



Program: FP7 Cooperation

## D5.9 network embryo

Project acronym:	EUROSHELL
Project title:	Bridging the gap between science and producers to support the European marine mollusc production sector
Project coordinator:	Comité National de la Conchyliculture (CNC)
Grant agreement number:	312025 – FP7 KBBE 2012.1.2-11
Funding scheme:	Coordination Support Action
Deliverable number 5.9:	Network embryo

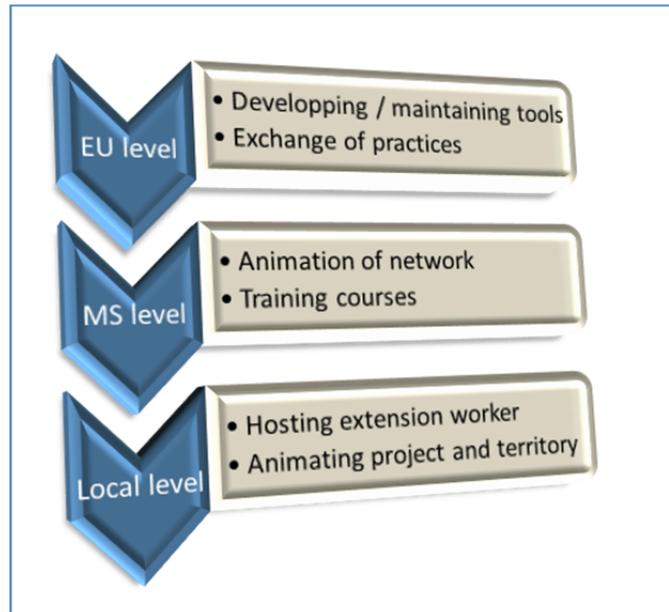
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## An extension network embryo (proposed scheme)

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.

Principal responsibilities at each level of the extension network:



At the European level the EATIP is very well placed to maintain the tools that EUROSHELL has developed and to provide a forum for exchange of best practices.

The European Aquaculture Society (EAS) could also have a role of coordinating the sourcing of knowledge and the summaries that would continue to populate the EUROSHELL knowledge database. This could also be expanded to contain the complete set of summaries made for the EATIP in the Aqualnova initiative.

Another idea to keep the database up-to-date could be to include in it the public deliverables summaries of shellfish related projects that are conducted within Horizon 2020. This could be suggested to DG RTD and DG MARE.

At the Member State (MS) and local levels, in terms of the future direction of the EATIP, the clear focus is on the Mirror Platforms in each country that will follow the Vision and 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 MS into the Horizon 2020 work program and (possibly even more importantly) into national research programs.

A scheme of how the different organisations and associations potentially fit in and around the Advisory Council on Aquaculture (ACA) is presented below. This comprises the core of the AAC and

its two major initial tasks of mapping the sector and refining the research database and roadmap. It also shows how organisations at the three operating levels (EU, MS and local) could fit together and how this may be achieved for those organisations involved in research (below left), in the EATIP (below centre) and representing producers (below right), with the arrows showing the communication flows between the various components.

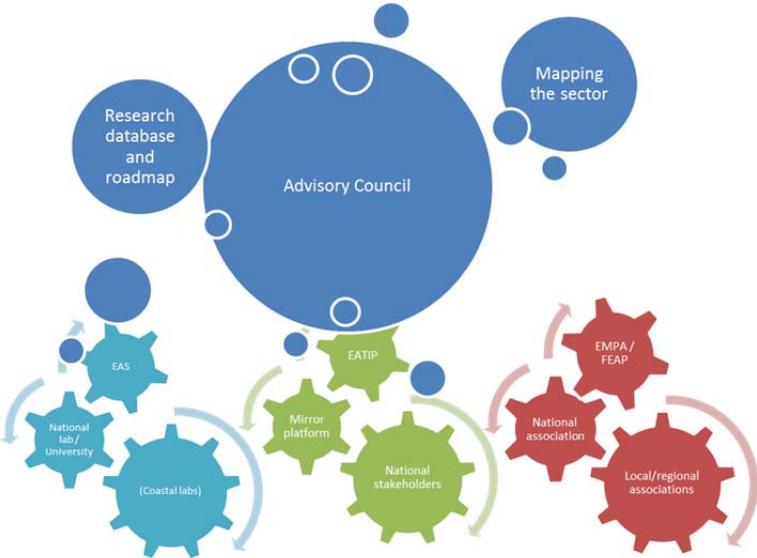
It is anticipated that the AAC will only be made up of national or European structures (and not individual companies) and that 60% of AAC members will be directly involved in the aquaculture value chain and 40% stakeholders that have an activity or interest in its place in society.

One network that is missing from the scheme below is the FLAGs, as they will not be directly involved in the AAC, even though they may have a critical importance in delivering shellfish extension, as highlighted by the outcomes of the consultations.

FLAGs could play a role in hosting extension workers. 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.

It also clearly appeared that the implementation and hosting of extension workers at the local level will be organised at the initiative of the professionals according to their organisation mode: association, syndicate, producers’ organisation, FLAG... Synergies must occur at both national and European levels.

Finally, there was clear consensus that the shellfish sector needs a strong network at all operating levels to be able to feed back into research planning and especially to prepare sufficiently for the discussions and decisions that will be adopted by the AAC and proposed to the European Commission.



## Missions of each structure of the network

### European level:

- AAC (Aquaculture Advisory Council): main orientation and steering operations of the network.
- 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 program and into national research programs.

### Regional level:

Close link with the FLAGS. Transmit information through the area.

Professional organization / 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, organisation.

To allow such network to function, it is essential that producers' organizations are reinforced, with the support of local administrations. They must have technical staff which helps them to define the problems and to require that research and concrete actions are conducted to solve these structural problems. In addition, research centers must approach professionals, and their projects must be adapted to the sector's requests.

The main need is to find a stable source of funding, which allows the network to last. The whole structure must be supported also by the production itself.

The European Maritime and Fisheries Fund could help to finance the extension network and activities, providing that it is stated in the programming document.

## The network in March 2013

At this step the embryo is constituted as described in the table below:

<i>Europe</i>		<i>State of play on March 31, 2014</i>				
Coordination and steering	<b>Advisory Council for Aquaculture - ACA</b> Ongoing constitution					
Strategic Agenda and tools	<b>European Aquaculture Technological and Innovation Platform – EATiP</b> Agreed					
<i>Member State</i>	<i>Italy</i>	<i>Spain</i>	<i>France</i>	<i>United Kingdom</i>	<i>Ireland</i>	<i>The Netherlands</i>
Mirror platform	Not yet	PTEPA Agreed	AQUIMER Ongoing	SAIC Ongoing	Not yet	Not yet
Local group(s)	AMA Agreed	Not yet	CRCPC CRCME Agreed	Not yet	ISA Agreed	DLO/POM Agreed

## Recommendations for growing the network

In order to complete the network, the project has developed a pedagogical document that explains its goals, results and recommendations. This document of six pages (folded into 3 strands printed recto verso) is simple, didactic and synthetic. It is translated into the five languages of the project, to ensure a full comprehension by local actors in each Member State concerned by EUROSHELL: France, United-Kingdom, Italy, Spain and The Netherlands. The table below includes links to this document (just click on the version you want to display):

<a href="#">English version</a>	<a href="#">French version</a>	<a href="#">Italian version</a>	<a href="#">Spanish version</a>	<a href="#">Dutch version</a>
 English version	 French version	 Italian version	 Spanish version	 Dutch version

The project partners and stakeholders met in Rotterdam in January agreed on two important recommendations for the development of the network and its operation in the near future:

- Integrate extension into “the aquaculture national strategic plan” that each Member State must prepare in the annex of the European Maritime and Fisheries Fund (EMFF) operational program
- integrate specifically the implementation of national mirror platforms and local extension groups in the framework of article 46 of EMFF, which deals with innovation

Sustainability of the network through the national operational programs of EMFF, EATiP and ACA thus allow EUROSHELL to multiply its results and to have "a second life" after March 31, 2014, date of the project's end.

## Appendix (declaration of interest by some professional partners)

Roma, 31 marzo 2014

Prot. n. 14/2014

### Statement of interest for participating in an extension network embryo for the shellfish sector

The European program Euroshell highlighted the need for exchanges between different shellfish stakeholders, in particular for the provision of scientific knowledge for the development of the sector.

Knowledge coming from the industry, technical and research centers need to be shared among all stakeholders to:

- Empower professionals to develop their businesses
- Provide technical centers with knowledge generated through research in order to transfer it to the industry.
- Provide scientific organizations with empirical knowledge that is necessary to contextualize their research.

Information and communication technologies can facilitate this sharing of knowledge between stakeholders.

This requires first to identify all stakeholders (professionals, technical centers, research, professional training organizations, consulting firms, developers...) and where they are located (headquarters , production areas, perimeters of intervention...).

An interactive Web site associated with a spatial data server must contribute to achieving this goal. It will be effective only if supporting a well-organized dialogue between stakeholders.

Euroshell showed also the growing difficulty of knowledge data appropriation by the shellfish companies.

Solving this problem requires a specific organization and work to be implemented, following Euroshell.

The A.M.A., Associazione Mediterranea Acquacoltori, already in close relations with UNIVE, Dipartimento di Scienze Ambientali, Informatica e Statistica dell'Università Ca' Foscari di Venezia, training organizations and the Fisheries Local Action Group, **Marinerie della Romagna** (IT05) and **Distretto Mare Adriatico** (IT04) wishes to implement the recommendations of Euroshell program.

This local initiative should articulate clearly with all national and European projects involved. Indeed, shellfish companies and research programs in recent years have taken a European, even international dimension.

## Déclaration d'intérêt pour la mise en œuvre d'un dispositif de vulgarisation des connaissances scientifiques vers le secteur conchylicole de Poitou Charentes.

Le programme européen EUROSHELL a mis en évidence **le besoin d'échanges** entre les différents acteurs de la conchyliculture en particulier dans la mise à disposition des connaissances scientifiques pour le développement du secteur.

Les connaissances issues de l'expérience professionnelle, des centres techniques et de la recherche **nécessitent d'être partagées** entre tous les acteurs pour :

- Donner les moyens aux professionnels de développer leurs entreprises
- Fournir aux centres techniques les connaissances produites par la recherche pour leur traduction vers la profession.
- Fournir aux organismes de production scientifique la connaissance empirique nécessaire à la contextualisation de leur recherche.

Les technologies de l'information et de la communication sont de nature à faciliter ce partage des connaissances entre les acteurs.

Cela nécessite donc en premier lieu d'identifier l'ensemble des parties prenantes (professionnels, centres techniques, recherche, organisme de formation professionnelle, bureaux d'étude, développeurs...) et leurs lieux d'implantation (siège social, zones de production, périmètres d'intervention...).

Un site WEB interactif, associé à un serveur de données géographiques, doit contribuer à la réalisation de cet objectif. Il ne sera efficace qu'en appui à une concertation organisée entre les acteurs.

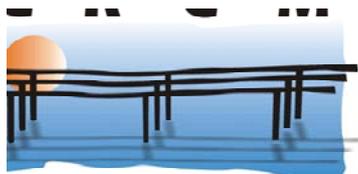
EUROSHELL a montré par ailleurs la **difficulté croissante d'appropriation** des données issues de la recherche jusqu'au niveau de l'entreprise.

La résolution de cette difficulté nécessite une organisation et un travail spécifiques à mettre en place à la suite d'EUROSHELL.

Le **niveau régional** semble être l'échelle pertinente pour expérimenter un tel dispositif.

Le Comité Régional de la Conchyliculture Poitou Charentes qui entretient déjà des relations étroites avec l'IFREMER, le CREEA (centre technique), les organismes de formation et le Groupe d'Action Local Pays Marennes Oléron **souhaite mettre en application les préconisations** du programme EUROSHELL.

Cette initiative locale devra s'articuler à l'évidence avec tous les projets nationaux et européens engagés. En effet, les entreprises conchylicoles et les programmes de recherche ont pris depuis quelques années une dimension européenne sinon internationale.



## COMITE REGIONAL CONCHYLICOLE DE MEDITERRANEE

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Comité National de la Conchyliculture  
Monsieur Gérald VIAUD  
122, rue de Javel  
75015 PARIS

Mèze, le 26 mars 2014

Objet : Euroshell.

Monsieur le Président,

Le programme européen EUROSHELL a montré à quel point la diffusion des connaissances scientifiques et les échanges scientifiques/professionnels étaient insuffisants aujourd'hui. Cette situation est particulièrement néfaste parce que, face aux problèmes induits par le phénomène de mortalité des jeunes huîtres et face aux évolutions de l'environnement, les besoins en matière de transferts de connaissances deviennent de plus en plus importants et de plus en plus exigeants.

Le programme EUROSHELL a également montré qu'il était possible d'améliorer la situation, dans l'intérêt de notre filière économique.

En effet, les connaissances utiles pour le développement à venir de la profession proviennent de plusieurs sources :

- les organismes scientifiques maritimes (IFREMER) et généralistes (CNRS, universités ...) installés en France et dans d'autres pays ;
- les centres techniques régionaux qui travaillent au plus près des besoins locaux ;
- les professionnels eux-mêmes qui ont accumulé une expérience et des connaissances précieuses.

Pour aboutir au partage des connaissances que nous souhaitons et à leur enrichissement futur, le programme a montré des pistes de travail intéressantes telles que :

- un site internet dédié (déjà créé mais à optimiser) ;
- une organisation du travail nouvelle entre les apporteurs de données ;
- des outils de diffusion bien adaptés aux besoins et aux disponibilités des professionnels ;
- des moyens humains pour assurer la veille scientifique, la vulgarisation des données et leur diffusion.

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