



European Organic Aquaculture

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**Science-based recommendations
for further development of the EU regulatory framework
and to underpin future growth in the sector**

**Coordination and support action
2014-2016**

(Project Coordination: Asa.Espmark, Nofima)

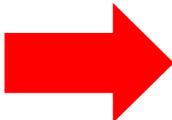




Overall objective

Recommendations for a new EU ‘organic’ regulation,

- **Based on the current scientific knowledge,**
- **In line with the basic ‘organic’ principles,**
- **Contributing to consumer confidence**

 **to promote the growth of the organic sector in Europe.**



Evolution of the regulation

Recommendations are elaborated by an expert group:
Expert Group for Technical Advice on Organic Production (**EGTOP**)

- **First report in December 2013,**
- **Second report in July 2014,**
- **Several amendments made since 2013.**

- **Last amendments recently adopted by the commission:**

19.12.2014

EN

Official Journal of the European Union

L 365/97

COMMISSION IMPLEMENTING REGULATION (EU) No 1358/2014

End of the Oraqua project: December 2016.





The partners

1. Nofima, Norway
2. COISPA, Italy
3. DTU, Denmark
4. Ifremer, France
5. USB, Czech Republik
6. SLU, Sweden
7. DLO/IMARES, Netherlands
8. ICROFS, Denmark
9. IZS^{Ve}, Italy
10. Debio Association, Norway
11. ICEA, Italy
12. FEAP, Belgium
13. API, Italy
14. Culmarex SA, Spain





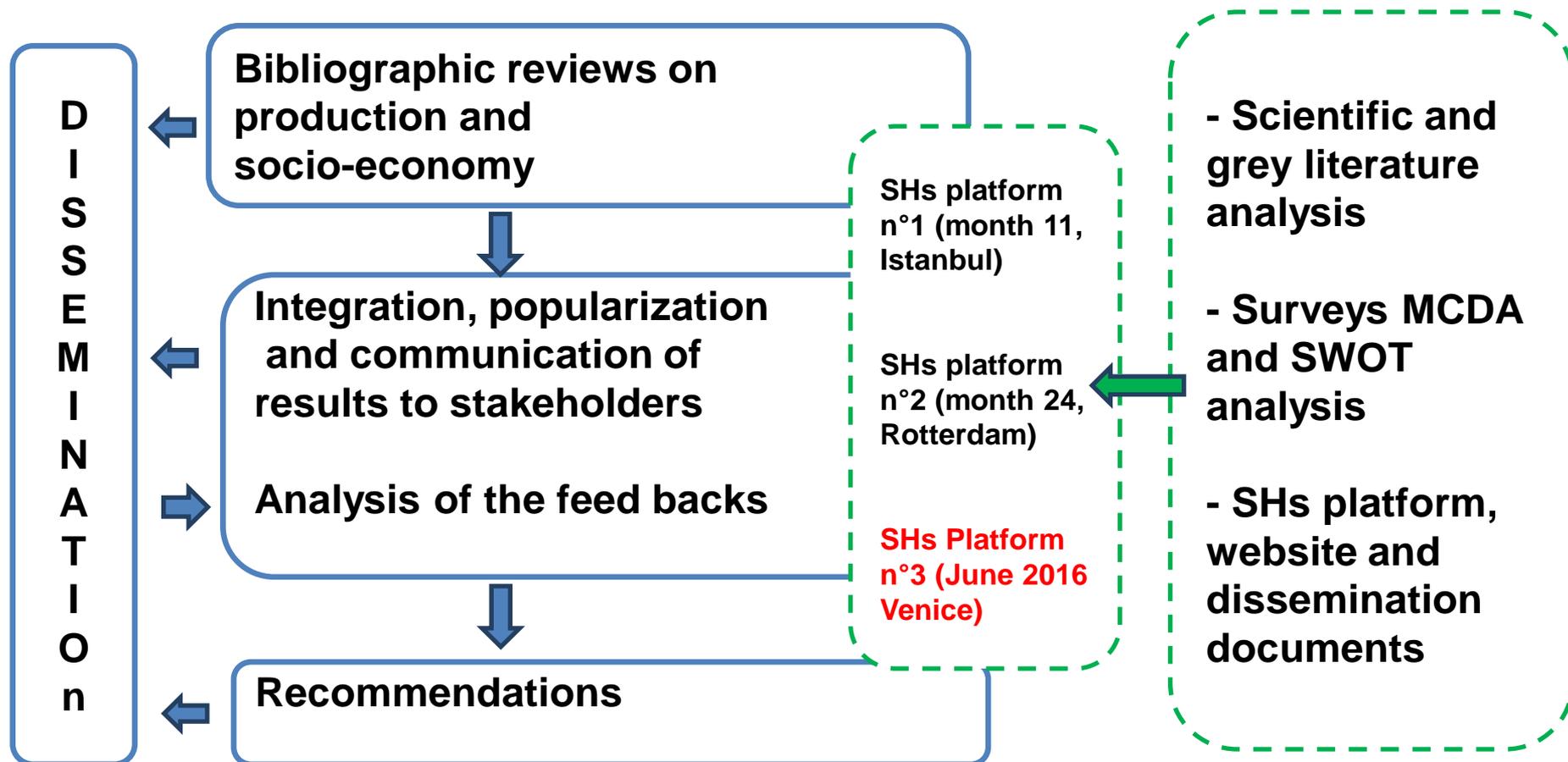
Objective and methods

The new organic regulation concerns the main aquaculture productions (**fish, mollusks, shellfish and algae**), and has to be based on:

- The most recent scientific knowledge:
 - **Synthesis of the relevant peer review and grey literature,**
- Information from the interactions between the project consortium, the main actors of the aquaculture sector and the consumers using:
 - **An open dialog with stakeholders through meetings of a multi-stakeholder platform (balanced in terms of nationalities and of types of stakeholders),**
 - **Collection of information through surveys,**
 - **The project website: www.oraqua.eu and dissemination documents.**



Project organization





Interactions with the society



- Multi-stakeholder platform meetings:

- **Platform 1** – *Back to back with the meeting of the International Federation of Organic Agriculture Movements (Ifoam), Istanbul October 2014:*
presentation of first bibliographic analysis and exchanges on the project in general (conditions for success, possible bottlenecks...)
- **Platform 2** – *October 19 et 20, 2015 in Rotterdam (back to back with Aquaculture Europe 2015):*
presentation of finalized bibliographic studies, surveys for multi-criteria decision analysis (MCDA) on key questions
- **Platform 3** – *June 22-23, 2016: Mestre, Italy*
Presentation of the recommendations for discussion and amendments, taking into account the platform participant suggestions.



Some of the recommendations to be discussed during the next platform meeting



Some “Socio-economic” aspects

Communication strategy to **increase the consumer awareness and knowledge** about organic products (answers to the consumer demand, protection of the environment and respect of animal welfare) should be developed

Possibility of **derogation** to the production rules when exceptional circumstances, but **strictly limited** in order to maintain consumer confidence

More **homogeneous controls** (qualitative and quantitative checks) on organic farms, raw materials and organic products among countries and certification bodies



Some “Production systems” aspects

Rearing of **organic / non-organic** in the **same production unit** allowed with **clear separation** criteria

Ban on **hormone** use and all **artificial / industrial systems** except aerators and exceptionally oxygen (critical periods and transport)

Non-organic juveniles allowed if no alternative provided that **2/3 of the production cycle** has to be organic (on growing)

Outdoor extensive productions and **ecological** water **treatment** (IMTA type) when needed



Some “Environmental impacts” aspects

Annual **sustainable management plan** (measures to minimize environmental negative effects) and tri-annual **LCA assessment**

Objectives of using / consuming (1) **less** and (2) **recyclable** through the use of **ecological services** (rather than advanced technologies)

Best **tradeoff** between eco-friendly and animal friendly is the key



Some “Feed requirements” aspects

Conventional phyto / zoo-plankton used as feed for organic juvenile production

Ingredients from whole fish of certified sustainable fisheries get higher priority on the list

Industrial histidine (salmonid cataract) / minerals and vitamins may be used if no alternative natural source

Research on alternative sources of omega-3 HUFAs should be prioritized



Some “health, welfare and biosecurity” aspects

Recommended values for **stocking densities**, **oxygen / carbon dioxide** and **nutrients** concentrations have to be **specified by species** for **rearing** and for **transport**

Fish **condition indexes** (including injuries) shall be monitored

List and doses of **microorganisms and plants** which can be used in feed for **homeopathic treatments** should be defined

Biosecurity measures recognized at the **EU level** are needed



What after the end of the OrAqua project?



The main outputs of the OrAqua project

- A set of recommendations for a new EU regulation
 delivered to the commission
- An up-to-date bibliographic database and a review document on scientific basis for an organic regulation
 stored in an Ifremer sharepoint...
- A multi-stakeholder platform
 ???



What future for the OrAqua platform after the end of the project?

After a 3 years collective work, the stakeholders of the platform reached a **common understanding** of the organic aquaculture problematics

The current / future regulation will have to be **continuously improved**, following the consumer expectations and the sector necessary evolution

Should we - and how could we - imagine to **keep an active platform** on organic aquaculture after the end of the project???



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Thank you for your attention!

Site OrAqua: www.oraqua.eu

