



Mediterranean Aquaculture Sustainable Development Project Delivers High-Potential Results

Press release: February 2014

AQUAMED was an EU Seventh Framework Programme (FP7)-funded project designed to support the sustainable development of aquaculture in the Mediterranean region. Following the completion of the project in May 2013, the Directorate-General for Maritime Affairs and Fisheries (DG MARE) invited Dr Jean-Paul Blancheton, **AQUAMED** project coordinator, to present the final results of the project at a meeting held in Brussels, Belgium, on 4 February 2014.

Based on three years of research, the **AQUAMED** project has identified the main research centres, stakeholders and research projects involved in the improvement of Mediterranean aquaculture. Stakeholders from 13 Mediterranean countries were invited to join the **AQUAMED** project's research partners in order to develop a common Action Plan to support the establishment of a Multi-Stakeholder Platform (MSHP). The purpose of the MSHP is 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.

Dr Blancheton commented: "The **AQUAMED** project's success was based on the engagement of the Mediterranean aquaculture stakeholders. The stakeholder events helped the partnership to show the importance of industry, researchers and policy makers working together to define the Strategic Research and Innovation Agenda for Mediterranean Aquaculture."

The project also studied the predicted aquaculture trends the region could face by the year 2030 as well as the main constraints that are currently affecting the sector, in order to build a 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 participating countries.

Dr Blancheton's presentation of the **AQUAMED** project in Brussels was followed by a question and answer session. The event's attendees were particularly interested in the research priorities and communication challenges identified within the project, the possible continuation of the platform's activities under the aegis of the General Fisheries Commission for the Mediterranean (GFCM), possible links with the European Aquaculture Technology and Innovation Platform (EATiP), and the **AQUAMED** plan of action.

At the end of the meeting the participants congratulated the coordinator and the **AQUAMED** partnership and observers on the excellent quality of the work carried out within the project.

For more information please check <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 Tel: +353 1 6449008).

IFREMER is the 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 more than 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.