



## **Multi-Stakeholder Platform for Ensuring the Future of Research on Aquaculture in the Mediterranean Region is One Step Closer**

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The **AQUAMED** project, which supports the sustainable development of aquaculture in the Mediterranean region, has made significant progress towards its goal of establishing a Multi-Stakeholder Platform (MSHP) in the Mediterranean.

On the 21-22 February 2013, an **AQUAMED** Partnership Meeting took place in Larnaca, Cyprus. All partners from the 13 Mediterranean countries involved in the project participated in the meeting (Algeria, Croatia, Cyprus, Egypt, France, Greece, Israel, Italy, Lebanon, Morocco, Spain, Tunisia, and Turkey).

The aim of the meeting was to analyse the results from the **AQUAMED** 1st Open Multi-Stakeholder Meeting which took place in Rome in November 2012. The Larnaca meeting also focused on the presentation of the main results of the stakeholder survey carried out in the Mediterranean countries involved in the project. The purpose of the survey was to identify the main constraints for developing sustainable aquaculture in the region and to identify the key steps to organise the next Multi-Stakeholder Platform Meeting which will be held on the 20-21 May in Istanbul, Turkey.

“We are very positive about the survey results. More than 100 stakeholders from the 11 partner countries provided their input and the first analysis of the results has provided information for how we should move forward in terms of research needs and recommendations for aquaculture research in the Mediterranean region,” said Giovanna Marino from the Istituto Superiore per la Protezione e la Ricerca Ambientale (ISPRA), one of the partners in the **AQUAMED** project.

**AQUAMED**'s coordinator, Jean-Paul Blancheton, speaking at the Larnaca meeting, said that the results from the meeting in Rome are crucial for developing the platform: “The feedback provided by the stakeholders during the 1st Open Multi-Stakeholder Meeting will be taken into account to develop the contents for the next Multi-stakeholder Platform Meeting. The aim is to build a platform that will serve as a tool to help all the Mediterranean stakeholders involved in aquaculture to improve the sector by enhancing collaboration and synergies in the main research topics for the area.”

The **AQUAMED** 1st Open Multi-Stakeholder Meeting focused on the identification of the research priorities in the Mediterranean aquaculture sector and to explore the potential benefits of setting up a Multi-Stakeholder Platform (MSHP). Around 60 stakeholders from the industry, government and research sectors from 13 Mediterranean countries participated in the meeting. The results of the meeting will soon be available on the project website: [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).

**AQUAMED** is an EU Seventh Framework Programme (FP7) supporting the sustainable development of aquaculture in the Mediterranean region. Stakeholders from 13 Mediterranean countries were invited to join the project's researcher partners in order to develop a common Action Plan to support the establishment of a MSHP. The purpose of the MSHP will be to avoid duplication and fragmentation of research efforts, and to stimulate long-term cooperation and coordination between policy makers, the aquaculture industry and RTD performers in the Mediterranean.

**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.