

EATiP MiP WG meeting minutes – 7th June 2017

Mirror Platform (MiP) Working Group Meeting

7th June 2017, Meeting Minutes

Compiled by Alexandra Neyts, Catherine Pons and David Murphy

1. Introduction and Welcome (Courtney Hough)

After a presentation of all attendants (see attachment), the engagement of EATiP in international processes and projects was addressed:

- a. General Fisheries Commission for the Mediterranean (GFCM)
- b. International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN)
- c. European Aquaculture Society (EAS)
- d. European Commission: Bio-economy panel, Blue skills advisory panel
- e. Projects:
 - i. AQUAEXCEL: industrial advice to projects
 - ii. EFISHNET: skill needs to fishmongers
 - iii. CERES: climate change
- f. International cooperation
 - i. EU-Canada-USA North Atlantic
 - ii. South-East Asia (EURASTIP)
 - iii. South Atlantic cooperation (EU, Brasil, South Africa): Blue Enlightenment

The involvement of Mirror Platforms was said to be important for the mobilization of SMEs in research in order to optimize implementation of results.

2. Terms of Reference for Mirror Platforms (Alexandra Neyts)

The role of the MiPs was explained, as were the criteria to become acknowledged EATiP MiP:

- a clearly structured cluster having a critical mass of stakeholders
- representing companies + R&D organisations + universities
- at least half of its committed members are industry or service providers in the field of aquaculture.
- a legal entity (or a formal commitment by its members: partnership agreements, membership fees, letters of intent)
- a clear geographic limitation, national or regional
- paying a membership fee to EATiP (500€)

The Terms of Reference, recently approved by the Board, were distributed. Upon any strong objections, written comments should be sent to the secretariat **by the 19th of June 2017**. It was decided that a formalization of the role of MiPs in EATiP should be accomplished as soon as possible.

Past activities and future plans were presented. An important role of the MiPs is to contribute to the follow-up of the EATiP SRIA at a national/regional level, both regarding the prioritisation of the goals and subgoals, and the implementation to achieve the 2030 goals.

3. Implications for MiP involvement in EATiP projects and actions

a. EURASTIP – International Cooperation with SE ASIA (H2020 Support Action) (David Bassett)

EURASTIP is a 3 year support action. The project's aim is to obtain a closer working relationship between EU and SE Asia that will benefit the aquaculture industry in both regions, in particular related to obtaining a level-playing field and achieving a better food security. This is to be accomplished by creating national multi-stakeholder platforms in Thailand, Bangladesh, Vietnam, and other SE Asian countries, and to share bad and good experiences with the European MiPs. Ultimately, the project has the objective to create a SE Asian Technology Platform (equivalent to EATiP).

Involvement in the project for MiPs was explained to be possible at different levels:

- Joining a 2-days capacity building and sharing workshop for European MiPs and Asian networks **(16-17th of October, Dubrovnik)**.
- Organising national/regional cluster events
- Applying for travel and subsistence funding as a response to open calls for collaboration and exchanges in SE Asia (all countries). The first call for exchange is expected to be launched in November 2017. Different types of collaboration are possible: education-education (innovation practices), industry-industry, research-research, and industry-research. MiPs were suggested to be the brokers towards their members/stakeholders in order to facilitate exchanges.
- Provision of input to the project plans and results.

b. Follow-up on cooperative work with GFCM (FAO) (Courtney Hough)

A regional survey was conducted in the Mediterranean and the Black sea, and specific actions were proposed. The conclusion was that there is a large diversity in multi-stakeholder platforms in the region, not a single model. Unfortunately, the overall GFCM report was delayed due to illness of the involved persons. It was informed that a joint meeting for the Mediterranean networks and the EATiP MiPs is to be organized and supported by the GFCM before the end of 2017.

c. Cross-linking with other ETPs (Courtney Hough)

The ongoing collaboration between EATiP and other ETPs, such as Organics, Fabre, Food for Life, Plants, was presented. Generally, a lack of support by the Commission was experienced, and a reinforcement of this engagement is also encouraged by EATiP.

d. Case studies – examples of good practice (David Murphy)

Two examples of SME driven initiatives were presented:

1. Improvement of Mediterranean Aquaculture – this need had been expressed by the EATiP SRIA, by the AquaMed project, and during the EAS Farmers Day. An appropriate call was released by

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the EC, the industry worked very closely with the research institutions to design the project, and the industry is strongly involved in the government of the project.

2. Intranemma. The industry is closely involved in the analysis of existing vocational industry training needs, the customisation of short courses on hot topics, and the organization of a CEO event, representing the majority of producers.

4. Conclusions – Recommendations – Actions (all MiPs)

The last hour of the meeting was attended only by the Mirror Platforms. These were presented one by one:

1. Scottish Aquaculture Innovation Cluster (Robin Shields) - <http://scottishaquaculture.com/>
 - Supported by the Scottish Funding Council
 - Meeting all MiP criteria
2. NCE Aquatech (Kristian Henriksen) - <https://aquatechcluster.no/>
 - Ca. 105 members (multi-stakeholders)
 - Supported by the Norwegian Research Council
 - Coordinator of the Norwegian clusters: NCE Seafood Innovation Cluster (www.seafoodinnovation.no/, represented by Arne Flaoyen) and NCE Aquaculture (nceaquaculture.com). The regional coordination between the different clusters in Norway is also supported by the Norwegian Research Council.
3. Itaqua (Giovanna Marino)
 - The platform was established upon consultation among 60 stakeholders (regarding organization, funding, legal issues)
 - Supported by Italian Ministry of Agriculture, coordinated by ISPRA
 - The main national challenges were identified as being legislation, environmental issues
4. Hungarian Aquaculture Technology and Innovation Platform HUNATIP (Laszlo Varadi) - http://mkk.szie.hu/dep/halt/uj_platform/en/
 - Partnership agreement has been established among members.
 - The legal body is an association with 4 members: Hungarian fish farmers association, NACEE, Szent István University, Research organisation
 - HUNATIP expressed a strong interest in the EURASTIP project
5. Aquacircle (Jesper Heldbo) - <http://www.aquacircle.org/english>
 - Financed by membership funding, and recognized by national ministry in Denmark
 - Non-for profit organisation with ca. 50 members
 - Running R&D projects (some confidential), supporting collaborative actions, writing proposals
 - Currently running activities in SE Asia, Vietnam
6. Aquaculture Vlaanderen (Stefan Teirlinck, represented by Mieke Eggermont) - www.aquacultuurvlaanderen.be
 - Non-profit organization funded by EMFF (50%) and Flemish Government (50%)
 - Ca. 200 stakeholders
 - Runs an aquaculture helpdesk and organises symposia
7. Irish network (Damien Turner, introduced by David Murphy)
 - Irish stakeholders are in the discussion to set up a network, initiated by BIM
8. Aquimer (Claire Caralp) - www.poleaquimer.com/en/

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- Established cluster of 130 members (fisheries, aquaculture, processing industry, retailers), incl. 80 from industry
- Working on a roadmap with RD priorities
- Membership fee-based

Networks that were not attending the EATiP MiP meeting, but that expressed their interest to become a MiP:

- CETGA (Santiago Calabeiro): Research institution funded by the industry
- HATIP (Antonio Coli): new Greek platform to be established

5. Next steps:

It was decided to formalize the engagement of MiPs in EATiP by complying with the following:

1. Payment of MiP membership fee (500 €)
2. Agreement on the MiP Terms of Reference
3. Signature of accession document

The engagement in the EURASTIP project will be formalized in a separate process, implying the following steps:

1. Signature of project engagement as third party
2. Participating in knowledge building events (in collaboration with SE Asian networks)
3. Identifying companies interested in collaboration with SE Asian stakeholders