

Project OrAqua Deliverable Report 1.4

Purpose: Define the structure and possible funding of a multistakeholder platform that could continue to be active after the end of the Oraqua project

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The **OrAqua** project was strongly interacting with the society, in order to produce an as widely accepted basis for new organic EU regulations as possible. At the beginning of the project, a first list of possible platform stakeholders and of possible project output end users was established (Deliverable 1.1, delivered by January 31 2014). In order to foster and organize the interactions, two lists of stakeholders were finally established:

1. A wide list of stakeholders, who receive the project information and are asked to send feedbacks to the Oraqua project team (Annex 1),
2. A restricted list of stakeholders, who contributed to the three platform meetings that were organized during the project (Annexes 2, 3 and 4). These stakeholders have access to the project documents through logging into the restricted zone of the project website using a password.

The discussion about the platform current activities and future were organized during each of the three platform meetings. The final discussion took place during the third and last multi-stakeholder meeting in Venice and was based on a PPT presentation (Annex 5). The result of the exchanges, organized around two key questions is summarized below.

Is a multi-stakeholder platform the right tool to exchange about organic aquaculture regulation?

The selected group of stakeholders included representatives from Administrations, Producers, Engineering companies, Retailers, Control Bodies, NGOs and Research. The discussions allowed moving towards a common understanding on Organic, which is by far not obvious given the diversity of the stakeholders views. The information collected during the meetings, and the feedbacks from the stakeholders collected in between, allowed getting a global vision on the diversity of the opinions of the stakeholders concerning the organic regulations.

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It was underlined that, keeping the dialog open between stakeholders from different countries and cultures, is absolutely necessary to harmonise different points of view in order to identify relevant solutions to foster the organic sector in Europe: Keeping talking allows to understand the differences and priorities per country and user group. This is the condition to be able identifying clear common goals, in order to make the necessary compromises that will be translated later on into regulation. This can be achieved only through a very well defined and organized structure as the multi-stakeholder platform.

In conclusion, all the stakeholders assessed the global platform organization and composition as very valuable. All of them, without exception, wish to keep this kind of platform organization active after the end of the project.

Some of the stakeholders wish also to have the opportunity of reviewing the final set of recommendations that will be produced at the end of the project. This is possible if the platform find the way for keeping active after the end of the project.

How to keep the platform active after the end of ORAQUA?

To continue its activity after the end of Oraqua, the platform needs either to find a regular autonomous budget or to be adopted by / become a tool for a financed existing entity. The first alternative is not realistic, at least at this moment where the organic market is still very small (only 1 to 2 % of the aquaculture productions).

➤ Current possibilities and ongoing discussions:

During the Oraqua project, links were created with some existing relevant platform and entities. One of them is the European Aquaculture Technology and innovation Platform (EATiP), coordinated by the federation of European Aquaculture Producers (FEAP), which is a partner of Oraqua. The Oraqua project was presented and discussed during all the Annual general meetings of EATiP. EATiP held its 2016 annual assembly on the 6th of June. After presentation of the last findings of the ORAQUA project, a following discussion on the future of the platform took place. The final suggestion was that the ORAQUA SH group should be hosted into an entity specialized on organics. At the EU level, one of them is TP ORGANICs, which main goal is to leverage contribution of the organic sector to sustainable farming and food production (all types of agronomic productions). TP Organics is one the 40 European Technology Platforms (ETP) officially recognized by the European Commission. To achieve its goal, TP Organics actively engages the whole food supply chain from farmers to consumers. It unites large companies, small & medium enterprises, researchers, farmers, consumers and civil society organizations that are active in the organic value chain from production, input & supply, to food

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processing, marketing and consumption. The TPorganics platform identifies the research needs of the organic sector and agro-ecological or low-input farmers and then relays research priorities to the policy-makers. It also informs its members about funding opportunities for research & innovation and promotes knowledge exchange between farmers, companies and researchers. TP Organics had the opportunity of giving a presentation on its activities during the project general assembly last year in Rotterdam. To continue on the Oraqua activities, a specific WG on aquaculture could be created inside TP Organics, as no entity dedicated to aquaculture exists yet in this Platform. Of course, tight link with EATiP will have to keep active and this aquaculture sub-platform could act as a specialized EATiP platform.

The International Federation of Organic Agriculture Movements (IFOAM - Organics International) has an important position as the main international umbrella organization of the organic world. It unites a large diversity of stakeholders, contributing to the organic vision. It is also a key actor in the field of organic food. From the beginning of the project, strong links were created with IFOAM and the first Oraqua platform meeting, which took place in Istanbul in 2014, was organized back to back with the IFOAM congress. IFOAM forum and the future platform want to collaborate. In order to avoid duplication of activities, the Links with IFOAM should be as tight as with TP organics, which is more focusing on Research needs.

The Advisory Aquaculture Council (AAC), which deals with finfish and mollusks was created and approved in December 2015. It will be start its operational activity in September 2016. An extensive dialogue is needed with this new entity in order to invoke the organic point of view.

➤ Necessary means for activity continuation:

Funding issues were also raised and it appeared that a COST ACTION (Coordinated action) could be a convenient support to start the activities of the organic platform under its new umbrella. TP ORGANICS could apply for a Horizon 2020 project. One of our recommendations was that physical meetings should be privileged as far as possible, at least at the initial stage. It took a lot of effort to gather the Oraqua platform together and develop its activities and the existing platform was assessed as very valuable, even though some countries are not represented (which should be corrected in the future if needed). This large initial investment (time, energy and money) should be valorized through a less costly development of the activities in the current context of the fast increase of the demand on organic products. In any case, synergies with other funded entities should always be looked for, in order to optimize the financial means use and minimize the needs. In that direction, the Advisory aquaculture council (AAC) is a connection point between the various stakeholders in EU aquaculture. It is therefore interesting to discuss with AAC as they are also a source of advices for the EU regulatory recommendations.

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➤ Possible priority actions of the platform under the new umbrella:

- One key problem which was underlined in the Oraqua findings is the very poor basic knowledge of the public about organic products in general and organic aquaculture products in particular. Very few stakeholders recognize the current EU organic label (the leaf) and for most of them, it is not clear at all what differentiates an organic aquaculture product from a wild one. A public consultation is relevant, provided that the public awareness is sufficient, which is not the case for the large majority. The first priority action should probably be a wide information activity, in prolongation of the dissemination activity undertaken during Oraqua. This will be the key for a broad understanding of what 'Organic' means, enabling to approach the consumers properly.

One suggestion was to make videos of 'conventional productions' and 'organic productions' around Europe, in order to show the differences and to promote the organic business.

- The current regulations will never be satisfying and they will have to be adapted following the evolution of the global context and the demand of the consumers. In addition, the harmonization of the common understanding of the so called «organic principles» among the different countries / groups of countries is absolutely necessary. For instance, how could a «world consumer» understand that a fish produced in recirculation system may be organic in the US or in Switzerland, but absolutely not in the EU, due to a non homogeneous understanding of the organic principles?

Continuing the work of improvement of the current regulation taking into account the evolutions of the sector and of the 'organic' concepts is also an important task in a near future for the new platform, in order to improve the recognition and efficiency of the sector.

Conclusion and recommendations

Given the current situation and organization of the organic sector, the Oraqua platform could become a specific thematic platform on aquaculture created inside TP Organics, as no entity dedicated to aquaculture exists yet in the TP Organics Platform. This thematic platform should maintain tight links with EATiP, for which it could even act as a sub-platform specialized in organic aquaculture. In order to avoid duplication of activities, the Links with IFOAM should be as tight as with TP Organics, as it is a key actor in the field of organic food. This organic



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thematic platform, under the TP Organics - IFOAM – EATiP umbrellas should also initiate interactions with the Advisory Aquaculture Council (AAC), which provides also advices for the EU regulatory recommendations.

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ANNEX 1: First dissemination list

Industry (feed, breeding, technology)	Characterization
MAREDOC (frontignan) cyrielle.brault@maredoc.com	Molluscs French company
RAS: Turbot producer:Seafarm BV, Adri Bout, (adri@seafarm.nl)	Fish Dutch company
The Danish Aquaculture Organisation, Denmark (Villy Juul Larsen)	Fish Denmark
Hjarnoe havbrug (Anders Pedersen, hjarno@havbrug.dk). http://www.havbrug.dk/da/hvem-er-vi/	Fish mussels and seaweed purification
Rauma Group, Norway (Jan Vidar Olsen)	
Provence Aquaculture, France (Fanny Stabholz) : (contact@provaqua.com)	Fish French company
Les poissons du Soleil, France	Fish French company
Marine Harvest Ireland (Catherine McManus)	Fish UK Company
Associazione Piscicoltori Italiana (Italian Aquaculture Organization), Italy (Pier Antonio Salvador)	Fish Italy
Raanan Fish Feed, Israel (Ran Berzak)	Fish Israël
Culmarex S.A.U, Spain (Marilo Lopez)	Fish Spain
Kefalonia fisheries Greece (Lara Barazi)	Fish Greece
Nederlandse Vereniging voor Viskwekers, Pim Wilhelm, (info@nevevi.nl) Stichting DUPAN: Sustainable Eel Sector Netherlands, Alex Koelewijn	Fish Dutch company
Federation of European Aquaculture Producers (Courtney Hough)	EU producers
European Aquaculture Society (Alistair Lane)	EU producers
CIPA (Marine Levadoux) (mlevadoux@cipaquaculture.asso.fr)	French producers
Rauma Broodfish, Norway (Jan Vidar Olsen)	
Akvafarm (Geir Svendsen) akvafarm@brkarlsen.no	Salmon Smolts
Biomar, Denmark (Ole Christensen)	Feed producer
Le Gouessant, France Yann Marchand : (yann.marchand@legouessant.fr) Pierre Fortin: (pierre.fortin@legouessant.fr)	Feed producer
Aller Aqua, Denmark (Karina Raaberg Gade, Mette Rindum Nørrelykke)	
Oikos - Organization of Norwegian Organic Producers (Regine Andersen)	Norwegian organic producers
CEVA , France (Marc Danjon)	Algae French company
Greensea – Phytoplankton production in the Mediterranean, France (Eric Causse)	Algae French company
ALGEA (N - IT) (Hege.Gjerde@algea.com)	Seaweed producer Norway
Hortimare, Job Schipper, (job.schipper@hortimare.com)	Seaweed Dutch company
Biofisch (AT) (Marc Møssmer) (marc.moessmer@biofisch.at)	Carp

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Les parcs Saint Kerber, Cancale, France (S. Alleaume)	Oyster French company
C.N.C Comité National Conchylicole	Oyster France
European shellfish Producers organisation, Bruno Guillaumie	Shellfish EU
Dutch Producers organisation mussels (POM), Paula.huissen@pomossel.nl	Mussel NL
CRCM Comité Regional Conchylicole de Méditerranée (Philippe ORTIN président, Denis Regler directeur)	Oyster and mussel French Med.
Medithau, Mediterranean, France (Jean Marc Thibault)	Oyster and mussel French company
Czech Fish Farmers Association, Michal Kratochvil (kratochvil@cz-ryby.cz)	Fish Czech. Rep.
Hungarian Aquaculture Association (varadil@akvapark.hu ; bekefi.emese@haki.hu)	Fish Hungary
Polish Fisheries Association (biuro@ptryb.pl)	Fish Polish representative
EWOS (UK)	Feed producer
Skretting (UK)	Feed producer
SEAREN, France (Emmanuel Briquet) (e.searen@gmail.com)	Aquaculture services
Dutch Fish Farmers Association Nevev Eisenhowerlaan 662625GK Delft (W. Wilhelm info@nevevi.nl)	Fish NL
Assoittica Italia (Palma Giuseppe) - www.assoittica.it	Fishery Italy
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Finpesca s.r.l. info@finpesca.it (Ambrosi Adele)	Food - Italy
Leporemare s.r.l info@leporemare.com (Luigi Errico)	Food - Italy
Associazione Mediterranea Acquacoltori – AMA (Prioli Giuseppe) info@a-m-a.it	Mollusc - Italy
Skretting Nutreco Company Italia (Umberto Luzzana) www.skretting.it	Feed producers
Naturalleva (Dott. Brambilla)	Feed producers
FriulTrota (Dott. Brisinello Walter)	Farm/processing
Agroittica Lombarda (Mario Pazzaglia)	Sturgeon/Caviar
AcquaAzzurra (Fortino Gianluca, Puglisi, Barbera)	Farm/Hatchery
Valle Cà Zuliani (Martini Oliver)	Valliculture/Hatchery
Aldo Reho	Seabream/bass Meagre Farm
Marco Fuselli	Trout farm Farm/processing
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CSQA Certificazioni (csqa@csqa.it)	Certification body
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Wild Oats Natural foods (UK) : Tel. : +44 117 973 1967 Mike Abrahams. (enquiries@wild-oats.co.uk)	
Frishe Paradies (D) : Tel. :+49 (0) 69 351 0260 Susanne Postler : (spostler@frischeparadies.de)	
Danforel (Erik Hansen)	Fish processing
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Auchan, Pomona, Biocoop, Mater, Relais verts	
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Eataly (Nando Fiorentini)	Retailer chain
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NGOs	
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North Sea Foundation, The Netherlands (Margreet van Vilsteren)	
Friend of the sea, Italy	
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ANNEX 2: List of participants to the first multi-stakeholder platform

First Stakeholder Event - Istanbul 11th – 12th October 2014

Participant list

Name	Surname	Company/Institution	E-mail address	Country
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ANNEX 3: List of participants to the second multi-stakeholder platform

Second Stakeholder Event - Rotterdam 19th – 20th October 2015

Participant list

Name	Surname	Company/Institution	E-mail address	Country
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ANNEX 4: List of participants to the third multi-stakeholder platform

Third Stakeholder Event - Venice 21th – 23th June 2016

Participant list

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ANNEX 5: Introductory presentation to the discussion about the platform continuation after the last Oraqua platform meeting



What after the end of the OrAqua project ?

www.oraqua.eu



The main outputs of the OrAqua project

- **A set of recommendations for a new EU regulation**
→ delivered to the commission
- **An up-to-date bibliographic database and a review document on scientific basis for an organic regulation**
→ stored in an Ifremer sharepoint...
- **A multi-stakeholder platform**
→ ???





What future for the OrAqua platform after the end of the project?

After a 3 years collective work, the stakeholders of the platform reached a **common understanding** of the organic aquaculture problematics

The current / future regulation has to be **continuously improved / updated:**

- evolution of **consumer expectations**
- necessary **evolution** of the **sector** (water reuse, biosecurity...)
- addition of new indicators (social ?) and respective weight of each of the indicators...



What future for the OrAqua platform at the end of the project?

The current **consumer awareness** of organic aquaculture is very poor → an easily understandable information needs to be organized and widely distributed

Why  OR  OR  ???

Should we - and how could we - imagine to **keep an active platform** on organic aquaculture after the end of the project?

What links/interactions with existing platforms (TPOrganics)?

What priority activity for that platform???



European Organic Aquaculture - Science-based recommendations for further development of the EU regulatory framework and to underpin future growth in the sector



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Thank you for your attention!

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