



Centre International de Hautes Etudes Agronomiques Méditerranéennes

CIHEAM BARI

Press release

18 April, 2023

FutureEUAqua project final conference CIHEAM Bari Campus Cosimo Lacirignola, 20 April, 9 a.m.

Presenting the results of **FutureEUAqua's** 4-year activities, highlighting the challenges faced and the work still to be done, is the goal of the project's final conference to be held on 20 April, starting at 9 a.m., at CIHEAM Bari's Cosimo Lacirignola Campus.

FutureEUAqua has been funded by the European research and innovation (R&I) programme Horizon 2020 (2018-2023), with the overall objective of effectively promoting the sustainable, climate-resilient and environmentally friendly growth of organic and conventional aquaculture of the main European fish species, to meet the future challenges posed by increasing consumer demand for high quality, nutritious and responsibly produced food.

The final project conference is expected to be attended by about 100 representatives of organisations, institutions, the scientific community, and higher education and research centers working in aquaculture, from 20 countries in Northern Europe, North Africa, and the Middle East.

As part of the project activities, CIHEAM Bari has designed and delivered, through its e-learning platform, the course on “Sustainable, resilient and climate friendly blue growth of EU aquaculture and beyond” to transfer the results of the studies conducted on feed, innovative feeding strategies, consumer perceptions and preferences concerning aquaculture products, and regulatory framework for aquaculture in the EU.

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The training was provided to 357 participants from 73 countries (24% European countries and 76% non-EU Mediterranean countries), representing mostly ministries of agriculture, universities, associations and certification bodies.

The conference will be opened at 9 a.m. on Thursday 20 April by CIHEAM Bari's Deputy Director Biagio Di Terlizzi. Presentations by partner representatives on the activities carried out during the 4-year project will follow.

The afternoon session will continue with a panel discussion on "How can aquaculture meet future challenges of high quality, nutritious and responsibly produced food?" addressing regional and international policy makers and stakeholders to pave the way for future collaborative project proposals and new initiatives in the organic and conventional aquaculture sector.

Panelists will include Patrizia Pitton, DG AGRI, and Birgit Van Tongelen, DG MARE, from the European Commission; Edoardo Cuoco, IFOAM director; Houssam Hamza, Aquaculture Officer at the General Fisheries Commission for the Mediterranean; and Andrea Fabris, director of the Italian Fish Farmers Association. Giuseppe Lembo, president of the COISPA cooperative of researchers and technicians, will moderate the roundtable.

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