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Recommendations for knowledge transfer

Table 1 gives an overview of the current knowledge exchange methods in several countries.

Method	Involved organisations	Information flow *)
Producer Meetings	Producers, Research	R → P
Research Meetings	Research, Producers	R → P
Technical (research) centers	Research / producers /	R ↔ P
Courses	Producers / Research / Government	R → P
Trainings	Producers / Research	R → P
PHD's	Producers / Research	R → P
Chair at University	Producers / Research	R → P
Fisheries Innovation Platform	Government / Producers / Research	R ↔ P
National exchange of experiences	Producers organisations	R ↔ P, P ↔ P
International exchange of experiences	Producers organisations	R ↔ P, P ↔ P
Establishment research priorities	Producers / Research	R ↔ P
Fisheries Study Groups	Producers / Research	R ↔ P, P ↔ P
Fisheries Magazines	Producers	R → P

*) R = Research, P = Producers

In general we have the following observations/conclusions:

1. There is **no national and international 'structure'** for organising the knowledge exchange. Each country or region uses its own way and it seems more to be incidental and based on incidents than that it is more structural and based on arrangements between research and producers.
2. There is a **lack of confidence** between producers and research workers (scientists) and sometimes between producers themselves. This might be caused by the reason that the research organisations sometimes have different clients: producers and professionals, government and may be Non-Governmental Organisations. Even so producers might see each other as a colleague and sometimes as a concurrent.
3. May be there is a lot of knowledge on the shelf, but there is insufficient knowledge by producers.
4. Knowledge transfer is in general insufficient.
5. There are **no specialised advisory centers or extension workers** in the shellfish area.
6. The ways of knowledge transfer seem to be traditional and many modern communication techniques are not used yet.

7. Cooperation between producers, research institutes, education and government is not structural. The Shellfish Knowledge System had not been developed as in agriculture in the past (AKS).
8. In agriculture there are a lot of methods of knowledge exchange that can be used as example for the fisheries sector.

Recommendations on national level

1. **Develop a common vision** of the (desirable) future of the shellfish sector, based on economic and ecological sustainability. **Define the strategy and the steps** to be taken to reach these future goals.
2. **Determine the knowledge needs and the knowledge gaps.** Define the knowledge agenda. This can be used for planning research and organising the knowledge transfer in a structural matter.
3. Create space for or organise the function of an **extension worker as facilitator and innovation broker** as intermediary between producers, research and government. The facilitator does not need to be the expert but he should have the skills to energize, linking people to each other and should be aware of the knowledge landscape (where to find the knowledge needed).
4. Useful ways for knowledge transfer:

Networks

- a. Networks of producers and scientists (and facilitator)
- b. These networks can formulate their knowledge questions, fitting to the strategic research agenda.
- c. Networks are discussing the research results together with the scientists
- d. Networks may be functioning as LINSFish (Learning Innovation Networks for Sustainable Fisheries)
- e. International exchange of experience and knowledge by networks

Scientists:

- f. Practical factsheets and infographics instead of scientific publications
- g. Dialogue with producers instead of laboratory experiments
- h. Practical experiments together with producers

In general:

- i. More international exchange
- j. More cooperation and exchange with other EMFF instruments as Axis 4 (FLAGs)

- k. Demonstration on experimental farms en commercial farms
- l. Farms visits
- m. Workshops
- n. Education and training centers
- o. Use of social media (twitter, facebook)
- p. Website for producers with practical information

The new European Maritime Fisheries Fund gives a lot of opportunities for financing cooperation between producers and scientists, and innovation networks.