

# European Organic Aquaculture

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

Coordination and support action

2014-2016

Ingrid Olesen (Project Coordinator)



# Overall vision

Economic growth of the organic aquaculture sector  
in Europe,  
supported by science based regulations  
in line with the  
organic principles and consumer confidence



# OrAqua will

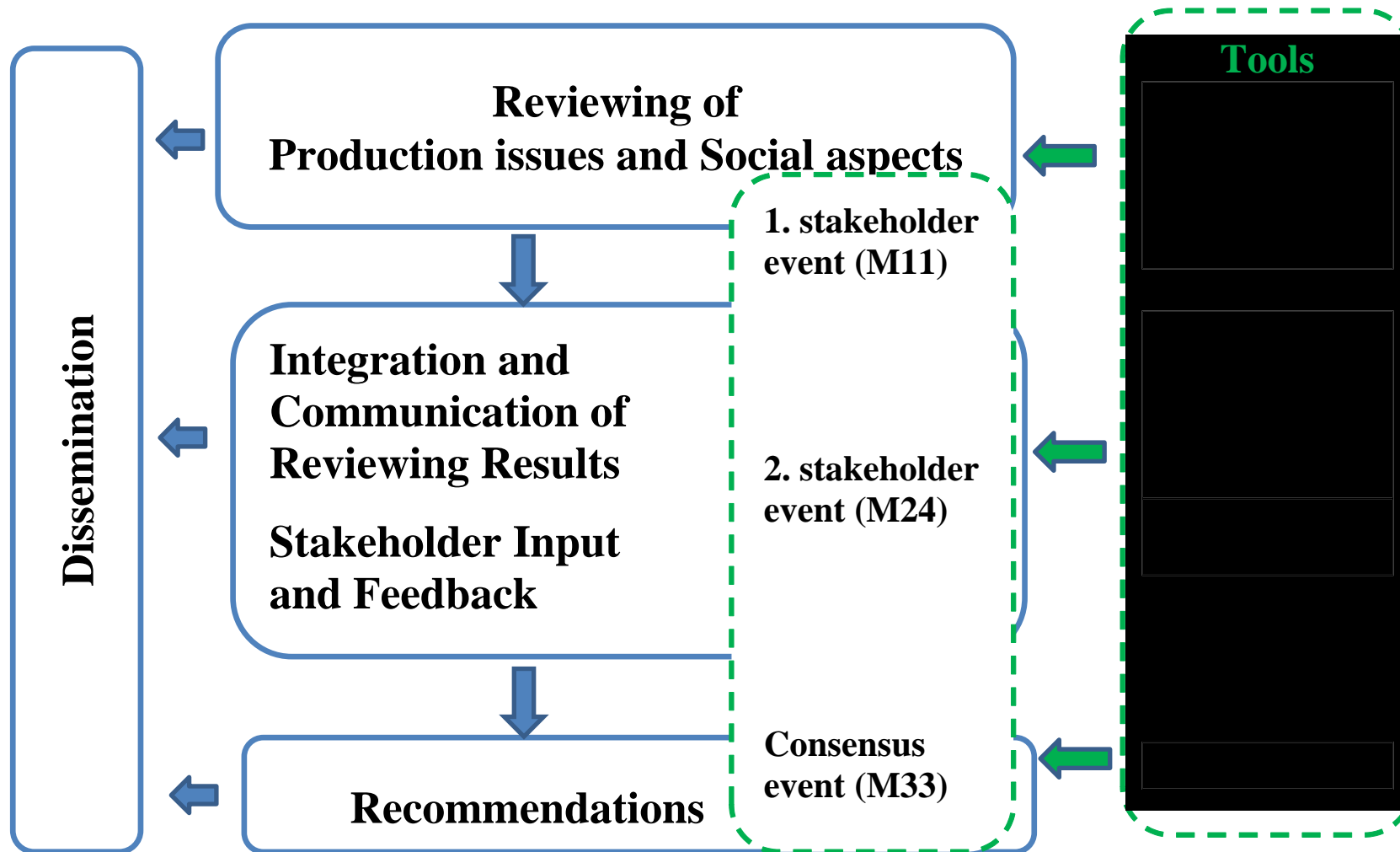
- suggest improvements for the current EU regulatory framework for organic aquaculture based on
  - ✓ a review of the relevant available scientific knowledge on organic aquaculture production, economics and consumer perceptions of organic aquaculture
- focus on aquaculture production of relevant European species of finfish, molluscs, crustaceans and seaweed

# Partners

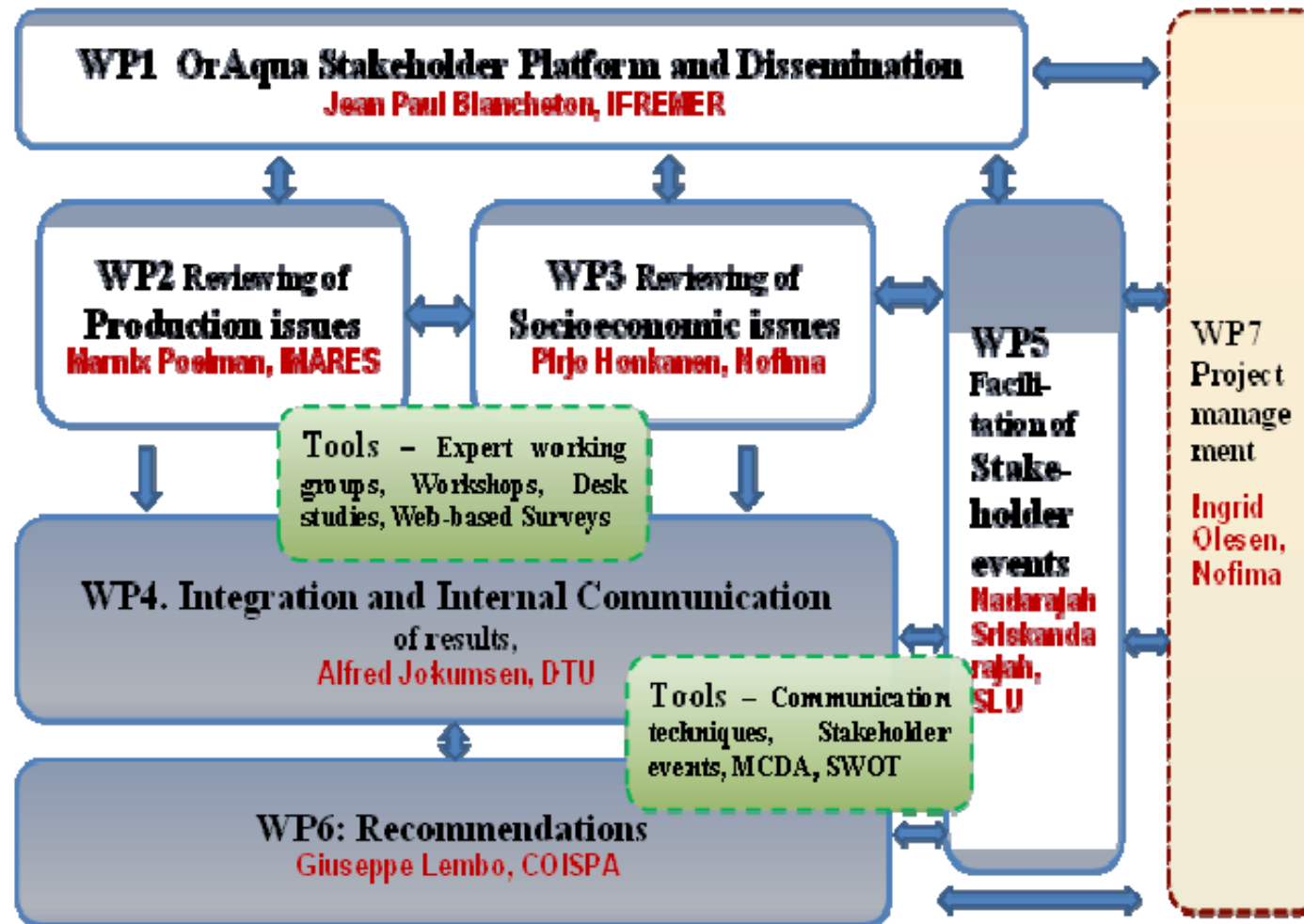
1. Nofima
2. COISPA Tecnologia & Ricerca, Italy
3. DTU – Technical University of Denmark, Denmark
4. Ifremer – French Research Institute for Exploitation of the Sea, France
5. USB – University of South Bohemia in Ceské Budejovice, Czech Republik
6. SLU – Swedish University of Agricultural Sciences, Sweden
7. DLO – Stichting Dienst Landbouwkundig Onderzoek, Netherlands
8. Debio Association, Norway
9. ICEA – Istituto per la Certificazione Etica ed Ambientale, Italy
10. ICROFS – International Centre for Research in Organic Food Systems, Denmark
11. FEAP – Federation of European Aquaculture Producers, France
12. IZSve – Istituto Zooprofilattico Sperimentale delle Venezie, Italy
13. Culmarex SA, Spain



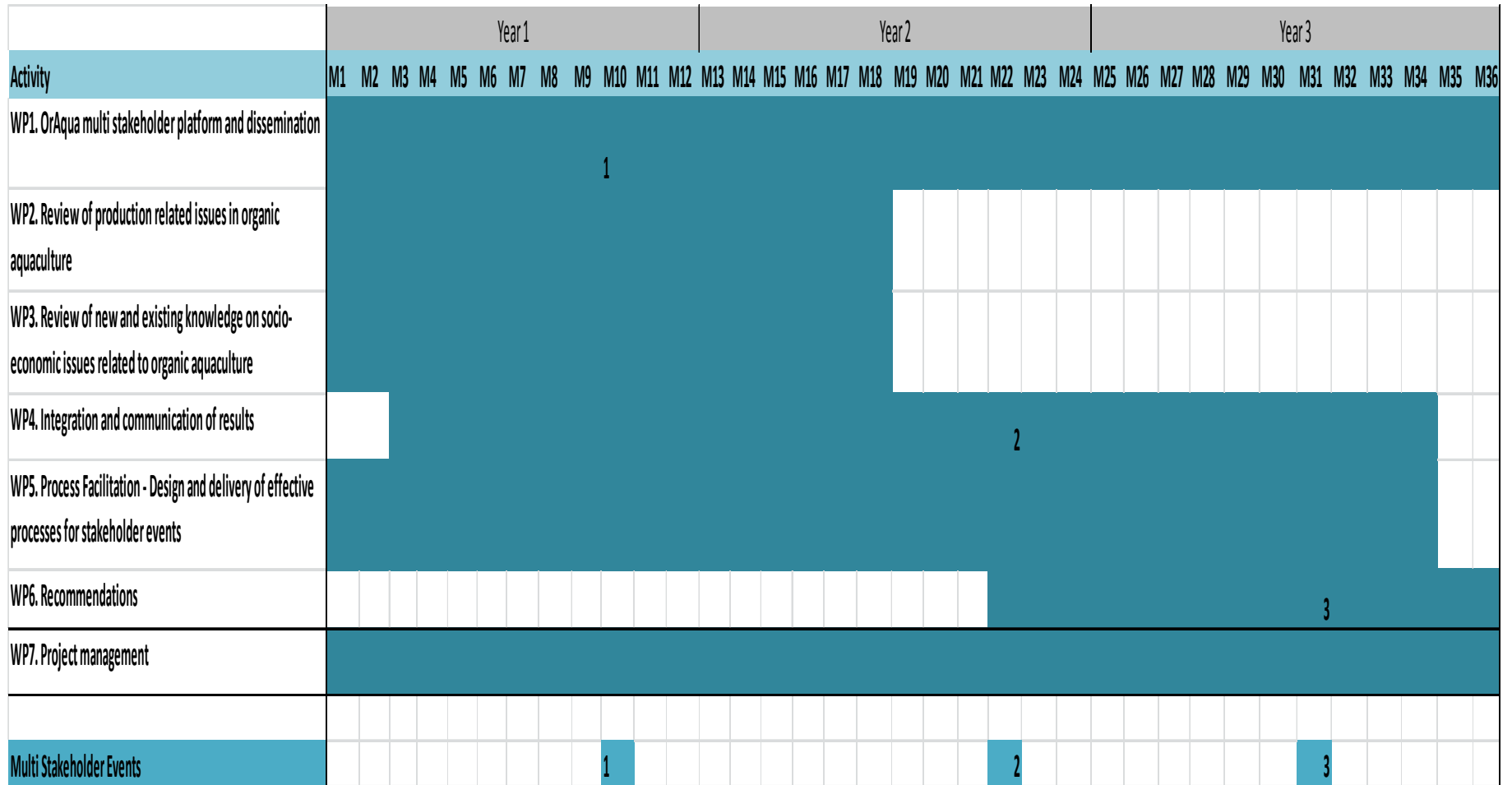
# Structure of work, mechanisms (green) and knowledge flow (blue) in OrAqua



# Organisation of work packages



## Gantt chart showing timing of activities



# WP1 OrAqua multi stakeholder platform and dissemination - Overall aims

(1) To coordinate and facilitate the consultation  
with relevant stakeholders

- planning of the 3 stakeholder meetings,
- to collect and analyse the stakeholder feedbacks
- to validate the project results

(2) To disseminate the project results towards

- aquaculture industry,
- policy makers,
- consumers,
- NGOs

through the OrAqua website and printed documents



# Multi-stakeholder platform

Follow OrAqua at [www.oraqua.eu](http://www.oraqua.eu)

The screenshot shows the OrAqua website homepage. At the top, there is a navigation bar with links for 'Site map', 'Search', and 'Web guide'. The main header features the 'OrAqua Organic Aquaculture' logo and a secondary 'OrAqua' logo. Below the header, there are three main navigation tabs: 'About OrAqua ...', 'WP OrAqua organisation', and 'Dissemination and platform participant lists'. The left sidebar contains a 'Contact' section with the following details: Contact: Jean-Paul Blancheton - Ifremer (WP1 OrAqua Stakeholder: Platform and Dissemination); Address: Palavas - Chemin de Maguelone, 34250 Palavas-les-Flots, with a URL to an annual directory; and Mail: Jean.Paul.Blancheton@ifremer.fr. Below this is a 'General search' section with a search input field and options for 'On this site' and 'On all Ifremer'. The main content area features a 'Zoom' section with a large group photo of the 'Kick-off meeting group'. The photo shows a diverse group of people standing and sitting in front of a backdrop that reads 'OrAqua KBBE - Organic Aquaculture Kick Off Meeting'. Below the photo, there are three small thumbnail images.

## Content:

P. 2: Stakeholder platform and dissemination (WP1)

P. 3: Review of production related issues (WP2)

P. 4: Review of socio-economics issues (WP3)

P. 5: Integration and internal communication of results (WP4)

P. 6: Facilitation of stakeholder events (WP5)

P. 7: Recommendations (WP6)

P. 8: Workflow in OrAqua

P. 9: Project partners



# Latest News from OrAqua

## Welcome to the first OrAqua Newsletter

A highly committed and qualified consortium met at Ås in Norway in January and kicked-off the OrAqua project. The 13 OrAqua project partners form a strong and multidisciplinary consortium that includes four universities, five aquaculture research institutes, two research groups in social science, the Federation of European fish farmers, the fish farming company Culmarex and two organic certification/control bodies.

The main outcomes of the OrAqua project will be recommendations on how to improve the EU regulation and a Policy Implementation Plan (PIP). Furthermore, the project will deliver recommendations on how to enhance economic development of the European organic aquaculture sector.

To ensure interaction with all relevant stakeholders, a multi stakeholder platform is established. Here, a wide range of actors from several countries participate and interact. In order to obtain relevant input and feedback, OrAqua will bring together representatives of consumers, farmers, hatcheries, breeders, feed and technology suppliers, regulation, certification, processing, wholesalers, retailers, research groups, projects and technology platforms in Europe and other continents. The OrAqua multi stakeholder platform will facilitate the consultation with stakeholders and dissemination of the project results towards a broad target audience. Three stakeholder events will be organized, the first will take place in Mid-October in Istanbul prior to the IFOAM Organic World Congress.

By then the project will assess and review existing knowledge on fish health and welfare, veterinary treatments, nutrition, feeding, seeds, production systems, environmental impacts, socio-economic and aquaculture economic interactions, consumer aspects, legislations and private standards for organic aquaculture.

We therefore invite stakeholders to sign up for our multi stakeholder platform as soon as possible (see also separate article about WP1 and [ww.oraqua.eu](http://ww.oraqua.eu)). We look forward to some fruitful discussions and cooperation in OrAqua to fulfill our vision of a growing organic aquaculture sector in Europe, supported by science based regulations in line with the organic principles and consumer confidence. *Ingrid Olesen, Project Coordinator, Nofima*

# WP2 Review of production issues

## Overall aim in short

- To review scientific knowledge on production issues in organic farming focusing particularly on
  - fish feed and nutrition,
  - health and welfare, veterinary treatments and biosecurity,
  - production systems and management,
  - environmental interactions

# WP3 Review of socio-economic issues

## Objectives

We will collect and review available information related to organic aquaculture to:

- 3.1. Assess **consumer perceptions, sentiments and understanding** of organic aquaculture to promote consumer confidence and acceptance of organic farming principles.
- 3.2. Improve understanding of the **economics** of organic aquaculture production and the **competitive position** of organic aquaculture products in EU markets
- 3.3. Explore critical development constraints and potential improvement in the **institutional systems**, to provide input to **regulatory bodies** for an increased organic aquaculture production
- 3.4. Identify **socio-economic issues/bottlenecks** that need to be addressed for successful implementation of organic aquaculture

## **WP4 Integration and internal communication of results - Objectives:**

- ★ **Analyse and integrate outputs from WPs 1, 2, 3 and 5**
- ★ **Identify: Objectives – Criteria - Options – Priorities**  
➡ **MCDA (1st event)**
- ★ **Transform the information into readily accessible  
format for WP 1**
- ★ **Prepare MCDA survey WP 5 (2nd event)**
- ★ **MCDA ➡ WP 6 (SWOT – Recommendations)**

## WP 5

# Facilitation of stakeholder events

**Organize three stakeholder events to engage stakeholders, facilitate the communication between participants, enable collaborative learning, and to develop outcomes that feeds into the other processes**



# **WP6 Recommendations**

## **Overall objectives**



- 1. Assess the relevance, measurability and applicability of the main achieved results to the organic aquaculture EU regulation**
- 2. Generate sound science based recommendations for potential updates of the regulation, which reflect the holistic perspective of the project**
- 3. Facilitate a large diffusion of the recommendations among stakeholders**
- 4. Produce executive dossiers on the main technical background behind the recommendations according to the standard/template used by EGTOP**
- 5. To realize a Policy Implementation Plan (PIP)**

# Three Stakeholder Events

Events designed to build strong relations, a shared understanding, and a communicative culture within the project.

- Event 1 - supporting the processes of reviewing (WP2 and 3) and integration (WP4) with stakeholders interests and experiences – *Preconference at Ifoam Organic World Congress in Istanbul October 11-12, 2014*
- Event 2 - survey stakeholders values, attitudes and prioritize, and to initiate the decision making process generated by MCDA (WP4) – *Conference at EAS meeting in Rotterdam in October 2015?*
- Event 3 - building consensus on recommendations (WP6) – *Brussels July 2016*



# Objectives of this first Stakeholder Event

- Initiate the interaction between the project partners and the key stakeholders in the field of organic aquaculture
- Validate results of reviewing and make sure that all important issues and aspects are taken into consideration and covered by the project
- Engagement of all participants to ensure iterative development of whole project

Thank you for the attention

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acknowledged

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