



## Successful AQUAMED 2nd Open Multi-Stakeholder Meeting for Mediterranean Aquaculture in Istanbul, Turkey

More than 50 stakeholders from industry, government, NGO and research sectors from 13 Mediterranean countries (Algeria, Croatia, Cyprus, Egypt, France, Greece, Israel, Italy, Lebanon, Morocco, Spain, Tunisia, Turkey), along with 20 members and observers from the AQUAMED project, met in Istanbul on 20-21 May 2013 for the 2nd Open Multi-Stakeholder Meeting for Mediterranean Aquaculture.



The meeting was designed as a facilitated and interactive event. The stakeholders were asked contribute to designing the Plan of Action for Mediterranean aquaculture, based on the constraints for the sector identified within the project, and to identify possible resources to sustain the operation of the platform after the end of the project. The platform was proposed as a subsidiary body of the General Fisheries Commission for the Mediterranean (GFCM-FAO) during its 37th session. It

was also suggested that the platform could be used as an advisory body for other organisations involved in Mediterranean aquaculture.

Based on three years of research, the AQUAMED project has identified the main research centres, stakeholders and research projects relevant to the improvement of Mediterranean aquaculture. It has also studied the predicted aquaculture trends by the year 2030 and the main constraints that are affecting the sector, in order to build a Multi-Stakeholder Platform (MSHP) that will help to overcome the constraints identified. The MSHP will contribute to the development of a common transnational Mediterranean Strategic Research and Innovation Agenda (SRIA), which represents the shared objectives and synergies between the different countries participating.

The first half-day of the workshop was dedicated to presenting the project, the terms of reference of the MSHP and the main results of the 1st MSHP meeting, as well as the main constraints identified based on the consultation process with more than 100 stakeholders. The related goals and sub-goals that are necessary to overcome the constraints were also highlighted.



The second day was focused on building the Plan of Action for Mediterranean Aquaculture based on the main eight constraints identified and their associated goals and sub-goals. The participants were divided into groups and invited to come up with specific activities that will help to achieve each sub-goal identified, providing an estimation of the cost and timeline of the activity together with the expected impact and possible sources of

funding. By the end of the morning more than 50 activities were agreed upon by the stakeholders. A prioritisation exercise where the stakeholders had to choose three priority activities was then carried out. The results of this exercise will be available in the meeting report.



The day finished with the identification by the stakeholders of ways to guarantee the sustainability of the platform. They worked together to generate ideas and make proposals for the sustainability of the MSHP and for how the platform could help to increase the political commitment for aquaculture at Regional/National level and promote professional associations in the aquaculture chain.

At the end of these one-and-a-half full days of activities, all participants were tired but happy; satisfied at having had the opportunity to contribute to the results of such a complex and demanding exercise.

The Meeting report is currently being written up and will be available on the [project website](#) in June 2013.

For more information please check [www.aquamedproject.net](http://www.aquamedproject.net)

**[Ends – Notes for Editors follows]**

#### **Notes for Editors**

Issued by AquaTT, the AQUAMED dissemination partner. For further information, please contact Emma Bello Gomez, Scientific Project Officer ([emma@aquatt.ie](mailto:emma@aquatt.ie)) Tel: +353 1 6449008).

IFREMER is the project coordinator of this project on behalf of EFARO. The AQUAMED project has received funding from the European Union Seventh Framework Programme (FP7/2007-2013) under grant agreement n° 244999.

IFREMER is a public institute that has developed extensive scientific expertise in: monitoring; use and promotion of coastal seas; monitoring and optimising aquaculture products; promoting scientific advice on fisheries resources for sustainable fishing; exploring the seafloor and ocean biodiversity; forecasting ocean circulation; and marine ecosystems evolution. IFREMER also manages vessels and underwater vehicles for the French scientific community. For over 30 years, it has been involved in research in aquaculture and in the study of marine biology and aquatic ecosystems.

EFARO - The European Fisheries and Aquaculture Research Organisation is a non-profit organisation, created in 1989 in order to achieve greater cohesion and coordination of fisheries and aquaculture research. EFARO's main focus is the delivery of new applied knowledge in the field of scientific support for policies in the European Community and associated States.

Detailed partner profiles are available on request.