

AquaReg - Co-operation between the regions of Trøndelag (Norway), Galicia (Spain) and Border, Midland and Western (Ireland), in the field of Marine Resources

Programme zone / Zone de programme:

North / Nord

Type / Type

Regional Framework Operation / Opération cadre régionale



Topic / Thème

Other appropriate subjects / Autres sujets appropriés

Problem description / Description du problème ciblé par le projet

The overexploitation and depletion of traditional fisheries, has resulted in a reduction of fishing quotas and a re-structuring of the fleet all over Europe. This has, in turn, caused loss of traditional jobs and increased unemployment in many coastal communities. As a result, aquaculture has diversified significantly focussing on the utilisation of new species and innovative technologies, and today it constitutes an important and flourishing industry with high expectations for the future. AquaReg is a cooperation between the regions of Galicia in Spain, Border, Midland and Western (BMW) in Ireland and Trøndelag in Norway. These are all strong marine regions, situated at different latitudes along the Atlantic Coast. The intention of these regions is to establish a long-term cooperation in aquacultures and fisheries and make more efficient use of the experience and knowledge of aquaculturists, fishermen and scientists across regional and national borders.

Overall objective / Objectif général de l'opération

The overall objective of AquaReg is to provide opportunities and design strategies for the sustainable development of peripheral coastal communities by promoting interregional cooperation in aquaculture and fisheries. The RFO focuses on three clearly defined priority themes: AquaLink (Linking aquaculture/fisheries business and research), AquaEd (Education and training) and AquaPlan (Coastal zone planning and management).

Expected results / Résultats attendus

AquaReg contributes to coherent and sustainable development in aquaculture and fisheries in the three regions involved, promotes innovative actions and business development in relevant marine industries, and increases employment in the marine sector. "AquaLink" stimulates collaboration between researchers and the aquaculture business. Seven sub-projects are being implemented under this priority enabling SMEs to benefit from cooperation with universities and research organisations. The three sub-projects running under the "AquaEd" priority encourage interregional exchanges of students, trainees, and experts in industry and enable multilevel networking in small scale fishing and shellfish gathering fields. "AquaPlan" focuses on the exchange of best practises in coastal zone utilization and planning. Activities of the two sub-projects running under this priority include, among others, the assessment and evaluation of aquaculture management in the three AquaReg regions and the establishment of a common coastal zone management policy.

Lead partner / Partenaire principal	Contact person / Personne à contacter	Duration / Durée
Sør-Trøndelag fylkeskommune (repr. Sør- og Nord-Trøndelag fylkeskommuner) Posttuttak 7004 Trondheim NORWAY	Sigurd Bjørge, CO Lead partner, Program manager Tel.: 47-73866280 Fax: 47 - 73866045 E-Mail: sigurd.bjorge@stfk.no Web: www.aquareg.com	June 2003 - December 2007
		Total budget / Budget total: 4.847.000 €
		ERDF contribution / Contribution FEDER: 2.448.000 €
		Norwegian contribution / Contribution des fonds norvégiens: 1.424.700 €



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Partnership / Partenaires

Name of Institution, Town /Titre de l'institution, Ville	Country / Pays	Region / Région	Contact information / Détails de contact
Technological Center of the Sea - CETMAR FOUNDATION, Vigo	SPAIN	GALICIA	Phone: 34 - 986247047 yolanda.molares@cetmar.org
The Marine Institute, Galway	IRELAND	BORDER, MIDLAND AND WESTERN	Phone: 353 91 730 430 dave.jackson@marine.ie



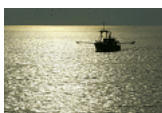
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Activities / achievements so far

The programme activity started August 2003 in Trondheim, Norway. 3 coordinators (CO) and financial mgr. were all selected and the AquaReg Steering Committee (ARSC) and secretariat (ARS) was constituted and had its first meetings. The program launch and kick-off meeting in Trøndelag was done in the same week and was attended by national and regional politicians from all regions at minister levels. Partner agreement contract and subsidy contract were signed in October 2003. Documents related to project assessments/selection, application pack and report package were worked out and agreed during 2003. The kick-off meeting for Galicia (Spain) was held in October 2003, and the kick-off meeting for BMW (Ireland) was held in November 2003. These two kick-offs were also attended by politicians at minister levels. The kick-off meetings were attended by potential visitors from the other regions. The preparation cost report and 1st progress report were submitted to JTS on time November 1st 2003. Several workshops/meetings have been held in all three regions to mobilize for project proposal calls. First call for Sub-project proposals were launched on December 10th, 2003 and closed on February 13th, 2004. 16 proposals were received on time, and 6 were selected in a final evaluation meeting in March 2004. Second call for Sub-project proposals were launched on May 14th, 2004 and closed on June 25th, 2004. After first round selection 3 sub-projects under the strategy AquaLink were selected, 1 under AquaEd and 2 under AquaPlan. About 50 % of the total funding was allocated. All funding under the strategy AquaPlan was allocated at first round. 11 proposals were received on time at 2nd call. Second call final evaluation was done in July 2004 and 6 projects were selected. By 2nd call, all project funding was allocated. Reporting and audit seminars have been held for all sub-project participants in the three regions. A programme review was done in July 2004. The mobilization process was going until the last evaluation and have been changing to a network activity between the partners and sub-project participants and their contacts. 5 progress reports submitted successfully by the end of this period. The secretariat have the last period mainly been doing general program management, sub-project follow-up and program/project dissemination and promotion. Several of the sub-projects have organised national and international events last period. 1st AquaReg forum was held in Galicia in 2005, and 2nd forum was held in Ireland in 2006. The forums purpose was a meeting place, project presentations and as an arena for future cooperation for industry stakeholders, relevant authorities and politicians. The partnership applied for extension and additional funding. Four of the projects was extended until June 2007. This four projects have been running at full steam, and are now ended.



More information:
www.aquareg.com



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