



## End of Year Report: 2022

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### President's Message

Dear Members and supporters of the EATiP Platform,

We entered 2022 with high hopes for a better year further to two years of Covid-19 pandemic. Little did we realise that soon we would be addressing the invasion of Ukraine, rapidly increasing fuel, energy and raw material costs and double digit inflation figures, contributing to the cost of living crisis many of us are having to face in our business and daily lives.

Against this difficult backdrop, we are reminded of the need to rely on innovation and best practices to face our challenges and grow our sector. The positive approach is to consider how disruption leads to further innovation and opportunity, as we consider new and alternative strategies for growth and sustainable development.

At a time of division, the need for collaboration also becomes clear. I have been impressed at how our platform has engaged fully in cross European initiatives to foster collaboration and innovation transfer. The Blue Economy Smart Specialisation Platform aims to increase inter-regional innovation and technology transfers, and our Mirror Platforms have been active in identifying priority areas for aquaculture. The EU Mission Charter seeks to establish a community of practice in delivering a zero carbon and circular European aquaculture sector. The European Partnerships seek new ways in identifying strategic research and innovation agendas addressing food systems, the blue economy and animal health and welfare and it is encouraging to have EATiP engage on the advisory boards and in the consultation process of all these actions. The Aquaculture Assistance Mechanism, in which EATiP is a partner providing technical advice, seeks to deliver the aims and objectives of the Strategic Guidelines for a Sustainable European Aquaculture, alongside the Communications on the Blue Economy and European Algae Strategy. The commitment to knowledge and innovation transfer in these policy documents is encouraging and we will ensure to the best of our ability and influence that the needs and priorities of the aquaculture industry are included.

We enter next year with continuing challenges, but also new projects. In addition to continuing our support for transnational research access through AquaExcel 3.0 we will commence work considering marine multi-use activities, linking renewable energy with aquaculture in the Baltic and North Seas as part of the EU Mission Ocean. We will also continue to pursue projects, in association with our Mirror Platforms, in the areas of blue skills, education and capacity building. This comes in addition to the numerous project advisory boards on which we sit.

Our calendar of events already begins to fill, with EATiP set to participate at a number of national cluster events in addition to running, once again, our successful innovation event with the European Commission and European Aquaculture Society at the annual Aquaculture Europe conference. Please remember to let us know of events and activities you have planned, so that we can further build on collaborations with our membership.

My thanks as always to our hard-working Secretariat. I remind you of the limited time and resources with which they complete their many tasks and duties and thank David, Alexandra and Catherine for the positivity, cheerfulness and enthusiasm with which they address the challenges we face.

Finally, as we draw to the end of a difficult 2022, it is my pleasure to wish you a very happy Christmas, with my best wishes to you all for the New Year ahead,

**Gustavo Larrazábal, EATiP President.**

### Secretariat & Membership:

Whilst 2022 proved to be a less dramatic year for the Secretariat – fortunately our office was not flooded out this year! – it has proved to be busier than ever, with many more commitments and actions being undertaken. We were fortunate to be joined once more by an intern – both in February and again in June – studying in her second year of a Masters in Oceanography at the [University](#) of Liège, Belgium.

As part of the Master programme, students have to experience a one-month internship in an organisation linked to the broad field of oceanography. For this internship, Estelle Bertimes expressed a wish to work with EATiP to experience a different point of view with regard to oceanography and to learn how aquaculture is included in ocean science. Estelle undertook valuable analyses of our EATiP Forum events and also undertook liaison work with our EATiP Mirror Platforms. Many of you had the chance to meet her during the General Assembly, where Estelle lost no time in putting her networking skills to good use! We will be repeating the internship with another student in February 2023 and look forward to introducing the candidate to you in due course.

### Board

At the General Assembly this year, EATiP bade a sorry but highly appreciative goodbye to two of our longstanding [Board members](#), Noralf Ronningen of Scale AQ and Patrick Lavens of INVE. We are lucky to have in their place and to continue their stalwart contribution two new directors – again from INVE, where Peter de Schryver acts as Innovation Manager whilst Hanne Digre acts as Director of Sustainability at Scale AQ. We are fortunate to have such talented new members on our Board and look forward to their knowledge and expertise in our management and strategic direction.

- Any member of the platform interested in Board activities is encouraged to contact the Secretariat.



*l-r – EATiP intern Estelle Bertimes, and new EATiP Board members Hanne Digre and Peter de Schryver*

### New Members

During 2022 we continued to welcome new members to the Platform, across all the different stakeholder categories of the Platform. From industry we welcomed [Pure Salmon Kaldnes](#) and [AquaBioTech](#) whilst the NGO and academic sectors saw [EuroGroup for Animals](#) and the [University of Stavanger](#) join our membership. The secretariat remain in discussion with a number of potential new membes, including Mirror Platforms from a number of European nations.

### Finances

Full information on the EATiP financial statements are available through Basecamp to our members. However, we flag to you again that further to careful consultation and consideration, we have revised the EATiP fee structure. This action has simplified and clarified the membership categories and rates, and moves to a system of assessing fee levels by organisational head count rather than turnover – considered fairer to our members.

EATiP continues to operate on very modest resoruces, with the Secretariat undertaking many additional activities for which they are not recompensed. Despite this, during a period of rising costs we will have to carefully monitor our budget to actual spending to ensure that core operating costs continue to be covered by core membership fees, in addition to relying on project funding and other income streams for additional activities.

## Policy

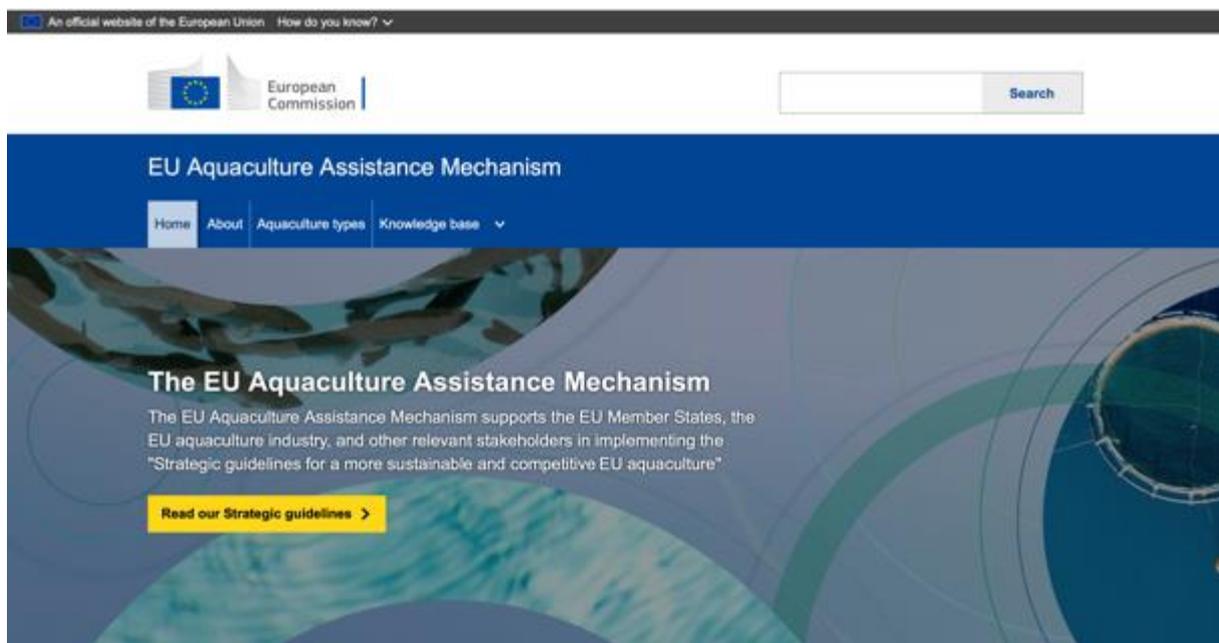
European Aquaculture continues to receive increased policy support from the European Commission, with a further Communication on the [EU Algae Sector](#) adding to the published communications on the [Blue Economy](#) and [Strategic Guidelines for a sustainable European Aquaculture](#) last year. This year has also seen the launch of the [EU Marine Spatial Planning Platform](#) and [EU4Algae Platform](#) – all in part recognition of the role aquaculture will have to play in relation to delivering Green Deal, Farm to Fork, Food 2030 and Bio-economy strategy policy objectives.

In addition to these policy communications, colleagues at the EC DG MARE have been keen to see aquaculture promoted both at the [EU Council](#) level and [Committee of the Regions](#). EATiP have been delighted to be included in workshops and seminars highlighting the potential for aquaculture with a focus on regional innovation transfer. In addition, we have spoken at three European Parliament Peche Committee related activities, on research and innovation requirements for the finfish, shellfish and algae sectors.

## Aquaculture Assistance Mechanism

EATiP is part of the winning consortium for the EU CINEA tender CINEA/EMFAF/2021/3.4.12 – EU Aquaculture Assistance Mechanism and CINEA/EMFAF/2021/3.4.13 – EU Aquaculture Website. EATiP are providing technical support and communication and dissemination activities, currently working on Guidance Documents on EU Funding, Administrative Bottlenecks, Access to Space and licensing.

- A new [EU Aquaculture Website](#) has been published and we recommend all members to look at this and to provide feedback to the Commission.
- Please note this is a first version of the website. A refreshed version will be relaunched in March. Content and functionality will continue to be developed over the next weeks and months.



The website will provide an [EU Knowledge Base](#) for aquaculture, including links to relevant legislation, academic papers and project results, alongside information on upcoming project calls. Certainly one to bookmark in your list of frequently accessed websites! The Aquaculture Assistance Mechanism, commissioned by EC DG MARE and funded by CINEA will be delivered by a consortium comprising:

NTT DATA

scope  
Aristotle University of Thessaloniki

ARISTOTLE  
UNIVERSITY  
OF THESSALONIKI

eas european  
aquaculture  
society

European Aquaculture  
Technology and Innovation Platform



Although continuing to hold 1:1 meetings with Commission colleagues at DG MARE and DG RTD, EATiP joined the [Aquaculture Advisory Council](#) in February 2022. We have subsequently become engaged in a number of the AAC working groups, including presenting on the Aquaculture Assistance Mechanism. (See above.) Through engagement with the AAC, EATiP have a new route in contributing to policy recommendations to the Commission from a formal Advisory Council. [Recommendations](#) this year include those on Small Scale Aquaculture, EMFAF, Norovirus in Shellfish, Rising Costs, Carbon Sequestration and a wealth of other topics.

Common issues that have been identified with other bio-economy ETPs have been identified during a succession of meetings and workshop in Brussels and a joint position has been submitted to DG RTD. Amongst other things, we seek clarity on engaging with DG RTD at the appropriate juncture in policy cycle development and when to revert to asking members to approach Member State governments and national representatives. This is particularly pertinent given the preparations for the 2025 – 2027 Horizon Europe Working Programme.

The secretariat continues to work within consultation groups and meetings considering [European Partnerships](#) - specifically the European Partnership for Animal Health and Welfare (PAHW) the Sustainable Food Systems Partnership (SFSP) and the Sustainable Blue Economy (SBEP). Although not a national MS organisation and therefore not engaged through being a co-funding entity, EATiP remains engaged in an advisory capacity in the drafting process of relevant SRIAs and work programmes. Members are advised to note the [Blue Economy Partnership](#) website, and note both a workshop and new funding call that will be held on 25 January 2023 and launched in February 2023 respectively.



#### **EATiP Forum & “On the Horizon” Dissemination event.**

We continue with our communication and dissemination events, which wherever possible we keep open so all may register. In April we considered the the topic of gene editing in aquaculture, the event co-organised with our sister ETPs – [FABRE TP](#) and [EFFAB](#). An “On the Horizon” project results dissemination event took place in May 2022. Projects featured included [AquaPef](#), [AquaExcel 3.0](#) and [GAIN](#). Results being themed on environmental impact aspects of aquaculture, with an interesting connection made to policy colleagues in DG Environment.

A closed workshop took place, also in April, on Best Practices in aquaculture in collaboration with the International Oceanographic Council (IOC) Ocean Best Practice Service (OBPS). Delegates from the EC, associations, standardisation organisation, EATiP and MiP members exchanged best practice experiences across regions.

EATiP also ran a workshop on policy priorities for the development of European Shellfish production in November in the framework of the Italian ValueShell project. Finally a full day event was organised at Aquaculture Europe 22 (in Rimini, Italy) looking at the innovation pathway from Policy to Solutions. This highly successive and well attended in person event was hosted in collaboration with the European Commission (DGs MARE and RTD) and the European Aquaculture Society. It also functioned as an AQUAEXCEL 3.0 brokerage event showcasing project results considered to be having a potentially high impact on the sector. During the Aquaculture Europe conference, EATiP contributed as speakers and panel members in several sessions, such as the FAO Day, the Copernicus data for marine aquaculture workshop and the education in aquaculture session. The EATiP booth was well visited and a welcome meeting point for members and other interested parties.

A proposed (closed) workshop on antimicrobial resistance (AMR) remains in development subject to diary constraints and speaker availability and is planned for the early spring. Future Forum themes to be considered

include: Carbon-neutral aquaculture; refining the definitions of aquaculture (on which the AAC is undertaking work) and public perception.

The [results and presentations](#) for all these events and projects are made available on the EATiP website.

- **EATiP Working Groups**

### 1. INCO

The platform has been busy in 2022 maintaining international links between European aquaculture and production else where. Through a [Joint Pilot Action](#) within the [AANCHOR CSA](#), EATiP has been working closely with stakeholders in Brazil and South Africa with regards to the benefits of adopting a multi stakeholder platform approach and in the development of an SRIA for their respective sectors.

Further to the Washington Declaration, signed in July by representatives of the EU, Brazil, Canada, Cape Verde, Morocco, South Africa and the United States of America (with the potential future inclusion of Norway and the UK in consideration) Atlantic Ocean science collaboration will continue through the All Atlantic Ocean Research and Innovation Alliance (AAORIA). We await further information from DG RTD on the implementation of this work and to see what the scope for international aquaculture collaboration will be in the new programme.

EATiP was honoured to present to the 11<sup>th</sup> Session of the [COFI Sub-Committee on Aquaculture](#) in May and again the next day at the Special Event on the Global Conference on Aquaculture Millennium +20, considering aquaculture for food and sustainable development.

Other international collaborations have seen EATiP meet with representatives of the Ukrainian fish farming sector, during Aquaculture Europe in Rimini in the autumn where, alongside representatives of DG MARE, consideration was given as to how we could assist in projects and research and innovation transfer when the much needed reconstruction begins, further to a peaceful resolution of the current conflict. An article referencing this meeting recently appeared in the [Fish Site](#).

Finally, EATiP were delighted to take part – virtually – in the CoP 27 climate talks, participating in a European Commission session considering the role of aquaculture in providing climate neutral solutions within global food systems thinking. This invitation, on the part of EC DG RTD, allowed for interesting collaboration between EATiP and food systems policy contacts.

### 2. MiPs

MiP meetings took place virtually in February, April and December with in person meetings both at the EATiP General Assembly in June and at Aquaculture Europe in September. Priorities for consideration – in addition to the usual and highly valuable exchange of ideas and information – include Blue Economy Smart Specialisation / I3 discussions and identification of MiP priorities (see below), Cluster 6 and Mission Ocean proposals, an Erasmus+ initiative, regulatory issues concerning Novel Food for aquaculture and blue careers, skills and training



The Secretariat attended national events in Norway, Spain, Italy and France, also taking the opportunity to meet with MiP members in Hungary and Greece when attending the FEAP bi-annual meetings. All MiP clusters are encouraged to think of further opportunities for EATiP secretariat engagement.

- **Principle Meetings, Strategic Events, Activities**

To provide an exhaustive list of events and meetings during the past year would take up a lot of space! However key regular meetings and events to note include our working with:

- AANCHOR / AORA High Level Scientific and Governmental Events
- The AAC and multiple AAC Focus Group meetings
- EFARO and EFARO NbS events.
- FACCE JPI & JPI Oceans
- WWF Aquaculture Programme
- SCAR Fish
- Blue Bio Advisory Board
- SubMARINER Algae WG
- The European Commission DG RTD & DG MARE
- BlueInvest
- Industry associations such as FEFAC, FEAP, EMPA, EAS, EABA & Copa-Cogeca
- EIT Food & the EIT Aquaculture Programme

In addition there have been many, many meetings with members, Board Members, Mirror Platform Members, colleagues in the EC, project partners and a heavy schedule of online meetings, webinars and workshops with which we now all engage.



A further tool to promote and support the Blue Economy sector that is being developed by EC DG MARE is a [Blue Economy Smart Specialisation Platform](#).

The S3 thematic platform for sustainable blue economy supports interregional partnerships and value chains thus facilitating the cooperation among blue economy quadruple helix stakeholders.

S3 are a useful tool to support transition towards a sustainable blue economy by creating the necessary innovation ecosystems in Member States and Regions while promoting investments that boost the competitiveness of blue economy sectors. In that aspect, the S3 thematic platform for sustainable blue economy will provide a framework to exchange their interests, best practices, to address common needs, to prepare joint proposals and collaborate among themselves for implementing innovative projects.

EATiP has been working closely with DG MARE on developing this platform in relation to aquaculture themes, including running a brokerage event in Brussels in June in tandem with our General Assembly. Although much remains to be clarified, not least how any actions might be funded, we see clear routes for inter-regional collaboration, including through our existing Mirror Platform network. Next steps include identifying regional authorities where aquaculture has been prioritised, and what InterReg instruments are already in place.

Identified priorities for inter-regional collaboration by the EATiP Mirror Platforms include:

1. Biomass processing & added-value compounds
2. Integration of aquaculture in "climate neutral" or "zero carbon" production
3. Digitalization of seafood supply chains
4. Development of international standards
5. Access to Finance, from innovation outcome to risk-based financing / low-threshold accelerators

6. Education and life-long-learning, cooperation on training of staff and researchers
7. Marine spatial planning / AZA
8. Costs of production / precision farming

Further updates will be provided by a report on work to date, currently in development by DG MARE.

### Upcoming Events

EATiP is always looking for new ways in which to promote the platform and our work. If you are participating in any events that we can include in our work plan and programme for 2023 then please let us know. We might not be able to make it to everything, but if we can, we will! Events already identified include:

- AquaFarm, February 15-16, Pordenone (IT)
- AQUAFUTURE, March 28-30 (ES)
- European Maritime Days, May 24-25, Brest (FR)
- EATiP France (FR)
- EATiP AGM, June, Brussels (BE)
- AquaNor, August 22-24, Trondheim (NO)
- Innovation Forum, September 18-21, Vienna (AT)



## Balanced Diversity in Aquaculture Development

Join EATiP at Aquaculture Europe 2023, organised by the European Aquaculture Society and where we plan to run once again hold our EU / EAS / EATiP innovation forum. If you are interested in participating, let us know!

### Communications

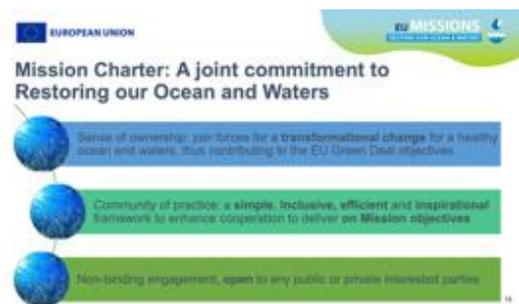
We continue to grow and develop our social media network, primarily through Twitter and the platform website. Members are encouraged to share their corporate or personal social media contacts with us, in which case we will be sure to share and promote content and links.

- You can follow EATiP using @eatip\_EU



We also take this opportunity to remind members that our Basecamp system remains the principle resource and tool for communicating with and providing information to members. If you are not registered on [Basecamp](#) or not receiving posts from us, please contact the secretariat and we will help you with that.

### Mission Ocean and Mission Ocean Charter



Members will be familiar with the EU Mission Restore our Ocean and Waters. However, you might be unaware of the EU Mission Charter. The Mission Charter is a tool to help build a community of practice to showcase support for strategic objectives. EATiP has been discussing how to meaningfully support the Charter with EC DG RTD, at whose intervention our members have been specifically requested to endorse the Charter, showing how aquaculture can support low environmental impact food production whilst also:

- Protecting and restoring ecosystems and biodiversity (Biodiversity Strategy 2030)
- Preventing and eliminating pollution (EU Action Plan Towards Zero Pollution for Air, Water and Soil)
- Make the sustainable blue economy carbon-neutral and circular (European Climate Law; Sustainable Blue Economy Strategy)

Please note that a Mission Ocean & Waters Forum will be held on 17 February 2023 in Brussels – for which further information will follow soon. You can access further information via [Restore our Ocean and Waters \(europa.eu\)](https://europea.eu/missions/oceans) and respond to the charter pledge here: [EUSurvey - Survey \(europa.eu\)](https://europea.eu/missions/oceans). If your organisation or company is currently doing something to support zero carbon aquaculture – for example using an innovative feed, renewable energy, reducing use of plastics, using by-products and other circular techniques, then please pledge your support and help to showcase innovation within the aquaculture industry.

## Project News



EATiP will be starting work on a new Horizon Europe funded EU Mission project in the new year. Running from 2023 to December 2026, OLAMUR will establish three pilot demonstration sites where seaweed and blue mussels will be grown within windfarms or in the vicinity of a trout farm. The sites are located in the North Sea and Baltic Sea and will contribute to current research priorities with regard to marine multi use sites and low carbon aquatic food production. EATiP will lead on communication and dissemination and you can expect to see further details emerging shortly after the project kick off.



EATiP's role in [AquaExcel3.0](https://aquaexcel3.0.eu) is to support results that were generated by the project through experimental aquaculture research, and that are of potentially high impact to the sector. In 2022, 15 results were selected and seven of those were presented at Brokerage events – including the EC-EATiP-EAS innovation forum held as part of Aquaculture Europe 2022. Additionally, a pitching course was provided to future speakers, and actions on securing the legacy of the research infrastructure project were initiated.

## MSP Green & LIFE Projects.

EATiP has been invited to engage on the advisory board of another two interesting projects – MSP Green and SAFE.



The MSP8GREEN project contributes to align maritime spatial plans to the ambition of the European Green Deal by creating a framework for plans as marine enablers of the EGD. The framework will provide a cross-cutting approach to the EGD key topics relevant for marine environment and sustainable transition of blue economy: climate change, circular blue economy, marine biodiversity, marine renewable energies, sustainable food provision. Recommendations on how to strengthen the EGD ambition of EU MSP plans will be prepared. The sea basins' dimension will be promoted by considering environmental, socio-economic, and cultural specificities also, via dedicated Ocean Literacy driven communication.

Meanwhile, the Horizon Europe funded SAFE project began in November. It aims to find solutions to increase the consumption of European freshwater fish through better efficiency and better public perception. The project will particularly focus on Improving the sustainability and competitiveness of recirculating aquaculture systems, and

the acceptability of carp and other freshwater fish in EU markets. The project also aims to better understand interactions with the environment to protect biodiversity and reduce other key impacts such as around sludge management, sustainable feed ingredients and ghg emissions. Finally the project will work closely with Chinese colleagues to mutually understand challenges in EU and China, the largest producer and consumer of cultured freshwater fish in the world.

EATiP continues to sit on a number of other project boards covering a broad and diverse range of research topics. For information on any of the projects listed, please see the relevant links below:

- [Blue-Cloud](#): explores the potential of cloud based open science in the domain of ocean sustainability with aquaculture as one of demonstrators.
- [AquaVitae](#): research and innovation action on low-trophic aquaculture in the South Atlantic.
- [AANCHOR](#): coordination and support action implementing the Belem statement and coordinating ongoing Atlantic projects.
- [AQUAPEF](#): LIFE project, promoting the effective implementation of the Product Environmental Footprint in the Mediterranean aquaculture sector.
- [FORCOAST](#): research and innovation action on Earth Observation services for Wild Fisheries, Oystergrounds Restoration and Bivalve Mariculture along European Coasts. (Finalised during 2022)
- [ALEHOOP](#): addressing the extraction of proteins for feed and food use from legumes and macroalgae.
- [Blue Bio Cofund](#): EATiP will now be represented on the Advisory Board until May 2024
- [NextOcean](#): Earth observation services for sustainable fishing and aquaculture

### And finally... Thank you!

We hope you have found this summary activity report interesting and informative. We have attempted to keep it short (honestly!) and have skimmed over many complex and in depth topics. If you have any questions or comments, on anything that is featured above, please do contact the Secretariat – [secretariat@eatip.eu](mailto:secretariat@eatip.eu)

All that remains is for us to express our thanks to you the members and supporters of EATiP for your collaboration and assistance during 2022. We are a membership platform and it is our members and the people that we work with who make our work so enjoyable and interesting. For that, we thank you.

With best wishes

David, Alexandra and Catherine.

