



MedAID Workshop at EAS-WAS 2018

“The importance of Social Acceptability for Mediterranean aquaculture development: Stocktaking and the way forward”

This workshop was carried out within the “Social Acceptability and Governance work package” of the EU H2020 **MedAID** project (Mediterranean Aquaculture Integrated Development) organized in cooperation with EU H2020 PerformFISH (Integrating Innovative Approaches for Competitive and Sustainable Performance across the Mediterranean Aquaculture Value Chain) on 29th August 2018 during AQUA 2018 (Montpellier, France).

Aquaculture in the Mediterranean bordering countries has grown substantially during the past decades, helping to meet the rising demand for fishery products, and contributing to increasing food security, employment and economic development. However, further development of aquaculture raises concerns in terms of sustainability in the long term, including from a social perspective. In fact, it is increasingly acknowledged that in many instances, one challenge to aquaculture growth is linked to social concerns and the acceptability of the sector. Social acceptability of aquaculture development (SA) is an integral part of sustainability and refers to social license to operate and the degree to which aquaculture activities are accepted or precluded by the public at large. This is an issue being debated in several fora that have highlighted the need to address the SA in terms of increasing the public understanding of aquaculture. To this end, the workshop took stock of current knowledge of SA, on the general public’s awareness of aquaculture and with a special perspective from coastal and local communities, and presents and discusses the preliminary results of a study to assess critical factors, local drivers and peculiarities that influence SA particularly in the Mediterranean region (<http://www.medaid-h2020.eu>). The workshop was opened by Fabio Massa (FAO-GFCM Senior Aquaculture Officer) and by Jose Perez (Ifremer) and Katia Tribulostova (Eurofish) who, among others introduced respectively the two above EU H2020 projects.

Four presentations were delivered by keynote speakers outlining different aspects of SA including preliminary results of the on-going MedAID study. Namely;



- Public involvement in governance and SA of aquaculture (Marianna CAVALLO, Ifremer)
- Consumer attitude towards aquaculture products (Katia TRIBILUSTOVA, Eurofish)
- Disinformation and SA of aquaculture; A case from Mersin-Turkey (Ferit RAD, Mersin University) and
- Preliminary results of the MedAID study to assess critical factors and drivers that influence SA of aquaculture (Davide FEZZARDI, FIAM - FAO).

Presentations were followed by Panel discussion; “Social acceptability as key driver for aquaculture development” and was moderated by Pablo ÁVILA ZARAGOZÁ (Spain). Panel gathered representatives from aquaculture farmers, farmers’ organizations, administrations dealing with aquaculture (national and local level), NGOs, media, researchers on social aspects of governance and a representation of wholesalers.

For more information on MedAID please visit the project webpage at <http://www.medaid-h2020.eu> and visit Performfish webpage at: <http://performfish.eu/>