

AqualInnova

FACTSHEET



At a Glance

Title:	AqualInnova, Supporting governance and multi-stakeholder participation in aquaculture research and innovation
Programme:	FP7, Cooperation, Food, Agriculture and Fisheries, and Biotechnology (KBBE)
Instrument:	Coordination and Support Action (Supporting)
EC contribution:	€988,954
Duration:	February 2010 – July 2012
Coordinator:	European Aquaculture Technology and Innovation Platform (EATIP)
Third parties:	Federation of European Aquaculture Producers, European Aquaculture Society, SINTEF, EUROFISH, AquaTT
Web:	www.eatip.eu

The Challenge

Aquaculture in the European Union encompasses the production of a wide range of fish and mollusc species and is a true pan-European production activity, which has grown rapidly from a cottage industry in the 1960s into an industrial sector that is composed of multi-national companies, SMEs and family firms. While aquaculture appears to be integrated within the Common Fisheries Policy, there is no real Europe-wide policy for aquaculture development, and its growth occurred within a relative vacuum for strategic development.

In 2002, the European Commission developed a 'Strategy for the Sustainable Development of European Aquaculture' which was the first attempt to provide a European plan for development and this was reviewed to provide more impetus in 2009. Nonetheless, it is only recently that European States have developed clear national strategies or policies for aquaculture development. This effort has been largely supported by the European research community, with its many institutes and universities dedicating specialised departments to carry out R&D activities for the benefit of the sector.

Commission funding has stimulated European and international cooperation across the research community and, in recent years, through CRAFT and collaborative projects, has encouraged closer contact between the small-to-medium enterprise (SME) and research players. Today, the Seventh Framework Programme (FP7) has a clear mandate to progress this approach. Therefore, AqualInnova has been devised to examine and identify research areas and that could be supported by the industry in its own right.



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Project Objectives

AqualInnova intends to establish a solid framework for European aquaculture that will support the sector's sustainable development. It will focus on maximising the potential for innovation and technological development in the aquaculture value chain. This issue has been addressed partially by the establishment of the European Aquaculture Technology and Innovation Platform (EATIP), which was created in 2008 for the purpose of identifying and implementing actions to improve the competitiveness of professional European aquaculture and related industries.

The EATIP is a collaborative structure of dedicated companies, RTD institutions and representative organisations. Thus, its members are making an active contribution to the aquaculture value chain, while others are driving research and innovation efforts or promoting policy and development aspects. A statutory goal of the EATIP is to put in place measures and structures to improve research, technology, development and innovation (RTDI) framework conditions. AqualInnova will create an international framework to develop vision documents and strategic research agendas which focus on the sustainable development of European aquaculture.

Methodology

AqualInnova will establish an operational framework for dialogue – based on best governance practises – between the aquaculture industry, the research community and policy makers. This will be achieved by:

- Devising new ways to communicate aquaculture research actions and results such as technical summaries and interactive decision tools.
- Improving the manner in which previously generated knowledge is transferred effectively.
- Using expert groups from a spectrum of thematic areas to develop innovative methodologies for gap analysis and problem solving.
- Supporting expert groups with standardised benchmarking documents, making comparative analysis possible.
- Drafting vision documents and strategic research agendas.
- Hosting multi-stakeholder consultations within regional workshops.

Results

AqualInnova will provide a much-needed structured opportunity that supports the goals and objectives identified for European aquaculture. This base will allow for consultation across the entire aquaculture value chain and with the European Commission, national governmental agencies, civil society organisations, related KBBE technology platforms, and national research funding organisations. Once the consultation platform has been developed by AqualInnova for operation, there will be sufficient capacity for the preparation of comprehensive vision documents and strategic research agendas that will identify the innovation and RTD needs that are required for the sustainable development of European aquaculture.

Project Partners

European Aquaculture Technology and Innovation Platform (EATIP)

Belgium



Contributing EATIP member organisations

The Federation of European Aquaculture Producers (FEAP)

Belgium

European Aquaculture Society (EAS)

Belgium



AQUATT

AquaTT

Ireland

Eurofish
INTERNATIONAL ORGANISATION

Eurofish

Denmark

SINTEF

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