



Aquamed Draft report WP9

**Terms of references for the final Mediterranean multi-stakeholder
platform: Del. 12**

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** Please note that this document is a revised version based on the progress concerning the development of the MSHP and the outcomes of the two stakeholder workshops carried out during its preparation*

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1- The multi-stakeholder platform (MSHP) mission

The MSHP will contribute to the development and implementation of a common transnational Mediterranean Strategic Research and Innovation Agenda (SRIA), which represents the shared objectives and synergies between the different countries participating. By bringing together stakeholders (SHs) to develop and implement research priorities, it is intended to ensure that future research funding is strategic, coordinated and orientated towards the key challenges of the production sector whilst respecting the principles of sustainability. It is hoped that an operational platform with a common vision and prioritisation will be better able to utilise and pool the limited resources available towards strategic priorities. It is also expected that the MSHP will help to bridge the gap between research, policy/governance and commercial development. Bridging the “gap” between these areas will improve the sharing and transfer of knowledge between interested parties, thereby ensuring that innovative applications are generated from research knowledge.

Note: At the European level there is already a MSHP platform for European Aquaculture, the EATiP. The EATiP over a period of four years has been carrying out a needs analysis and has developed a 2030 Vision for European Aquaculture and a Strategic Research and Innovation Agenda (SRIA) to respond to the industry needs. The EATiP Vision and SRIA already captures goals/sub-goals needed for Mediterranean Aquaculture, divided to 8 Thematic Areas (TA), but they are quite broad and not prioritized and mainly are not including the Southern Mediterranean country goals. After close examination of the EATiP progress, it was realized that a new Mediterranean MSHP can build upon the progress made so far as an initial step. Furthermore, the new MSHP after a wide consultation process with Mediterranean aquaculture SHs, has developed a Plan of Actions (POA) based on main constraints and prioritized goals identified at regional level and for different aquaculture sub-sectors. It is anticipated that in turn all aquaculture sectors will be mobilized to share these prioritized activities to ensure future collaborative actions towards the goals at regional level. The Mediterranean MSHP would therefore be an implementation vehicle for the Mediterranean Sector.

2- The MSHP objectives

Core Priorities

1. Define a shared long-term vision of Mediterranean aquaculture.
2. Establish an effective Mediterranean platform containing key SHs representing all farmed species and regions.
3. Identify innovative approaches to solving the key challenges of the Mediterranean Aquaculture.
4. Assist in the sharing of knowledge arising from research in order to ensure impact from Research knowledge.
5. Monitor the developments in the production and research sectors in order to assess whether the sector is meeting targets towards the vision.

In the development of the operational structure and activities of the platform, there was careful consideration of the structures and activities of other initiatives including the GFCM, , CAQ,

SIPAM, EATiP, aquaculture mirror platforms in Member States (Spanish, Italian, Greek) and other similar structures existing in other Mediterranean countries. The activities of the platform were recently embraced by GFCM and thus the model of the platform is to be adapted and changed accordingly. In addition, the AQUAMED MSHP could operate as the Mediterranean sub-platform of the EATiP framework, bringing the North African and East Mediterranean angle, in a future agreed collaboration with the GFCM.

3- Actions foressen

- Preparation of a draft VISION for all countries that share the Mediterranean basin
- Identification and prioritization of key goals and sub-goals (completed)
- Establishment of expert working groups to develop a POA related to each prioritized sub-goal (completed)
- Promoting collaboration on prioritized actions between countries and sector around the Mediterranean
- Edition of a plan of follow-up MSHP meetings (edited & presented in a different document)

4- Coordination and management of the MSHP

The MSHP is set out to identify and support Research and Innovation actions towards achieving the collective vision of its members, whilst recognizing the diversity of the Mediterranean sector. To achieve this, the MSHP requires a transparent impartial organizational structure and secretariat to facilitate interactions and recognize all SH perspectives. This structure has to facilitate the achievement of the mission and goals of the MSHP.

The operating bodies of the new MSHP could be the following:

4.1- Assembly (stakeholder forum)

The largest forum of the MSHP will be the Assembly of stakeholders that will be composed by members of the different sectors (Industry, Research, Governmental. NGOs) of all countries. It will be responsible for nominating a Board of coordinators and approval of the operational (including administrative) main actions of the platform.

4.2 - Board of coordinators

The Board will be composed of representatives of each country. The board members will take the role of being the national contact point (NCP). The Board of coordinators will propose the Chairpersons/facilitators of the Thematic Areas and Working Groups of the MSHP, presenting these nominations for approval by the Assembly.

4.3- Thematic Areas (TA) and Working Group (WG) leaders

Chair from industry and a Facilitator from research will have the leading responsibilities and manage each TA. Their role will be mainly to create position papers and to promote proposals integrated into the MSHP vision, the SRIA and the plan of actions on their TA. Moreover, they will initiate and manage projects that reflect the interests and activities of the TA and explore enhanced impact through interactions with other TAs and possibly with EATiP or other national mirror platforms. The same overarching TAs with EATiP have been adopted:

TA 1. Product quality, Consumer Safety & Health

TA 2. Technology & Systems

TA 3. Managing the Biological Lifecycle

TA 4. Sustainable Feed Production

TA 5. Integration with the Environment

TA 6. Knowledge Management

TA 7. Aquatic Animal Health & Welfare

TA 8. Socio-economics, Management & Governance

The goals and sub-goals derived from the TAs have been prioritized by the Assembly during the first 2 MSHP stakeholders during the last meeting of the platform and plan of actions to reach them have been established. The results of these activities are included in different documents and could be updated in future meetings of the platform. The same structure of WG leaders could be proposed, as a balance of experts from all relevant geographical areas (Europe and N. Africa), gender and background has to be considered. The working groups on 8 top selected sub-goals were:

WG 1 - Simplify administrative procedure for licensing

WG 2 - Spatial Planning for aquaculture development

WG 3 - Policy for Market and Consumers

WG 4 - Sustainable Feed

WG 5 – Environment and Food safety

WG 6 - Knowledge Management and Transfer

WG 7 - Disease Management in Aquaculture

WG 8 - Environmental Management and Governance

4.4 – Operational Council

The Operational Council will take the ultimate managerial responsibility of the platform. The Council is proposed to be composed of 6-8 persons (balanced distribution between Industry and Research, North Africa, East Med and European countries), keeping a balance between the interest differences of the SHs of the aquaculture sector in Mediterranean. It is suggested that the GFCM will be in charge of this process since it officially embraced the platform.

4.5- Secretariat, management and financing

The Secretariat role will be to provide administrative and organizational support, including meeting organization and communication activities. This role is to be played by GFCM.

5- Membership of the MSHP

Since participating SHs originate from countries which are already subscribed to GFCM, no membership will be required.