Missions of each structure of the network

European level:

- EATIP: **Manager of the network and Euroshell tools** (database, map...); organization of **annual assemblies of extension workers** (in link with FLAGs' assemblies), provide a forum for **best practices exchanges** (link with FARNET).

- EAS: coordinate the **sourcing of knowledge and the summaries** that would continue to populate the EUROSHELL knowledge database.

National level: organization of **assemblies of extension workers** at the national level (in link with other national meetings). **Transmit information** to all the regions, through the newsletter.

**Mirror Platforms** will be set up in each country to follow the Vision and the Strategic Research and Innovation Agenda (SRIA) developed by EATIP and ensure that research priorities developed by EATIP members and contributors are enshrined through the input of Member States into the Horizon 2020 work programme and into national research programmes.

Regional level: close link with the FLAGs. Transmit information through the area.

FLAG: **hosts the extension worker**, official employer.

Extension worker: coordinates the discussion groups; ensures the **link between scientists and producers**.

Discussion/extension group: exists where a request from producers has been made. In link with the extension worker, it elaborates its own objectives, calendar, organization.

