

V4 Freshwater Aquaculture
Conference



26 April 2018 Szarvas, Hungary

HOW TO IMPROVE THE SUPPORT OF THE EUROPEAN AQUACULTURE SECTOR WITH SPECIAL REGARD TO SMEs

Aquaculture enterprises in the EU

14-15,000 enterprises in EU 28

**about 90% are micro enterprises
(less than 10 employees)**

Important role of Producers Organisations and Interbranch
Associations

The Federation is composed only of National Aquaculture or Fish Farming Associations



Members Associations in 2017

- Belgium
- Croatia
- Cyprus
- Czech Republic
- Denmark
- Finland
- France
- Germany
- Greece
- Hungary
- Iceland
- Ireland
- Italy
- Netherlands
- Norway
- Poland
- Portugal
- Spain
- Turkey
- United Kingdom



Some figures for 2016:

- **FEAP is 25 Associations representing 20 countries**
- **2.3 million tons of fish products**
- **7 € billion of ex-farm turnover**
- **100,000 direct jobs** (>200,000 with upstream and downstream jobs)



Main objectives

- Pursue and improve its **coordination** role of the goals of its National member associations and the aquaculture profession
- **Assure a pro-active position** for the sector in front of all relevant authorities
- **Provide accurate information** and sound rationale to decision makers
- **Guarantee communication** of unbiased information on aquaculture processes and products to the consumer
- Guarantee valid, consensual and timely **responses to key issues**



Activities

Amongst FEAP's most important activities is its **advisory role** in providing positions, documentation and data on European aquaculture issues to the European Commission and the European Parliament as well as other aquaculture stakeholder organisations - this is done at both the European and global levels

FEAP is also active in both **promoting and participating in research and support/coordination projects** that contribute to innovation and development of the European fish farming sector

FEAP is also increasingly involved in **sectoral actions and discussions on aquaculture** as well as broader issues that affect the profession

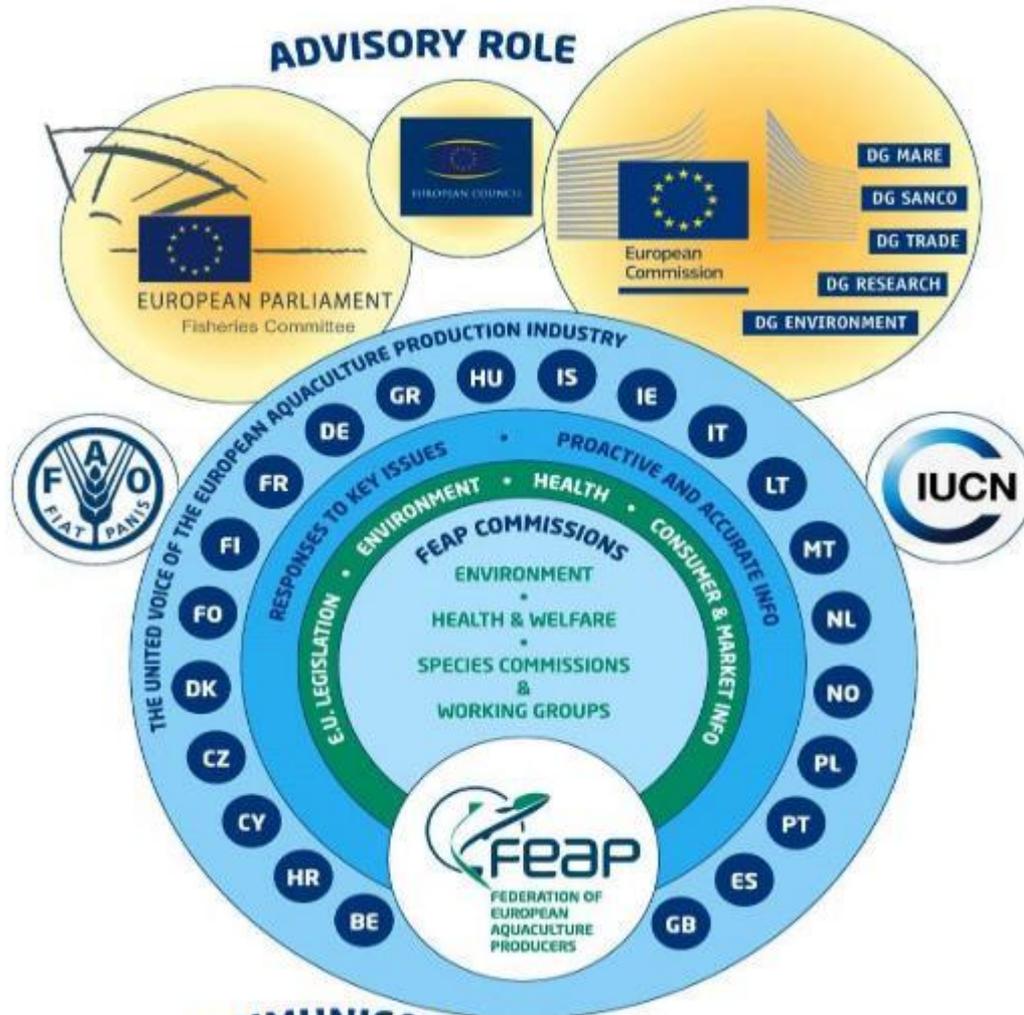


Our main challenges:

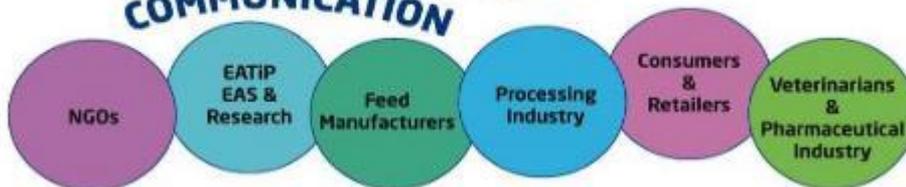
- The Level Playing field – for European farmers
- Clear strategy for the European Aquaculture
- The consumer information
- The new AAC
- Simplification of the regulations



ADVISORY ROLE



COMMUNICATION





POST-2020 EU FUNDING FOR AQUACULTURE



WHY SHOULD EUROPEAN AQUACULTURE RECEIVE STRUCTURAL FUNDS POST2020 ?

Opinions have been provided by individual Member Associations and compiled by the FEAP Secretariat

March 2018

WHAT IS WRONG WITH THE CURENT EMFF ?

Major findings and suggestions

Reducing the administrative burden for Member States and applicants/beneficiaries should be a high priority.

Member States should have the flexibility to define within their own development strategies and Multi-Annual Plans the areas of support envisaged for the EMFF.

An **exchange of Best Practices** between the administrations of Member States would assist this aspect and others (reduction of red tape).

A common opinion within the FEAP is that professional representatives (Producers and Value-Chain representatives) should have an **advisory role on EMFF investments and support, at the European and National levels.**



WHAT SHOULD NO LONGER BE ELIGIBLE FOR SUPPORT ?

Funding should **not be used predominantly for large ‘innovative’ projects or environmental measures**; it should be geared to supporting industry [including upstream and downstream interventions] and its integrated development at national and European levels.

REGIONAL SOLUTIONS FOR REGIONAL CHALLENGES ?

Given the aquaculture sector’s structural and operational differences (North-South, East-West; Fish farming vs. shellfish production), **account needs to be taken of sectoral and sub-sectoral differences** within National and European strategies and plans, in the absence of clear Regional positions and challenges.



WHAT EMFF INSTRUMENTS SHOULD BE ADAPTED ON A REGIONAL BASIS TO TACKLE THESE CHALLENGES ?

It is necessary to **move EMFF from a cost-eligibility mechanism to a results-oriented responsibility** in EMFF use.

Reliable and efficient data collection mechanisms that support general and specific objectives and indicators (more qualitative performance indicators – rather than the rate of funding of a number of projects).

The financing of live aquaculture stocks (both fish and shellfish) is one of the most important investments made by new/young farmers and those who are increasing production capacity. Stocks should then be used as assets for guaranteeing debts. A European Guarantee fund, supporting the obtaining of loans, would provide an additional support instrument to practically assist growth and development of European aquaculture; within the FEAP, this is a top priority for successful development of aquaculture in Europe.

WHAT KIND OF FLEXIBILITY SHOULD BE GRANTED TO MS DEMONSTRATING GOOD MANAGEMENT PRACTICE?



Member States need greater flexibility to address national needs and long-term objectives as set out in the Multiannual National Strategic Plans.

Simplification of EMFF application to reduce the administrative and financial burden for managing authorities, control bodies and beneficiaries.

Monitoring and evaluation mechanisms require to be integrated within the operational basis of EMFF implementation, being updated or changed as needed at MS level.

Funding should be given to realistic 'projects', where industry representatives should be involved in steering committees that influence funding allocation.

ACTION PRIORITIES FOR A NEW EMFF



1. PREREQUISITES FOR FUNDING OPPORTUNITIES

Strategies need to include how Member States will develop/implement **regulatory actions that provide a legal framework for effective funding actions**. This needs to include the creation of new aquaculture sites/areas and the expansion/growth of existing sites

This approach has to be supported by **clear and binding spatial planning** so that aquaculture investors are sure of what areas can be used, under what conditions and with a pre-defined timeline for approval and use.

Accommodation of environmental regulations within the conditions of aquaculture operation needs to be improved at the European and national levels.

- *Freshwater wetlands, supported by inland pond-farming, might not exist without the financial support provided by European funding*

2. TECHNICAL ASPECTS THAT QUALIFY FOR FUNDING



Priority should be given to production growth (improving competitiveness and long-term sustainability; innovation, resulting from applied research);

Support for **professional collective actions**, such as interbranch organisations, should continue;

Producer Organisations – identified as a key requirement for improving sectoral stability and marketing efficiency;

Financial and participative support for **National Mirror Platforms** to the European Aquaculture Technology and Innovation Platform so as to stimulate research and innovation actions;

Existing farmers: Support for (a) Implementation of innovations in production and processing, (b) Investments that compensate the impacts of climate change, (c) Maintenance/adaptation of traditional installations, including water treatment/RAS systems;



2. TECHNICAL ASPECTS THAT QUALIFY FOR FUNDING (continued)

New (young) farmers; support for (a) Productive investments, (b) Investing in systems supported by the competition rules set out under the CFP, (c) Guarantee fund for obtaining loans;

Support for skill development and incorporation in SMEs is needed (Access to vocational training support);

Recognition/Support for environmental services made by aquaculture operators **Research to raise recognition of the environmental benefits of freshwater pond farming** and extensive marine aquaculture

Support effective measures (at national and regional levels) to **respond to predation and associate stock losses**



2. TECHNICAL ASPECTS THAT QUALIFY FOR FUNDING (continued)

Assistance to **actions that are directed at improving aquatic animal health and welfare** (Directive 2006/88 and Regulation 429/2016)

Assistance to processing, distribution and marketing, particularly for products and sectors that are relatively unknown to the consumer

Information/Promotion campaigns (from local to European levels) (a) Communication actions to raise social acceptance, (b) The 'FARMED in the EU' campaign could be developed further (supporting social licence and improved consumer information).

Data collection – where EUMOFA should continue to be supported and developed.



HOW ARE THESE IN LINE WITH BLUE GROWTH OBJECTIVES ?

Developing an operating regulatory framework that encourages best environmental and fish health practices, competitiveness and innovation will support Blue Growth objectives.

A competitive and dynamic sector will foster and integrate innovation but innovation per se will not necessarily foster a competitive and dynamic sector.

Freshwater aquaculture, using available freshwater resources, can demonstrate the realisation of Blue Growth principles, focusing on efficient multi-functional production and environmental services.



Thank you for your attention!