



AQUAMED Impact Analysis:
The Future of Research on Aquaculture
in the Mediterranean Region



AQUAMED was a European Commission-funded support action tasked with assisting the development of a cross-functional strategy for sustainable aquaculture research in the Mediterranean basin. The project's objectives were: (i) to contribute to the strengthening of links between the main research institutes and key stakeholders in the entire Mediterranean region; (ii) to promote innovation; and (iii) to address the main issues for the development of a sustainable aquaculture sector. These objectives have been achieved by bringing together aquaculture stakeholders across the Mediterranean (Southern Europe, Asia and North Africa) to join a Multi-Stakeholder Platform (MSHP), which will identify and prioritise research needs for a sustainable Mediterranean aquaculture sector.

By bringing together stakeholders to develop a Strategic Research

and Innovation Agenda, it was intended to ensure that future funding is strategic, coordinated and orientated towards the biggest challenges facing the production sector whilst respecting the principles of sustainability. The AQUAMED project has resulted in several significant achievements, as outlined in this document, and already a mandate is in place to sustain the concept of a MSHP under the auspices of the FAO GFCM committee, thereby continuing the good work developed by AQUAMED.

Facts

Title: AQUAMED - The Future of Research on Aquaculture in the Mediterranean Region

Programme: FP7, Cooperation, Food, Agriculture and Fisheries, and Biotechnology (KBBE)

Instrument: Coordination and Support Action (Coordinating action)

EC contribution: €996,854

Duration: June 2010 – May 2013

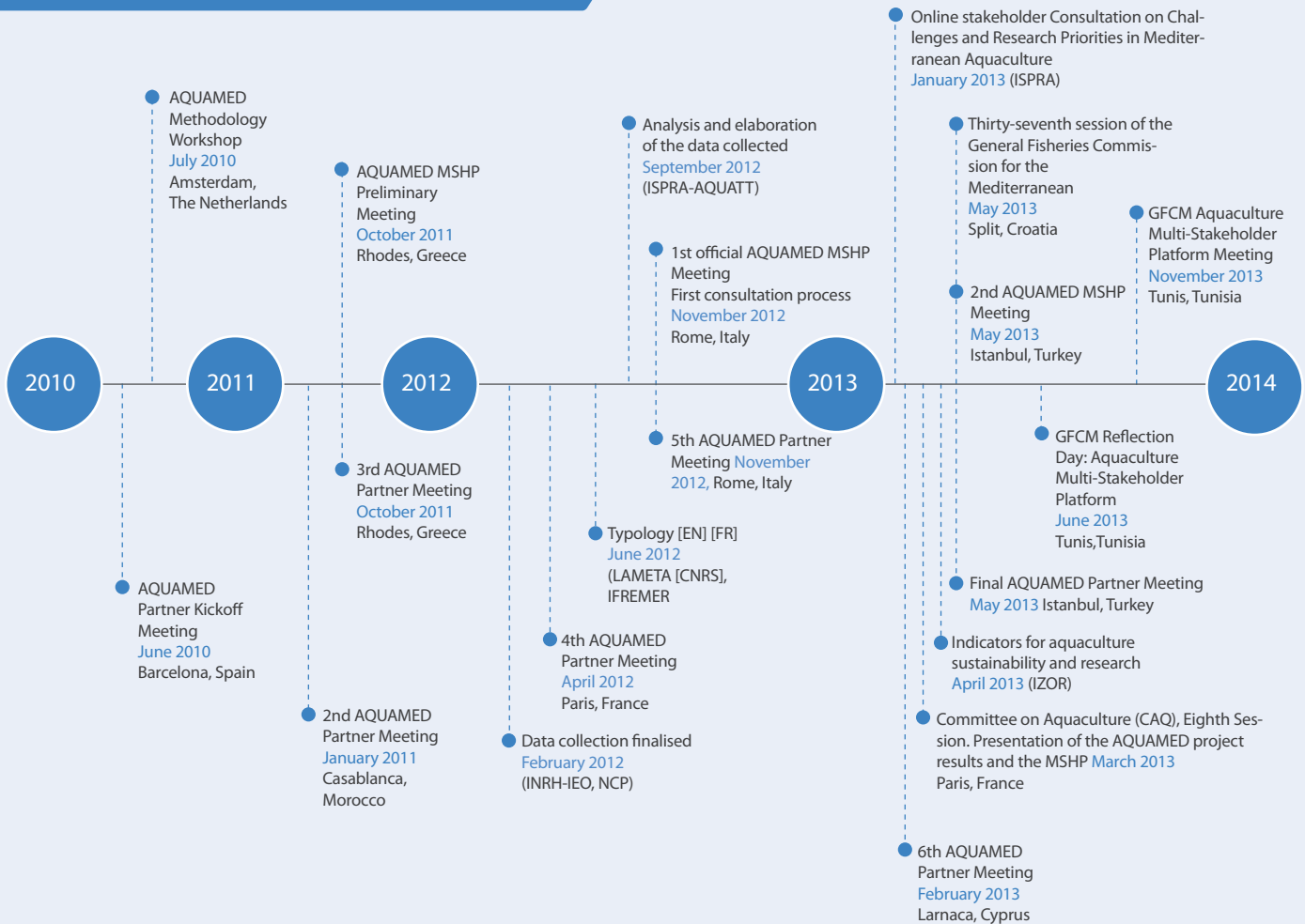
Consortium: 18 partners and associated partners from 16 countries

Coordinator: IFREMER, on behalf of EFARO

Web: www.aquamedproject.net



Timeline (main project results and milestones):



Key AQUAMED Achievements:

Data Collection & Mapping:

115

Aquaculture research institutions

+

545

Research projects have been included

Consultation:

200+

Aquaculture stakeholders from

13

Mediterranean countries were involved in the project

(AQUAMED MSHP Preliminary Meeting: 16, 1st AQUAMED MSHP Meeting: 58, On-line consultation: 115, 2nd AQUAMED MSHP Meeting: 69).

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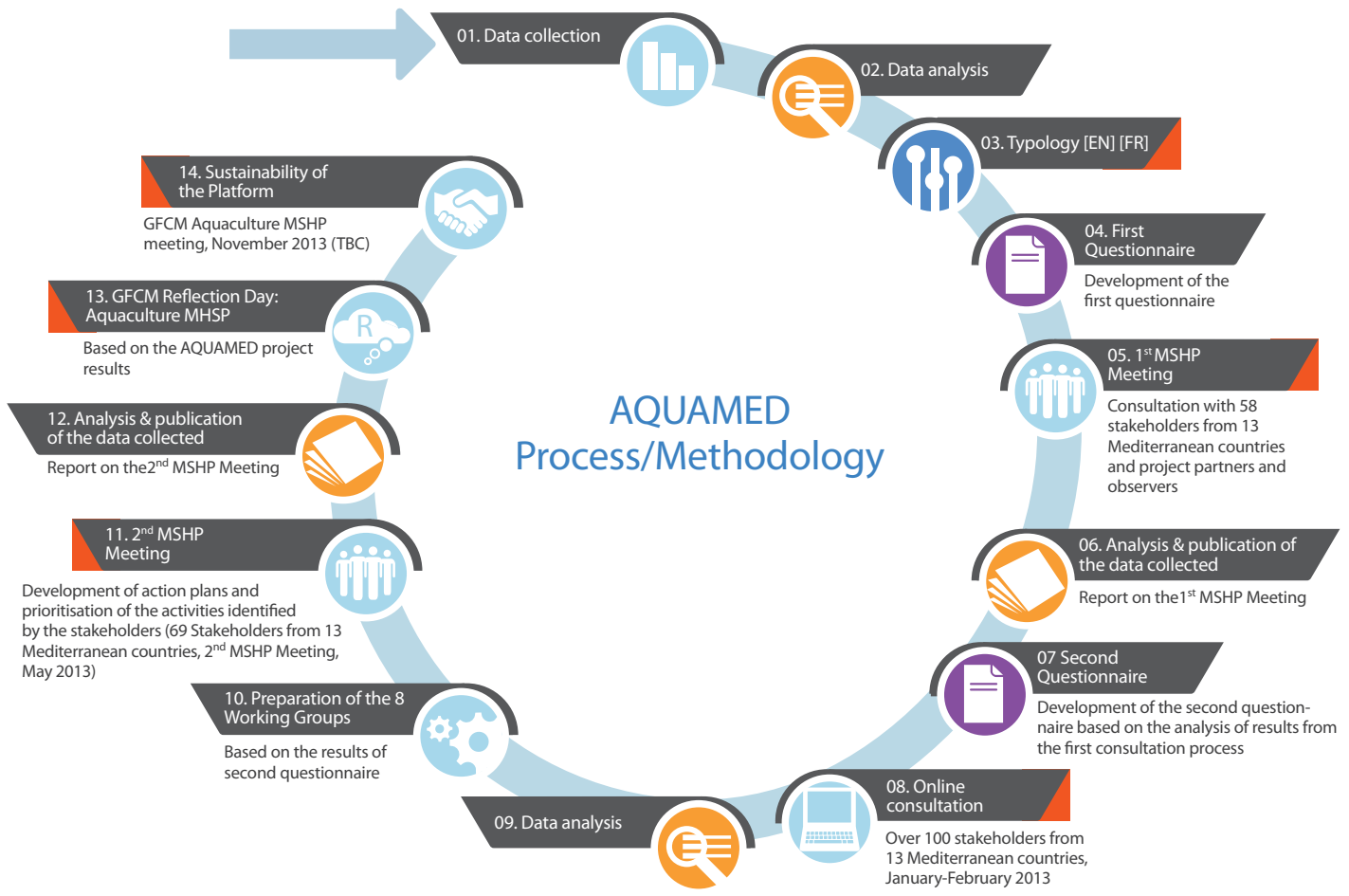
Main categories of constraints have been identified and linked with their 18 related goals and 24 sub-goals.

100

Actions were identified during the 2nd AQUAMED MSHP meeting to overcome the eight main constraints.



- 1 AQUAMED MSHP Preliminary Meeting
- 2 AQUAMED MSHP Meetings
- 8 Partner meetings have been carried out



Initial Plan of Action (Results from the 2nd AQUAMED MSHP Meeting, May 2013)

TOP 5 SUB-GOALS AND ASSOCIATED ACTIVITIES (BASED ON THE PRIORITISATION EXERCISE CARRIED OUT DURING THE 2nd MSHP MEETING)

For consistency and comparability the AQUAMED project adopted the European Aquaculture Technology and Innovation Platform (EATiP) overarching structure of Thematic Areas containing Goals and Sub-goals. The thematic areas (in AQUAMED named as constraints) were then adapted to the Mediterranean situation based on the survey carried out in January 2013. Eight Working Groups (WGs) were created based on the main constraints (8) and related goals (18) and sub-goals (24) identified in the online consultation carried out in January 2013 with more than 100 stakeholders:

- 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



During the 2nd MSHP meeting, carried out in Istanbul, Turkey in May 2013, the stakeholders were asked to come up with at least two activities for at least two sub-goals per WG constituting a draft “Plan of Action” for Mediterranean Aquaculture. The stakeholders were then asked to prioritise the more relevant sub-goals. Based on the results of the prioritisation exercise the top five sub-goals and related activities are presented here.

The activity types were defined as: Policy Action (PA), Technology Transfer (TT), Research (RTD) and Other (OT).

Plan of Action

The results presented below were developed by the 69 participants who took part in the 2nd MSHP Meeting. The results represent the views of these stakeholders only, and constitute a baseline document which could serve to facilitate future debate among an enlarged stakeholder group involving more in-depth analysis of the initial ideas proposed herein. For more information please consult the full report here: http://www.aquamedproject.net/index.php/download_file/view/222/113/

SUB-GOAL: TRANSFER OF RESEARCH OUTPUTS TO THE INDUSTRY WG 6 - Knowledge Management and Transfer

<p>Plan of Action (Ideas) for this Sub-goal:</p> <p>1. Set up an economic interest group involving industry, research, policy makers (but also economists and consumers associations) (TT)</p> <p>The group shall be tasked with:</p> <p>a. Organisation of regular meetings between producers and researchers. The meetings shall be regular and on a long-term scale in order to build trust among the actors involved.</p> <p>b. Appointment of a "translator" (knowledge transfer expert) in charge of reporting to the industry sector about the progresses and achievements in the research sector (and vice versa).</p> <p>Duration: >7 years Expected Impact: Facilitate the dialogue and bridge the gap Funding Options: Co-financed by industries, policy makers, academia, at EU level the group could be hosted under the FEAP umbrella at Mediterranean level</p>	<p>2. Foreseen "reward" systems for researchers successful in delivering applicable research, and inclusion of TT indicators in the curricula of researchers (OT)</p> <p>Duration: >7 years Funding Options: Local and national funding</p> <p>3. Optimise and speed-up the scale-up of the innovation process by industries "renting" researchers and science systems and sharing risks (TT)</p> <p>Duration: 2 years Funding Options: Public & private funding (joint venture)</p> <p>4. Carry out activities in pilot sites (or pilot projects) as a demonstration - when the action is successful it can be demonstrated and replicated (thus reducing the costs) (RTD)</p> <p>Duration: 2 years Funding Options: Public & private funding (joint venture) Governmental funding together with credits system</p>
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SUB-GOAL: TECHNOLOGIES AND SYSTEM TO REDUCE FEED COST WG 4 - Sustainable Feed

<p>Plan of Action (Ideas) for this Sub-goal:</p> <p>1. Find new alternative sources of material to replace fish meal and fish oil in aquafeed composition (RTD)</p> <p>Duration: 10 years Expected Impact: Self-sustainable aquaculture (aquaculture producing its own feed), increase feed quality and Omega3 content, compare to terrestrial source, better acceptability and labelling, creation of new aquaculture production sector Funding Options: This project should be funded at international level and, in parallel, could be privately-funded</p>	<p>2. Define common Mediterranean criteria for product quality and import regulation and duties: to agree on common quality criteria and common import tax and duties to ensure a level playing-field in the Mediterranean (PA)</p> <p>Duration: >7 years Expected Impact: Improve feed assimilation and conversion rates Funding Options: Long-term (sources of funding not identified)</p>
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SUB-GOAL: SUPPORT THE SIMPLIFICATION OF ADMINISTRATIVE PROCESS (TIME, COSTS, BURDEN) FOR LICENSING WG 1 - Simplify administrative procedure for licensing

<p>Plan of Action (Ideas) for this Sub-goal:</p> <p>1. Collection and harmonisation of laws and procedures: Multi-stakeholder committee; Competent authority/ consensus/technical assistance (PA)</p> <p>Duration and Estimated Budget: 3 years, €1 million Expected Impact: Common vision for government and users, and simplification of the procedures Funding Options: Government, previous work of CAQ-GFCM (Shock Med project). Already funded by EU</p>	<p>2. Guide to administrative process (PA)</p> <p>Duration and Estimated Budget: 3-6 months, €100,000 Expected Impact: Government and users Funding Options: Government, previous work of CAQ-GFCM (Shock Med project). Already funded by EU</p>
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SUB-GOAL: IDENTIFICATION OF CRITERIA FOR SITE SELECTION AND MONITORING IN AQUACULTURE
 WG1 - Simplify administrative procedure for licensing & WG 2 - Spatial Planning for aquaculture development

Plan of Action (Ideas) for this Sub-goal:	5. Risk Analysis (RTD)
1. Definition of site selection process (RTD) Duration: 3 years	Duration: 3 years
2. Definition of AZA (RTD) Duration: 3 years Expected Impact: Improvement of knowledge for government and users Funding Options: Government, CAQ with MS	6. Integrate the impact of aquaculture on small fisheries (OT) Duration: 3 years
3. Scientific support to develop appropriate decision-making tools for AZA implementation (RTD/PA) Duration: 3 years	7. Research on carrying capacity (RTD) Duration and Estimated Budget: 2-3 years, €1 million Expected Impact: Improvement of knowledge of government and users Funding Options: Government, CAQ with GFCM countries
4. Establishment of criteria for site selection (economic, social and environmental), GIS for site selection, Monitoring network, Criteria identification for environmental, economic, social by research institution (RTD) Duration: 3 years	8. Multi-stakeholder committee (more specific work team) (PA) Duration and Estimated Budget: 1-2 years, €1 million Expected Impact: Improvement of knowledge of administration and users Funding Options: Government











SUB-GOAL: COMMUNICATION AND MARKETING STRATEGIES TO IMPROVE CONSUMER PERCEPTION AND INCREASE THE CONSUMPTION OF AQUACULTURE PRODUCTS
 WG 3 - Policy for Market and Consumers

Plan of Action (Ideas) for this Sub-goal:	4. Market Intelligence: National operating plan (including market) (PA)
1. Market Intelligence: Understand market dynamics in frame of increasing production costs (OT) Duration and Estimated Budget: > 7 years, €3 million Funding Options: Market dynamics also need regular updates Product reports available	Duration and Estimated Budget: > 7 years, €3 million Funding Options: Market dynamics also need regular updates Product reports available
2. Market Intelligence: Communicate strategy and planning (e.g. for development of a species). Training, sharing, TT (OT) Duration and Estimated Budget: > 7 years, €3 million Funding Options: Market dynamics also need regular updates Product reports available	5. Portal: Online portal: Data collection (OT) Duration and Estimated Budget: 3 years, €1 million Expected Impact: Series of actions that reinforce a "regional pride" in farmed products as part of the Mediterranean diet
3. Market Intelligence: Harmonising legislative framework to include market issues and imports strategies (PA) Duration and Estimated Budget: > 7 years, €3 million Funding Options: Market dynamics also need regular updates Product reports available	6. Portal: Virtual auction (OT) Duration and Estimated Budget: 3 years, €1 million Expected Impact: Series of actions that reinforce a "regional pride" in farmed products as part of the Mediterranean diet

Project Partners

Institut Français de Recherche pour l'Exploitation de la Mer (IFREMER)		France
Instituto Español de Oceanografía (IEO)		Spain
Istituto Superiore per la Protezione e la Ricerca Ambientale (ISPRA)		Italy
Hellenic Center for Marine Research (HCMR)		Greece
Department of Fisheries and Marine Research (DFMR)		Cyprus
Institute for Marine Resources and Ecosystem Studies (IMARES)		The Netherlands
Instituto Português do Mar e da Atmosfera (IPMA)		Portugal



Centre National de la Recherche Scientifique (CNRS) - Laboratoire Montpellierain D'Economie Théorique et Appliquée		France
Instituta za Oceanografiju i Ribarstvo / Institute of Oceanography and Fisheries		Croatia
Institut National de Recherche Halieutique		Morocco
Agricultural Research Organisation, Volcani Center		Israel
Ministry of Agriculture of Lebanon, Institut d'Océanographie et des Pêches		Lebanon
Institut National des Sciences et Techniques de la Mer		Tunisia
Su Ürünleri Merkez Arastirma Enstitüsü/ Central Fisheries Research Institute		Turkey
National Institute for Oceanography and Fisheries		Egypt
University of Annaba		Algeria
AquaTT		Ireland

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