



Project no.: FP6-022771

PROFET POLICY

'FISH POLICY FLOW'

Instrument: FP6 – Integrating and strengthening the European Research Area

Thematic Priority: Scientific Support to Policies

**Final Activity Report
Deliverable 31**

Due date of deliverable: 15 March 2009

Actual submission date: 130 June 2009

Start date of project: 1 November 2005

Duration: 39 months (incl. 3 months extension)

Organisation name of lead contractor of this deliverable: FEAP

Revision: June 2009

Project co-funded by the European Commission within the Sixth Framework Programme (2002-2006)		
Dissemination Level		
PU	Public	PU
PP	Restricted to other programme participants (including the Commission Services)	
RE	Restricted to a group specified by the consortium (including the Commission Services)	
CO	Confidential, only for members of the consortium (including the Commission Services)	

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PUBLISHABLE EXECUTIVE SUMMARY



'PROFET POLICY' has given an opportunity for stakeholders who are involved or interested in aquaculture and fisheries to become better informed on European policies and research efforts that affect their sectors. It has achieved this through a combination of activities directed towards the communication and dissemination of the results of EC-funded research projects, in fisheries and aquaculture, of the 5th and 6th Framework Research Programmes.

'PROFET POLICY' has focused on policy-relevant issues and facilitated the flow of information from European RTD projects to a wide-range of stakeholders, using a dedicated website (www.profetpolicy.info) that provides more than 220 dedicated summaries (Technical Leaflets) of appropriate EU-funded research projects and background policy documents. During the project period, 9 international workshops were organised throughout Europe, providing an important forum for the exchange of views of National and European policy makers and stakeholders. Debate on important sectoral issues and policy themes and how European RTD can or should respond to these has been a focal point in each event.

In wishing to provide overviews on the important issues contained within policy themes, a sequence of policy summaries – including a glossary of Commission terminology – were prepared as introductions to compilations of technical leaflets that were prepared for each workshop. These were made by a range of people expert in the themes identified – ranging across a wide range of different topics and issues. References to original policy documents, communications and regulations have also been included so as to give a clearer picture on how Europe has developed these policies and the actions accompanying these. The authors also described effects and reactions – notably from the professional sector – that have occurred.

The conclusions and recommendations of the workshops demonstrate that, while all appreciated the need to adapt to the requirements of sustainability, the main issues concern the improvement of the understanding of policy – particularly where legislation is effected while one of the main issues highlighted, for both fisheries and aquaculture, is the importance of raising communication levels between the different stakeholders, particularly on identifying RTD priorities in relation to sectoral requirements.

It is hoped that the specific workshop conclusions and recommendations will provide the European Commission with clear recommendations for additional scientific support actions to policy.

Achieving these conclusions and objectives provides an immediate challenge to all concerned but where the role of sectoral Technology Platforms could be a prime contributory factor to furthering the results of PROFET POLICY.

I. Project Partners

PROFET POLICY combined partners who have strong involvement and experience in related areas within European fisheries and aquaculture. These were:

1. The Federation of European Aquaculture Producers (FEAP) – a Federation that groups National Aquaculture Associations in Europe. (Project Coordinator)
2. The European Association of Fisheries Producers Organisation (EAPO) – which groups professional Producer Organisations of the fisheries sector.
3. Eurofish – the International Organisation for the Development of Fisheries in Eastern and Central Europe – which combines its interests between fisheries and aquaculture.
4. The International Council for the Exploration of the Sea (ICES) coordinates and promotes marine research on oceanography, the marine environment, the marine ecosystem, and on living marine resources in the North Atlantic.
5. The European Aquaculture Society (EAS) brings together all those that are interested in the sustainable development of European aquaculture - to develop contacts, share and disseminate information and promote multi-disciplinary research.
6. AquaTT is an international foundation that provides project management and training services to support the sustainable development of Europe's aquatic resources. Its mission is to bridge the knowledge gap between the dynamic R&D environments and the progressive commercial sector.

II. Contact information

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BACKGROUND TO PROFET POLICY

The modernisation of European fisheries and aquaculture-based production systems has become a key element within the sustainable management of Europe's natural resources. For fisheries, this approach is required because some exploited stocks are at historically low levels in European waters. To recover such stocks and to promote sustainable fisheries, the need for improved scientific advice on the medium- and long-term effects of different management tools has been clearly identified. New management methods are needed to identify and resolve deficiencies through the improved understanding of key biological processes and parameters, fleet behaviour and socio-economic implications.

For the aquaculture sector, some aspects of the production process have generated concerns due to interactions with the environment as well as quality and health aspects of consumer products. At the moment, innovative European research continues to develop, the Aquatic Animal Health legislation has been revised, while environmental laws (including the Water Framework Directive) inevitably have direct and indirect effects on European aquaculture, both coastal and inland.

Not only are the fisheries and aquaculture sectors aware that modernisation is needed, but also that society at large is raising important questions that concern the acceptability of the activities of both sectors – for example, over-fishing and discards for fisheries, while production methodologies, waste discharge and fish welfare have become key subjects for aquaculture.

While professional representative organisations and their members regularly discuss such issues, it is not always clear that the details of policy and the mechanisms of decision-making are fully understood by all stakeholders, professional or otherwise. On the other hand, policy-makers need to be fully informed of the effects of policy on the professional sectors addressed as well as up-and-coming issues that may affect the professional sectors and public interest. 'PROFET POLICY' has thus provided a range of opportunities for interested stakeholders to become better informed on European policies that affect their sector, directly or indirectly, while providing the Commission with clear recommendations for scientific support to such policies.

This ambitious goal was made by building a platform for the communication, dissemination and presentation of the results of EU-funded research projects, in fisheries and aquaculture, of the 5th and 6th Framework Research Programmes. This achieved the following objectives:

1. Sourcing and summarising, in simple language, research results in fisheries and aquaculture from the 5th and 6th Framework Programmes, focusing on their relevance to policy, and publishing these as technical leaflets. *More than 220 summary documents were prepared during the project.*
2. Organising and realising dedicated forums for the exchange of views of National and European policy makers and stakeholders, as thematic regional workshops that covered fisheries and aquaculture and incorporated the presentation and dissemination of research results. *9 international workshops were organised within the project.*
3. Improving the flow of information of research results funded by the Fifth and Sixth Framework Programmes to stakeholders, focusing on relevance to policy application and development – *using web-based publication, compendia of appropriate RTD summaries and the workshops.*
4. Identifying research needs to support policy definition within the sectors, and as a support to the Common Fisheries Policy – *given within the conclusions and recommendations of the workshops*

The research demands of fisheries and aquaculture, as separate professional sectors, are different but real. They reflect structural differences in terms of resource use and their socio-economic structure. Since much fisheries research focuses on topics that may lead to control measures, RTD is often seen as a limitation. On the other hand, aquaculture sees research as having the potential to improve productivity and its products, allowing business development.

The project has shown clearly that few stakeholders are fully aware of the realities of European research (how it is planned, how projects are accomplished) and what it is achieving or could achieve and thus feel distanced and a lack of involvement. This could be improved by better communication efforts, accompanied by the need to improve stakeholder access to research results (e.g. translation of Technical Leaflets). On the other hand, stakeholders feel that RTD needs to be assessed for the usefulness of its application(s). A clear desire of stakeholders is to be aware of what projects are under consideration or are starting up, since many indicated a desire to follow, or be involved in, projects from the beginning. This position certainly supports the Cooperation component of the Seventh Framework Programme.

The Thematic Workshops have developed many conclusions and recommendations, often based on regional characteristics-concerns-issues, which have also been communicated to the European Aquaculture Technology and Innovation Platform [EATIP] (see www.eatip.eu), which was created during the project's timeline. This European Technology Platform, created in 2008, is a multi-stakeholder structure that is looking to develop its own Vision for the future of European aquaculture, accompanied by a Strategic Research Agenda. A similar action is planned for European fisheries. Moves are also being taken to examine the possibility of a new European Technology Platform for fisheries, which was discussed in the Profet Policy workshop held in Vigo in November 2008.

In the recent Commission Communication on 'Building a Sustainable Future for Aquaculture', it has been stated that it will create a forum for dialogue between the EATIP, the Commission and Member States' research programme managers to facilitate the programming of research activities at Community and national levels.

This position indicates clearly that the principles and conclusions established within PROFET POLICY, notably on positive dialogue and communication can be taken forward in a constructive and dynamic fashion.

Most of the information generated by 'PROFET POLICY' has been distributed through its website (www.profetpolicy.info) that contains the Technical Leaflets summaries of EC-funded research projects. This format has also been used to update stakeholders on European policy and legislative issues.

MAJOR ACHIEVEMENTS OF PROFET POLICY

I. Major achievements made during the project

The achievements reported are made grouped by reference to the products of Profet Policy, namely the summary information on European research projects and the thematic workshops.

1. Technical Leaflets (TLs) – production and editing

Technical leaflets (TLs) on EC-funded RTD projects on aquaculture had been major components of a previous 'Support' Action (Aquaflow) and the manner in which these were prepared was the subject of considerable reflection during the first year of the project.

Consideration was given to, as examples, which projects should be presented, how to achieve maximum impact, the style of writing, application of results in the field. It was known that translation would not be possible to achieve – so the simplest use of the English language had to be considered.

In addition, it had been foreseen that the TLs would be prepared on a continuous basis, where the choice was enormous, more than 450 funded projects being in the database of the European Commission, identified in the following table.

Table 1: Overview of EU-funded projects in database

Themes	FP5	FP6	Total
Aquaculture	137	74	211
Fisheries	104	64	168
Aquaculture and fisheries	29	12	41
Seafood processing	30	8	38
Total	300	157	458

However, in several cases, such projects also represented funding for the organisation of conferences and workshops, fellowships, grants, and exploratory awards, for which no final reports are available. Technical Leaflets were therefore not produced for these actions.

- 223 Technical leaflets were prepared and, during the project, while 21 existing TLs were updated to include project progress.

a) Design of the Technical Leaflets:

A web and printer-friendly design template was prepared so as to include:

1. The Acronym and Title of the Project in question, including contract number
2. A summary explanation of why the project was achieved
3. A summary of the project's actions
4. Contact details for the Project Coordinator and project web-site reference.
5. Appropriate diagrams or photographs.

All Technical Leaflets are a maximum of 2 pages in length and draft of each Technical Leaflet produced was sent to its project coordinator for approval and comments prior to publication.

b) Selecting Technical Leaflets to prepare

During the review of the design of the Technical Leaflets, it was realized that, from discussions on the organisation of individual workshops with local organisers, these were being 'pushed' towards thematic orientations, based on the regional concerns or issues. In order to obtain maximum impact, it was decided that the TLs gave the clear possibility of demonstrating how EU RTD had responded to these issues.

To improve the impact and dissemination aspects of the TLs, project selections were made on a subject basis for printing in book form.

It was also realized that an explanation on policies, issues and legislation had to be prepared for each of these; as an example, the chapter on Ecosystem management (within the North Sea Fisheries Workshop) contained 10 TLs, several being specific to the North Sea while others were more general.

This principle was applied to all compilations published. In most cases, these reviews were prepared and written by personnel of the project partner organizations.

All of these 'introductions' were original documents that were not originally planned for within the project. Nonetheless, these provided important explanatory overview positions for each compilation. These background documents are also available on the PROFET POLICY website.

A Glossary of Terms used in European legislation and Policies was also developed to enable understanding of how policy and legislation is generated by the European bodies.

While one must be careful in the interpretation of web reporting data (since the Technical Leaflets were uploaded at different times), one can note that the most popular TLs have had more than 500 downloads from the PROFET POLICY website. Since the duplication of the library facility within the EATIP website (www.eatip.eu), such Leaflets have had additional exposure.

The use of web search engines for specific subjects (covered by Technical leaflets and presentations) invariably links to PROFET POLICY, demonstrating the success of this particular website and its role in the project.

c) Compilations for Thematic Workshops

9 hard copy compilations, thematic for each workshop - containing policy documents and selected technical leaflets - were prepared, one for each workshop, providing the project with an excellent dissemination product. More than 700 copies of these compilations were distributed to workshop participants while additional copies have been distributed to different stakeholders in fisheries and aquaculture conferences and meetings and upon request. More than 1000 copies have been distributed.

d) Design and Implementation of the Website

The Profet Policy website needed a range of easy-to-manage facilities, relating to:

- Uploading multiple document formats
- Communicating on the Workshops
- Organising registration/bookings for workshops
- Search engine (within PDF Files) and Library facilities

While the outline structure of the site was designed externally, its maintenance, refining and operation were made by the FEAP Secretariat.

Since it was necessary to respect the IP of different presentations made within the workshops (requested by some participants), most of the presentations were converted into a special format which does not allow downloading/copying. All presentations can be accessed through the programme/agenda of each workshop.

Consequently, the PROFET POLICY Website actually contains ALL of the materials developed during the project; from Policy documents to Technical Leaflets, workshop programmes, presentations and conclusions.

Formal and informal comments have complimented the project on the quality of the information available on the PROFET POLICY website and the usefulness of many of the documents and presentations contained therein.

It has been agreed that the website will continue to be maintained – even updated with new information – for a minimum of 5 years following the end of the project.

2. Organisation of Workshop Structure & Content

9 regional workshops were organised within the project period, concentrated in the last 18 months of the project, following the development of the support materials required.

These were held at the following locations, including themes, dates and the number of participants:

Nr.	Location	Country	Theme	Date
1	Bergen	Norway	Coldwater Marine Aquaculture 'RTD requirements for coldwater marine aquaculture' <i>65 participants – 7 countries</i>	15 & 16 March 2007
2	Vilnius	Lithuania	Baltic Sea Fisheries <i>72 participants – 13 countries</i>	19 & 20 April 2007
3	Dublin	Ireland	Atlantic fisheries 'Technical Conservation Measures' <i>119 participants – 7 countries</i>	13 & 14 September 2007
4	Athens	Greece	Mediterranean Marine Aquaculture 'What future for Mediterranean Aquaculture?' <i>159 participants – 9 countries</i>	22 & 23 November 2007
5	Warsaw	Poland	Continental Freshwater Aquaculture 'Governance in Continental Freshwater Aquaculture' <i>45 participants – 11 countries</i>	13 & 14 December 2007
6	Marseille	France	Mediterranean Fisheries <i>30 participants – 7 countries</i>	12 & 13 June 2008
7	Copenhagen	Denmark	North Sea Fisheries 'Advancing Fisheries Management' <i>55 participants – 14 countries</i>	23 & 24 June 2008
8	Treviso	Italy	Southern Freshwater Aquaculture 'Quality Assurance in Freshwater Aquaculture' <i>70 participants – 11 countries</i>	16 & 17 October 2008
9	Vigo	Spain	Atlantic Fisheries, Marine cage & shellfish culture 'Integrating Fisheries and Aquaculture with Marine Environment Protection' <i>63 participants – 10 countries</i>	20 & 21 November 2008

- Note: Nearly 700 people attended the Profet Policy Workshops, each workshop attracting representatives from an average of 10 European countries. This level of attendance was considered very satisfactory for such workshops – which were not intended to be conferences but more for events allowing focused debate on important sectoral issues by experienced stakeholders.

For each workshop, the thematic content was discussed with the local organisers and the Profet Policy Consortium. To establish and maintain interest, topics/issues of interest and concern to the local professional aquaculture or fisheries sector were identified and highlighted.

A common format was adopted for each workshop, looking to achieve the workshop within a 1.5-2 day schedule although, in most cases, discussion continued beyond the final deadlines.

It was deemed essential to examine the following issues:

- Regional development and the role of European research
- Policy and Regulatory framework affecting the sector
- RTD achievements/needs related to European policies and sustainable development
- Support (available/required) for development
- Future needs and actions (debate)

Establishing an appropriate balance of speakers was required in each case – mixing professional representatives (on issues/concerns), scientists (RTD actions made in response), Commission representatives (where available) and national/local politicians concerned by fisheries and/or aquaculture. Local organisers established contacts at their level, particularly with national/local politicians and used their own networks to identify appropriate speakers.

This also required that one could match sectoral issues to EC RTD project subjects and agree with project coordinators on who could make an appropriate presentation that was in line with the themes/issues of the workshop in question.

The basic outline of the workshops was the following:

1. Introductory session
 - Welcome by Workshop Chairman (Local) and, in most cases, a local politician responsible for the sector covered by the workshop
 - Background to Profet Policy (usually the Project coordinator)
 - Background to European Policies affecting the sector – adaptable to key theme of workshop – often by European Commission representative
 - Professional sector views on such Policies and how they affect the sector
2. Explanation on the Policy Frameworks and the relation of research to their application
3. Identification of RTD needs in relation to the application of European policies
 - Mainly views from the profession and related NGOs
4. RTD needs and sustainable development
 - Including project presentations and discussion
5. Support for development
 - Including project presentations and discussion
6. Future needs and support
 - Including workshop summary
 - FP7 mechanisms for support

Once the programme was complete, the FEAP Secretariat prepared advance documentation for circulation to all project partners who, in turn, communicated these through their individual networks for promotion.

- For each workshop, press releases were made providing advance information on the workshop content and programme and published in different international and local media

Local organisers were responsible for contacting local personalities for the opening session of each workshop. In each case, this was assured without any difficulty.

Registration and booking was organised through the Profet Policy website, surveyed by the FEAP Secretariat in close contact with the local organisers.

3. Budgets and Financing the Workshops

Outline budgets and expense forecasts were prepared by the FEAP secretariat in coordination with the local organisers. Overall, a start budget of €25,000 was allocated, its division or modification being determined as the organisation developed.

Allocations were made for preparatory work by the local organisers. Nonetheless, as the project evolved, on several occasions, the FEAP Secretariat took up many of the organisational support tasks (coordinating speakers, coordinating registration & hotel bookings...) due to the experience acquired during the project timeline.

The project provided advanced financing to the local organisers to cover local organisational costs (e.g. room hire). Local organisers were encouraged to look for sponsorship to cover items such as dinners, translation etc.

Inevitably, close hand-in-hand coordination was necessary for:

- Location of workshop & hotels
- Organisation of coffee-breaks/lunches
- Workshop facilities (AV equipment, computers...)
- Collecting speaker CVs, abstracts for Programmes
- Printing/photocopying

All in all, excellent cooperation was achieved for all workshops and very few mishaps in the execution of the organisation occurred.

4. Conclusions on the realisation of the Thematic Workshops

Given the thematic nature of the workshops, it was surprising to discover that – in many cases – the professionals were more aware and knowledgeable of the legislation affecting their activity but much less on the policies guiding these.

In general terms, very few scientists are knowledgeable either of legislation or of broad policy issues, tending to be concerned with specific topics within these. While fisheries scientists were more aware of the Common Fisheries Policy, their interests tended towards specific components – such as stock measurement & control procedures – rather than the policy as a whole. Most aquaculture scientists were unaware of the Communication of the Commission on 'A Strategy for the Sustainable Development of European Aquaculture'.

It was thus essential to have appropriate Commission representatives (who are the best informed on European policies) to explain background and details in order to avoid potential misunderstandings, particularly on issues where the industrial sector feels aggrieved by the impact of legislation. The impact of this approach was considerable and the contribution of the Commission officials to achieving this should be recognised.

Consequently, from the nature of the debates and from personal and formal communications, one can conclude that the realisation of the workshops – combined with the hard-copy products and the website information – has provided a specific opportunity to raise the profile of European policies on fisheries and aquaculture with a broad range of stakeholders.

On the other hand, the provision of the hard-copy TL compilations that contained detailed policy background information also highlighted how European RTD has responded to specific issues within identifiable thematic areas (e.g. data collection, disease control, food quality, genomics...).

5. Opportunities for achieving RTD in Europe

Representatives of the European Commission were invited to each workshop, where focus was given to the opportunities available to aquaculture and fisheries interests within the 7th Framework programme, by highlighting specific calls or opportunities within, for example, the Cooperation programme (projects involving industry with RTD institutes/universities). These presentations were highly appreciated.

Within the agendas of the workshops, scientists or industrial partners of such cooperative (collective) projects were invited to make presentations on the achievements/advantages of such work. It is known that several new proposals have been developed from the opportunities for discussion/debate accorded within the PROFET POLICY project workshops.

There are 2 main conclusions from these observations:

1. The presence of Commission officials who were aware of the up-to-date RTD funding opportunities and who can explain how the Framework programme functions was of very high benefit to all stakeholders present.
2. The occasion provided by the workshops to allow industry to discuss their technical or policy concerns with scientists allowed the initiation of the project 'procedure', identifying new opportunities for formulating RTD initiatives.

6. Aquaculture & Fisheries and Technology Platforms

An interesting sequence of events accompanied the realisation of the PROFET POLICY workshops, starting in the first aquaculture workshop in Bergen, which preceded the first stakeholders meeting (held in March 2007) concerning the potential for the creation of a European Aquaculture Technology Platform. A brief presentation was made on this topic at this workshop.

As the concept of the potential for this platform was refined (separately to the project), this was presented and debated in each of the aquaculture workshops held; this position contributed to a high level of awareness of the potential for this with all of the stakeholders present (scientists, representative organisations, producers, policy-makers...) in these workshops.

At the final workshop (Vigo), which combined both fisheries and aquaculture interests, one session was devoted to Technology Platforms (regional, national and European) with a report on the creation of the European Aquaculture Technology and Innovation Platform (EATIP).

Following this workshop, measures were initiated to investigate the creation of a European Fisheries Technology Platform.

Consequently, one can conclude that the realisation of the PROFET POLICY Workshops also provided a dynamic impetus for the consideration of creating sectoral European Technology Platforms for aquaculture (achieved) and fisheries (under discussion). The scope of these initiatives provides, in fact, an extension of the PROFET POLICY concept – looking to bring a wide range of stakeholders together to promote and realise research for the sustainable development of their sector.

7. Production of Proceedings, Reports & Recommendations

The presentations of all of the workshops are available on the public project website, completed – in each case – by the following documents:

- The programme and presentations (through links)
- The list of attendance
- The technical leaflets contained in the compilation

Summaries and recommendations have been written for each workshop and published in the public project website.

PLAN FOR USING AND DISSEMINATING THE KNOWLEDGE

A separate Plan for the Use and Dissemination of Knowledge has been prepared. This section summarises the current position.

I. Exploitable knowledge and its use

PROFET POLICY is intrinsically based on the dissemination of knowledge and the provision of forums for the exchange of information. No exploitable knowledge (Intellectual Property) requiring protection has been produced.

The original nature of many of the project's 'products' could be seen as being appropriate for copyright but the consortium decided that none of these would be kept in the private domain nor for application for protection.

II. Dissemination of knowledge

As explained in the previous section, PROFET POLICY has been based significantly on the dissemination of knowledge generated by European Research, through the Technical Leaflets prepared during the project and the 9 transnational workshops.

The key target audience was the professional and service sectors within European aquaculture and fisheries. The second target audience were the policy makers and public authorities. Thirdly, scientists working in related areas also require knowledge of project results. Finally, transparent public knowledge supply has been addressed.

The project has made use of modern technology to assure that all communication efforts required by the project, the Consortium and the different target audiences were made available to the communication channels that are used most by each target group.

The main tool for delivery of information to stakeholders has been through the project web-site (www.profetpolicy.info) that contains the following items

1. the Technical leaflets and
2. the relevant documents on policies affecting the sectors
3. details on the workshops – including presentations and conclusions

The Website has been a very important component of the project – managed by the FEAP Secretariat - which assured the development of web-based information, being updated by FEAP staff with input from consortium members and project participants.

Aquamedia (www.aquamedia.org) and the sites of all project partners provided key links to the site, providing core entry points with more than 3000 daily visits, acting as relay points so as to assure continuing public and professional access.

By using these professional and well-established information channels, the efficient communication of information and results has been ensured, to both professional and public interests.

The PROFET POLICY website now contains a large amount of information and content that has been developed within the project. So as to maintain continued dissemination and to increase the opportunities for giving added-value to the European research efforts, skills and competence, it has been agreed to maintain the original website itself for a further 5 years and to update it with information on European policies where appropriate. The provision of further RTD information will be assessed by the project's partners as a function of future work and/or projects.

The Workshops have themselves developed accompanying knowledge and opinions based on the presentations and discussions of key policy issues concerning the development of fisheries and aquaculture.

Each workshop had two accompanying documents:

- the compilation of abstracts
- TLs compilation containing policy background documents and technical leaflets

The presentations of the workshop were converted into an editable FLASH format, for web dissemination to maintain personal, corporate or institutional IR. All web dissemination is public while the Consortium uses its different networks for making people in the fisheries and aquaculture sector aware of the information distributed on the website.

The site is now well known by aquaculture stakeholders and its contents will be maintained and updated where possible.

The conclusions made available from the series of workshops have been presented to:

- The Advisory Committee on Fisheries and Aquaculture of the European Commission
- Meetings of the individual organisations of the Consortium
- The Specialised Press (Fisheries and Aquaculture Journals)

It is intended to provide further information, following completion of the project, to international Conferences on Fisheries and Aquaculture, notably Aquaculture Europe 2009 (August 2009).

Details have also been provided to

- The Committee on Fisheries and the sub-Committee on Aquaculture of the FAO
- The European Inland Fisheries Advisory Commission (FAO)
- The General Fisheries Council of the Mediterranean (FAO)

As foreseen in the second annual report, a final summary workshop was organised in Brussels in January 2009 to present the conclusions to the Commission services and to debate the results and conclusions of the project.

The final product of the project – a report summarising the results of the workshops, the presentations, the conclusions and recommendations will be distributed to stakeholders and interested parties (including all workshop participants). It was decided within the Project Consortium and through discussion with the Commission representatives not to proceed with the preparation of an interactive CD for distribution since the impact of this remains doubtful (too many 'free' CDs are not viewed).

It was preferred to prepare a downloadable version (from the website(s)) to those who wish to view these.

The final document should act as a significant reference document for both aquaculture and fisheries research but also provide guidelines on the conclusions of the effectiveness of this research and the direction desired by the profession and other stakeholders.

To complete these actions, the creation of the European Aquaculture Technology and Innovation Platform in late 2008 has provided a valuable continuation of this project's objectives. In agreement with the Board of EATIP, all of the technical leaflets/policy documents on aquaculture have been transferred into the website of the EATIP, providing an additional portal for the communication and dissemination efforts developed within Profet Policy.

Since this was achieved, some of the most 'popular' Technical leaflets have had in excess of 250 downloads (since January 2009).