



6th Framework Programme

**Integrating and strengthening the European Research Area
Scientific Support to Policies**

Minutes of
the Third Annual Meeting of the Consortium
Deliverable 28

21st January 2009

Held at the Martin's Central Park Hotel
Brussels, Belgium

Project Acronym: 'PROFET POLICY'

**Project Title: 'A European Platform for the Communication of European RTD
results to Stakeholders in Fisheries and Aquaculture'**

Contract Number: '022771'

PROFET POLICY – SSP of FP6

Summary workshop of the project & Third Annual Meeting of the Consortium Martin's Central Park Hotel, Brussels 21st January 2009

Agenda

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| 10.00 | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Welcome and approval of Agenda• What were the objectives of PROFET POLICY?• What was done to achieve these objectives?• Individual Workshop Themes, Topics and Organisation• PROFET POLICY products |
| 14.00 | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Results of the Initiative (+ & -)• Conclusions - Common similarities• Future RTD/Policy Needs identified• Budget expenditure estimates• How to take the conclusions further? |

The meeting was attended by:

- European Commission: Mr Paul Degnbol (DG MARE), Ms Isabelle Terrier (DG RTD), Mr Jacques Fuchs (DG RTD), Mr Stamatis Varsamos (DG RTD).
- AquaTT: Ms Marieke Reuver, Mr David Murphy
- EAS: Mr Alistair Lane
- EAPO: Ms Norah Parke (Killibegs)
- EUROFISH: Mr Gilles van de Walle
- ICES: Mr Adi Kellermann
- FEAP: Ms Catherine Pons, Mr Courtney Hough

Observers: Ms Antje Wiener (University of Hamburg), Ms Antje Vetterlein (Cph Business School)

Excused: Mr Emiel Brouckaert (EAPO), Mr Suarez-Llanos (ARVI), Ms Francisca Martinez.

No attendance list was signed.

3 documents were distributed:

- 1) Conclusions per workshop (aquaculture)
- 2) Draft feedback/recommendations
- 3)Draft recommendations from Profet policy to EATIP Thematic Areas

PROFET POLICY – SSP of FP6

**Third Annual Meeting of the Consortium
Martin's Central Park Hotel, Brussels
21st January 2009**

Contract N°0022771

Minutes

1. Welcome and approval of Agenda

Mr. Hough welcomed the participants to this third Annual and final Meeting of the Consortium of PROFET POLICY, which was also a summary meeting of the whole project to review the achievements and make conclusions and recommendations.

Apologies for absence were received from Mr. Emiel Brouckaert (EAPO), Mr Suarez-Llanos (ARVI) and Francisca Martinez.

After a short round table presentation of those present, Mr. Hough said that some points of the agenda could be handled simultaneously. The Assembly approved the agenda.

2. What were the objectives of PROFET POLICY?

The four main objectives were:

- a) improved flow of EU RTD results – relevance to policy development and application
- b) source & summarise results in fisheries and aquaculture – relevance to European policies
- c) provide forums for exchange of views of stakeholders
- d) identify research needs to support policy definition within the sectors

3. What was done to achieve these objectives?

Courtney Hough, through a PowerPoint presentation described and explained how nine workshops had been organised around Europe to demonstrate and debate how European RTD can respond to policy needs, in Aquaculture and in Fisheries.

The locations of the workshops were selected on a Regional basis - balancing interests from the North, South, East and West; the dates were chosen trying to avoid holidays, busy production periods, other conferences, and to assure high levels of professional attendance.

The European Commission has been invited to all workshops and an average of 2 Commission representatives attended every workshop; in each case, this presence was extremely appreciated by the audience.

Translation was provided at 7 out of the 9 workshops; this appears as a definite requirement to attract sectoral professionals.

The workshops were held as follows – including sectoral identification:

- Bergen (March 2007) – aquaculture (marine) - North
- Vilnius (April 2007) – fisheries - Baltic
- Dublin (September 2007) – fisheries - Atlantic
- Athens (November 2007) – aquaculture (marine) - Medit.
- Warsaw (December 2007) – aquaculture (freshwater) – Continental/Inland
- Marseille (June 2008) – fisheries - Medit.
- Copenhagen (June 2008) – fisheries - North Sea
- Treviso (October 2008) – aquaculture – Freshwater (southern)
- Vigo (November 2008) – fisheries/aquaculture (marine environment protection)

An average of 70 participants attended the workshops, representing an average of 10 countries per workshop (although, usually a majority from the hosting country).

The workshops were structured in the same way having sections focussing on:

- Regional development – Role of research
- Policy & Regulatory Framework
- RTD needs related to Policy
- RTD needs and sustainable development
- Support for development, with the promotion of FP7
- Future [research] needs

Each workshop was opened by Government representatives or local organisers and ended with a debate between stakeholders, stimulated by policy and interesting projects applicable to the sector. These often went into parallel discussions on how the business would develop (more in aquaculture than in fisheries)

NGOs attended 4 of the 9 workshops, while the molluscs' sector – with Vigo exception – was generally absent. Very little information and communication on project results from mollusc producers were received.

4. Individual Workshop Themes, Topics and Organisation

- ***Coldwater Marine Aquaculture***

Courtney Hough, General Secretary of the FEAP, reported the 1st PROFET POLICY workshop on "Coldwater Marine Aquaculture", held in Bergen (Norway), on the 15 & 16 March 2007. With this first workshop the project started very well with an excellent co-organisation from the FEAP Member Association in Norway (FHL Havbruk).

The workshop was attended by 55 participants from 7 different countries.

The main issues concerned salmon aquaculture but the recurring (hot) topic of feeds (material sources, sustainability) was also discussed leading to major debate. Coastal management was discussed as well as data management systems which are very important and the most advanced in Norway (certainly in Europe).

Choices available for controlling fish diseases were presented by senior scientists, and for the first time, the European Aquaculture Technology Platform (EATP) was presented to the public.

- **Baltic Sea Fisheries**

Gilles van de Walle, Head of Project Unit in Eurofish, reported on the **2nd** PROFET POLICY workshop on "Baltic Sea Fisheries", held in Vilnius (Lithuania), on the 19 & 20 April 2007.

The workshop was organised by Eurofish, since this International Organisation has close contacts with Baltic and eastern European countries. This workshop was held for all stakeholders of the fisheries sector in the Baltic countries. It served as a unique platform for the exchange of views and opinions on future research needs and other critical issues affecting Baltic fisheries.

The target audience of the Workshop was mainly scientific, but over the course of the 2 days more than 70 participants from 13 countries representing fishermen's associations, research institutes, research projects, governments and NGO's attended the workshop and participated in the ensuing debate. The Baltic RAC was also involved in the event.

Early promotion of the workshop was made in the Eurofish magazine and in the local press, and about 1000 promotional leaflets were distributed.

The workshop was held in English with simultaneous Russian translation.

- **Technical Conservation Measures Workshop**

Norah Parke, representing Killybegs Fisheries Organisation (KFO), Member of the European Association of Producers' Organisation (EAPO), reported the **3rd** PROFET POLICY workshop on Technical Conservation Measures, held in Dublin (Ireland), on the 13 & 14 September 2007.

The workshop was organised by EAPO with the help of KFO. This 3rd workshop was planned to be a combined "Aquaculture & Fisheries" workshop, but ended being more Fisheries oriented; the main exception made was the introduction made by Richie Flynn, Executive Secretary of the Irish Salmon Growers' Association.

The Dublin workshop received excellent support from BIM (the Irish State agency with responsibility for developing the Irish Sea Fishing and Aquaculture industries), and good press and publications in the national and local newspapers. To achieve better participation, KFO initiated an early bird rate to encourage participants to register before a certain date.

The North Western Sea RAC was deeply involved in the event. About 85 participants attended the workshops, from 8 countries.

Mrs Parke concluded in saying that the workshop was – as in Vilnius – a unique platform for the exchange of information between the different stakeholders, and more surprisingly between Researchers themselves. It is obvious that there is a lack of communication and such a forum is a great opportunity to discuss.

The workshop was held in English with simultaneous French and Spanish translation.

- ***What Future for Mediterranean Marine Aquaculture?***

The 4th PROFET POLICY workshop on Mediterranean Marine Aquaculture was held in Athens (Greece) on the 22 & 23 November 2007 in the Electra Palace Hotel. The event was extremely well co-organised by the Federation of Greek Maricultures (FGM), a FEAP Member Association.

Aquaculture is for Greece the biggest national exporting activity, creating lots of employments, and therefore the event received a big support from the Greek government. 159 participants attended the workshop, which is by far the highest attendance of the whole project. It should be noted that this workshop was held within the context of the beginning of a crisis, which influenced some of the debate.

Politically oriented from the start with the EC presentation on the Maritime Policy and on the Review of the Commission's Strategy for the Sustainable Development of European Aquaculture, the workshop also invited IUCN to present its new publication on the interactions of Aquaculture with the environment.

The future of the hatcheries, Fish Health, Welfare indicators, Fish feeds, Consumers' demand, were of particular interest for many participants and were openly discussed during the Questions & Answers sessions.

But, as for the other workshop, the workshop concluded that 'communication' needs improvement at several different levels: on Policy with Policy makers, on Research needs with Research Community, ...

The workshop was held in English with simultaneous Greek translation.

- ***Governance in Continental Freshwater Aquaculture***

Courtney Hough also reported on the 5th PROFET POLICY workshop on Continental Freshwater Aquaculture, held in Warsaw (Poland), on the 13 & 14 December 2007.

The Polish Trout Breeders Association (PTBA), as FEAP Member, was the local organizer of this event attended by 45 participants from 11 different countries. The workshop was held in English with simultaneous Polish translation.

Most of the inland countries are worried by the new Water Framework Directive and its impact on extensive pond farming – the main aquaculture activity in these States; therefore this issue together, with Natura 2000 and the Habitats Directive, was the lead point in the debates.

The Continental Freshwater Aquaculture was also concerned by topic of efficient technology transfer, diversification opportunities, but also by communication; the carp farmers, for example, encounter many difficulties in communicating efficiently and effectively with the consumer.

- **Mediterranean Fisheries**

Me. Catherine Pons, FEAP Assistant, reported the 6th PROFET POLICY workshop on "Mediterranean Fisheries", held in Marseille (France), on the 12 & 13 June 2008. EAPO desisted from organisation of this since it has no Mediterranean membership, consequently – after review – FEAP agreed to organise this meeting.

Me. Francisca Martinez, who has done much work with Mediterranean fisheries within the context of developing the concept of the Mediterranean RAC, helped the FEAP to organise the event. Unfortunately, poor attendance was recorded due to, amongst other issues, the unforeseen fuel crisis which had to be dealt urgently by the fishermen and their representatives. Moreover, unlike other Fisheries, the Mediterranean had no RAC in place at that time and, thus, fewer networks to promote the event. 30 participants from 7 countries attended the workshop.

Nevertheless, the workshop showed how complex the Mediterranean Fisheries is, particularly for EU States accessing a common resource with Third countries. The Profet Policy event appeared as a very good opportunity to exchange views and opinions on future research needs.

However, it is obvious that the Research Community and the Industry do not know each other and communication between the 2 sectors is a huge challenge within the Mediterranean Basin.

The workshop was held in French with simultaneous English translation.

- **North Sea Fisheries**

Mr Adi Kellermann, Manager of the International Council for the Exploration of the Sea (ICES) reported on the 7th PROFET POLICY workshop on "North Sea Fisheries", held in Copenhagen (Denmark), on the 23 & 24 June 2008. ICES organised the event, which was attended by 55 participants from 14 countries (including the US), and saw this workshop as being very effective.

The workshop focused on high level science in fisheries, on additional issues such as data collection and interactions with the environment where WWF was invited to make a presentation.

Aquaculture and Fisheries are two different and separate communities. The economical performance is driven by different factors, where mariculture (as an example) is more flexible in its capacity to react to market demands and other mechanisms. Capture fisheries are more vulnerable to climatic impacts while issues such as domestication, disease and welfare are more important for mariculture. Research demands in both communities may thus differ significantly.

But it was recognised there is a need for more interaction between socio-economics and the ecosystem and related life sciences.

The workshop was seen by all participants as a big step forward in communication between industry (in this case fisheries) and science and more interaction, and especially the representatives of the fisheries, expressed their open view about maintaining the dialogue with science.

- **Quality Assurance in Freshwater Aquaculture**

Courtney Hough reported on the 8th PROFET POLICY workshop on Quality Assurance in Freshwater Aquaculture, held in Treviso (Italy), on the 16 & 17 October 2008.

70 people from 11 countries attended this workshop held in English with simultaneous Italian translation. The Associazione Piscicoltori Italiani (API) co-organised the event.

The 8th workshop of the project was oriented towards quality issues and led to strong discussion on the standards imposed by the retail/distribution sector (mainly supermarket chains) on producers.

Mainly focusing on trout farming and the difficulties of shifting the activity to the next generation, other issues such as fish feeds, diversification, genetics & genomics were also debated.

The role of associations in the governance sector (i.e relations with National/Regional Ministries and Agencies) was reported as being very important but is seen as being, currently, too weak. Here again communication has to be improved, between Associations and their Member State structures.

- **Integrating Fisheries and Aquaculture with Marine Environment Protection**

Mrs Parke reported the last and 9th PROFET POLICY workshop called "Integrating Fisheries and Aquaculture with Marine Environment Protection", held in Vigo (Spain), on the 20 & 21 November 2008. This last workshop was co-organised by KFO and ARVI (Cooperativa de Armadores de Pesca del Puerto de Vigo) and was dealing with Aquaculture & Fisheries.

The Vigo workshop got very good input from the local politicians and good coverage in the local press. ARVI was congratulated on its organisation and the facilities provided, their infrastructure being ideal for such events.

63 participants attended the workshop, from 10 different countries. 3 Commission representatives were present, a position that was much appreciated and which encouraged the discussion.

An innovation was a special session devoted to demonstration of the ECASA 'toolbox' – ECASA = Ecosystem Approach to Sustainable Aquaculture – by 2 of the project participants. This demonstration was appreciated and the Profet Policy scenario adapts well to such a circumstance.

The last session of the workshop was dedicated to Technology platforms: Regional TP (e.g. Galicia), the role of TPs for the future of European Aquaculture and the European Aquaculture Technology & Innovation Platform (EATIP).

5. PROFET POLICY products

The **Compilations** of Technical Leaflets were a key 'product' of PROFET Policy.



Nine policy & thematic leaflet compilations - adapted to individual workshop themes - were provided to all participants.

They included the **Technical Leaflets** that were prepared by EAS (responsible for the majority of summary TLs) and EAPO (who took up tasks for additional fisheries TLs). They summarised clearly, in a unique lay-out and with simple words the research projects related to the different workshops:

- For Aquaculture : 122 Technical Leaflets
- For Fisheries : 95 Technical Leaflets

24 Policy documents - prepared on a thematic basis - were also included in the compilations as well as a **Glossary** of EU terms.

In order to reach as much people as possible, the TLs and all 'components' are (and will stay) available online, on the website of the project (www.profetpolicy.info) in the **Library**, divided into Aquaculture & Fisheries and classified per policies or per theme.

More than 70 **Presentations** on individual projects were made by coordinators of the projects or national representatives throughout the nine workshops; all are available online.

Press releases have been published before and after the workshops on the web, in Eurofish magazine, in Fish Farming International (6000 posters), in AquaTT newsletters, in the Irish, Danish, Italian & Spanish press according to the individual workshop location. The RACs were used to disseminate information to the Fisheries participants.

The **website** - www.profetpolicy.info - was maintained throughout the project and will be kept updated. The Library content is also available on the www.eatip.eu website for wider distribution and relevance to the interests of the European Aquaculture Technology and Innovation Platform, specifically the development of a Strategic Research Agenda.

6. Results of the Initiative (+ & -)

Very good feedback has been received from all the participants, the Commission representatives and the speakers. Post-event enthusiasm was clearly demonstrated.

See also Deliverable 27 (Conclusions per workshop)

7. Conclusions - Common similarities:

Clear differences exist between the Aquaculture and the Fisheries industrial sectors in Europe in terms of its expectations and relationships with the RTD community.

- The Fisheries industry is well organized, but communication between Researchers and Fishermen is difficult
 - Fisheries appears to be suspicious and mistrustful of the scientific community – particularly since many of the measures/projects engaged relate to control on the sector
- The Aquaculture industry is a younger sector and depended on successful RTD for resolution of many technical issues and problems
 - As a technical 'process', the aquaculture sector (be it freshwater or marine) has closer relationships with and higher expectations of the Scientific Community.
- From an economic point of view
 - Fishermen see research as a potential limitation to their activities
 - Fish Farmers see that successful RTD is an opportunity to develop their business
- On a time frame position on RTD
 - Fishermen have urgent issues to discuss
 - Fish farmers are dealing with medium to long term issues.
- From the economic performance point of view
 - Fisheries activities are driven by different factors – fuel prices, fisheries stocks (TACs and Quotas) – as well as market prices
 - Fish farming has more flexibility in reacting to market demands and has other mechanisms
 - Quality and product differentiation are extremely important to this however
- Immediate concerns noted that
 - Captured fisheries are more vulnerable to climate impacts.
 - Technical, domestication (biology) and disease issues are more important for fish farming.

Thus, it can be confirmed that research demands are real and evident in both communities but that they differ significantly, involving different scientists and disciplines.

However, at the end of the day, fishermen and fish farmers are placing similar products on the same market. In addition, processing activities are similar. The key difference is that fishermen have defined periods for fishing and are limited by TACs and Quotas, while fish farmers have to grow their own livestock and are actively involved with their fish all year round.

The big issues for both sectors are the market interest in the products, the best planning of sales (including best prices), and the public image of both sectors as food suppliers and resource users.

The main remaining question is: **How to improve the communication?**

The Commission representatives highlighted that, in general, there is little public knowledge of what Research is actually doing in respect of either sector – fisheries and aquaculture; the PROFET POLICY project has given the Research sector an excellent opportunity to explain what it is doing. but many stakeholders don't feel involved in the Research.

Most people are also not aware on policy issues.
People have less and less time and money to go to conferences.
There is a need to translate Research results;
There is a need to assess Research results;
End users have to be involved in a project from the beginning;

There is a need to communicate/disseminate Research with efficient tools:
TV? Media? Local press? Google? New communication tools?

8. Future RTD/Policy Needs identified

See Deliverable 27.

9. Budget expenditure estimates

Courtney Hough said that the budget, as we can see so far, will be respected.

10. How to take the conclusions further?

For Aquaculture, the recommendations issued from the PROFET POLICY project can be linked to the EATIP Thematic Areas, and hopefully the communication will be improved in this context.

See Deliverable 27 (Recommendations from Profet Policy to EATIP Thematic Areas).

For Fisheries, a future Fisheries Technical Platform or new innovative communication tools may be developed in the future in order to improve communication.

All partners agreed that a final press release should be published in the "Fisheries & Aquaculture" magazine of the European Commission to disseminate the conclusions of the whole project.