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SUCCESSFUL SECOND MEETING OF THE E-FISHNET PROJECT IN REYKJAVIK

- The Food and Biotech R&D institute, Matís, member of the e-FishNet Project Consortium, was the host of this second Meeting in Reykjavik (Iceland), during the 13th and 14th July.
- Surveys, interviews and research were the tools used to obtain important outcomes in this unprecedented Study.

The second meeting of the e- FishNet Project took place in Reykjavik on 13th and 14th July. This Project is co- funded by the Erasmus + Programme of the European Union. The organizations attending were ANCIPA representing the Portuguese Traders and Food Industries, Ankara University (Turkey), ARIEMA, the EATIP (European Aquaculture Technology and Innovation Platform), Billingsgate Seafood School from England, Matís as the host organization and FEDEPESCA representing the Spanish Fish Retailer Sector, and coordinator.

During these 2 days, different members of the consortium presented results and conclusions of work done in the last few months. The works were focused on the first Intellectual Output.

This first Intellectual Output consists of the deep analysis of the current situation relating to training, focused on fishmongers in participating countries in the Project. In order to fulfil this analysis several interest points were established. An in depth study of these points has been carried out since the first Meeting in Lisbon which took place in November of 2016.

Mainly the analyses focused on traditional fishmongers, the current training situation in each country, and specific training courses offered in e-learning format, but also a significant point has been the consumer's opinion about the skills fishmongers should have.





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Picture during the meeting

Surveys have been carried out and interviews have been done trying to spot the current fishmonger's curricula. Surveys have been a really useful tool in order to have an indication of the consumer's opinion. Deep studies have been carried out regarding the situation in each country focusing in training and the e- learning offer.

We can **highlight that in general fishmongers in Europe do not have any specific training**, but the general feeling amongst them was that this specific training would be very useful. In some countries it is not possible to find a relevant offer of training for this collective.

A survey was carried out of 265 fishmongers in the countries taking part in the Project, one of the main results was that respondents placed a lot of value in skills and knowledge **in Food Safety, product handling or customer service.**

In relation to the **e-learning situation, in general we can find small training courses in Food Safety or similar topics.** The country with the widest e-learning offer was United Kingdom, however this training should be combined with face to face learning.



Picture during the meeting

Also a remarkable result was the fact that in no country was specific training compulsory to become a fishmonger, apart from training in Food Safety required by European Regulation. In many countries it is not possible to find a well- designed training course focused on this sector. The only countries where the training offer is pertinent, varied and available are Portugal and United Kingdom. Both countries have a specific Institution focused on the fishery value chain, which amongst other issues, addresses the training.

One of the points of view to take into consideration is the one coming from the consumer. For that reason surveys were carried out in the countries taking part in the Project and also in France. **In general the image of fishmongers is positive, and curiously it does not match with the image fishmongers have of their own profession.** In relation to consumer's choices in the



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shop, they would like **the fishmonger to offer nutritional information, cooking recipes or tastings**. Fishmongers are not aware of these needs and with this study skills it would be possible to include skills valued by customers in fishmonger's specific training.



Attendants to the meeting

Other topics to be covered were next steps in relation to the second intellectual output, which will consist of an e-learning platform with contents specifically for fishmongers. During this Reykjavik meeting contents were discussed. Also diffusion results obtained during these latest months were presented.

In conclusion the meeting was very productive and reflects the great job done by the partners, and also highlighted the work remaining till the end of the Project. Next meeting will take place in London in November of 2017.

This communication reflects only the opinion of the author and in any case the European Union is responsible of the use given to the information contained in it.

e- FishNet is a project included in the Erasmus + Program and co-funded by the European Union. This Project started in September 2016 and will finish in September 2018, with a total period of 24 months. The consortium is composed of 9 Organizations from Iceland, Turkey, United Kingdom, Portugal and Spain and also we count on one organization with European



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scope. FEDEPESCA is the coordinator of this project, which aims to analyze different training schemes in fishmonger's training in the member countries, create an international collaborative network and also develop an e-learning platform with e-learning content.

Webpage: <http://www.e-fishnet.org/index.php/en/>

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