



Program: FP7 Cooperation

Deliverable D2.5

Set of guidelines for knowledge transfer in both directions

Validated during the second stakeholders' meeting on January 15 and 16 2014

Project acronym:	EUROSHELL
Project title:	Bridging the gap between science and producers to support the European marine mollusc production sector
Project coordinator:	Comité National de la Conchyliculture (CNC)
Grant agreement number:	312025 – FP7 KBBE 2012.1.2-11
Funding scheme:	Coordination Support Action
Deliverable number 2.5:	Set of guidelines for knowledge transfer in both directions

Guidelines for 'Knowledge transfer' in both directions

Introduction

According to the Description of Work document the following issues are relevant for developing guidelines for knowledge transfer:

- Recommendations for an extension network
- Profile of extension workers,
- Guideline for training courses,
- Strategy of implementation of an extension network,
- Recommendations for financing an extension network

As a number of these issues are being addressed in other deliverables (notably D2.3 profile and skills of extension workers, D2.4 recommendations for structuring the network, D2.6 strategy of implementation by a structure of knowledge transfer, and D2.7 research roadmap, contribution to EATIP, including financing an extension network), this deliverable will focus on the required training, given the characteristics of extension work as brought up during the workshops.

Main outcomes of the regional workshops with respect to training of extension workers

The main characteristics of extension workers and network development were identified. Strengthening these features is the core of the training courses, hence this is translated into guidelines for training courses, based on best practices in member countries: see ANNEX

Requirements for successful extension networking are

Development of a proper attitude

Professionals must become more involved: in governance, decision-making regarding the industry and its organization, the demand for information and its dissemination between all stakeholders of the sector, including among professionals themselves. The profession must continue to organize to have a **common vision / direction**, to formulate a clear message to decision-making bodies. One of the main values of extension and knowledge transfer is **confidence**. If confident links are established, the information will circulate naturally.

Communication and organizational skills

Extension workers require training in organizing communication within the industry and between industry, science, government and other stakeholders. The aim is that parties understand the work of the others.

Skills are needed to organise the information to circulate more. This can be done by **regular newsletters, data sheets or synthetic information** to be disseminated towards professionals. It is important that **the transmission of information is regular**, through websites but also by post as not all farmers have access to the internet.

Learning skills

Producers should be involved in studies, from their formulation to their results. There is a strong need for **consultation**. These studies must be punctuated with steps during which stakeholders meet to report on the progress of the project, agree on the solutions and on any adjustments.

Popularize knowledge

Popularize means to **transmit knowledge in a pedagogical manner**. This involves adapting the speech to the public, using clear and understandable language. Scientific language has to be translated into **plain language**. The information to be transmitted should be **simplified without being distorted**. Extension must be done in different directions, not only from scientists to professionals, but also from professionals to scientists. Fore knowledge and skills that are developed by those who are on the field are as important as those provided by research.

In addition, **knowledge is co-constructed**, everyone can contribute with expertise, discovery, criticism, etc. underpinning knowledge. There is not on one side those who know and on the other side those who know nothing. **Knowledge transfer should become part of each research project**. It should be evaluated and become a condition for the final payment.

Learn how to develop an extension network

Networking enables to share and disseminate knowledge, it facilitates contacts and helps to find the good person (either interested or competent people). However it is necessary that the network is well organized and that the **links are effective and constant**. Each member of the network must have **clearly defined functions and competences** to avoid confusion, duplication and gaps.

If positions of aquaculture consultants are created, it is necessary that these advisers are networked.

Efficient coordination is the key. Researchers must better coordinate in order to avoid duplication of work. Producers can also benefit from a good coordination, helping them to solve problems in their companies (production, administration, etc.). And of course, science and industry must coordinate their action so that they can work together efficiently.

The network should extend from the local level, closer to the producers who work in the field, **to the European or International level**, where studies can be of interest for a shellfish stakeholder (scientific, producers, extension worker, etc.) from one place to another.

ANNEX – BEST PRACTICES IN EUROPE

Italy

- Courses for producers on legislation (per region)
- A new society (SIRAM: www.siram-molluschi.it) was setup that organizes meetings where scientists and representatives of producers and some producers meet. The meetings are paid by sponsors. Outputs of conference are public proceedings.

France

- Technical centers : SMIDAP, CREEA, CEPRALMAR, SMEL
- PHDs cofunded by industry and research
- Annual regional meetings organized by IFREMER, CRC and CNC about specific topics.
- Various magazines specific for shellfish culture (“Cultures marines”)

Netherlands :

- Fisheries Innovation Approach:
 - o Fisheries Innovation Platform: a group of producers and government, developing a vision about future and innovation
 - o Regional Blueports: developing regional activities and knowledge exchange
 - o Fisheries Knowledge Group, composed of fishermen and scientist working on sustainable fisheries.
- Specific knowledge groups such as for oyster culture which discuss about main knowledge gaps and priorities for solutions
- The shellfish industry organizes annual seminars (<http://www.wageningenur.nl/en/Expertise-Services/Research-Institutes/imares/Projects/PRODUS-Sustainable-shellfish-culture.htm>) and biannual symposia.
- The industry participates in research and funds various PhD projects and a chair on sustainable shellfish culture at Wageningen University.
- There is a weekly magazine for fishery and aquaculture (Visserijnieuws).

Ireland

- BIM offers training courses
- There are exchanges with farmers from France
- Funds are available for farmers to attend workshops and conferences abroad

Spain

- Ad hoc regional meetings (usually more for scientists than for producers), also area meetings.
- Forums/technical committees to establish research priorities: regional and national.

- One of the organizations hired a scientist (on veterinary issues);
- Students have the opportunity to do study trips, but not the producers.
- There is a shellfish magazine

UK

- Transfer of knowledge through the associations.
- Incidental funding for consultancy by scientists.
- SAMS (Scottish Association for Marine Science)(Oban) develop courses.
- Project where PhD/Master's students are asked to answer specific problems that producers have. They learn to apply their knowledge, and teach the producers how to approach a problem scientifically.
- Knowledge transfer partnership association: 30% paid by industry and 70% paid by the government.
- There are various magazines for shellfish ("Shellfish News", "The Grower").