★ euroshell

Bridging the gap between science and producers
to support European marine mollusk production sector

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Partner countries:	*United Kingdom, Ireland, Netherlands, France, Italy, Spain*
Web:	*www.euroshell-fp7.eu*

⊕ The challenge

EUROSHELL will identify current and future challenges facing the European shellfish sector, by laying the basis for continued **improvement in knowledge transfer between science and the sector** and ensuring that research meets the needs of the sector.

It will focus on identification of the underlying factors that inhibit effective knowledge management in the sector and will provide regional forums to facilitate dialogue between shellfish companies and researchers, with a strong focus on developing efficient **methodology for knowledge transfer**.

This will result in a proposed **extension network** as well as the **development of visions for the future** of the sector and **identification of the key research objectives** that could be integrated in the European Aquaculture Technology and Innovation Platform (EATIP). It will also provide cooperation opportunities with the **Fisheries Local Action Groups** (**FLAG**s) of the European Fisheries Areas Network (FARNET).

⊕ Objectives

· **Enhance integration of knowledge** into the production cycle of the main farmed mollusc species, by assessing current critical problems experienced by the sector that have a direct link to research and reviewing current knowledge with a focus on outputs and their uptake.

· **Assess the current structural organization** that links knowledge to practice in key European production countries and identify solutions that will address structural difficulties (where these exist) for shellfish SMEs to participate in research, technological development and innovation (RTDI) initiatives.

· **Identify future visions for the European shellfish sector by industry**, including the identification of gaps and research needs, so as to lay the basis for more effective methodology for future dialogue and integration of the sector into the EATIP.

✛ Methodology

EUROSHELL brings together **18 partners** representing scientific and professional organizations from **6 Member States** and their European federations. Together they propose to put the first 'building block', in **18 months** of work, of the **construction of a shellfish extension system**. The work is divided into **5 work packages**: 1. Project management; 2. Methodology for knowledge transfer through an extension network; 3. Reviewing current knowledge with the development of a database; 4. Tools for an extension network (mapping the sector and a roadmap for research); 5. Regional workshops to exchange on the vision of the sector, on knowledge transfer and extension networks and to test the tools developed by work packages 2 and 4.

The most appropriate structure envisaged to host extension is the "**Fisheries Local Action Group**" (**FLAG**) currently supported by the European Fund for Fisheries (EFF). EUROSHELL proposes to test the concept, with a few existing FLAGs to be identified with FARNET.

✛ Expected Results

- **Proposals for an extension network** that creates a baseline for European shellfish research and production
- **Full integration** of the shellfish sector into EATIP
- **A knowledge database** with a synopsis that clusters similar projects together under specific issues of each area
- **An atlas of shellfish production zones, research infrastructures**
- **A roadmap for research**
- **Best practice guidelines** for the implementation of knowledge transfer

✛ Project partners

Contact us

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