



AKTEA

AKTEA : nereid of Greek mythology symbolising the shore

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European Network of women's organisations in fisheries and aquaculture



Adriana Celestini, Italie

Nicki Holmyard, Ecosse

Monique Philip, France

Marja Bekendam, Pays Bas

Estrela Duarte, Portugal

Photo : Fanny Brun

Members of AKTEA board, Ciboure, France, june 2008. Photo : Fanny Brun

AKTEA elects a new Board!



At the general meeting of the European network AKTEA, some new faces were welcomed onto the Board, which represents all types of fishing and aquaculture. The new president is Marja Bekendam from the Netherlands, the Vice President is Adriana Celestini from Italy (formerly President), the secretary is Nicki Holmyard from Scotland, the Treasurer is Monique Philip from France, and Estrela Duarte from Portugal is the member representative. There is a short paragraph about each of these women on the AKTEA network site ♦

Arcachon 2008: the third AKTEA meeting. Visits and debates

50 women representing the member associations of AKTEA met in Arcachon, France, from 12-14 June for three days of visits, meetings and networking. On the first day, members enjoyed a tour of the Arcachon Basin, accompanied by French MEP Marie-Hélène Aubert. The visit included a boat trip around the Basin with commentary by an Ifremer scientist, a 'degustation' of local oysters and wine, and a lunch provided by the region. The day proved highly informative and interesting.

AKTEA held a General Assembly during the evening, which featured its annual report plus reports from member networks. The following topics were also discussed:

- Promoting the recognition of the role of women in fisheries and aquaculture with a call to implement Directive 816/86 in all Member States



Photo : Fanny Brun

Participants of AKTEA's conference at Arcachon

- Training for women
- The entry of women's organisations onto the Consultative Council of Regional Fisheries
- Cultural activities undertaken by women's organisations to promote the visibility of the role of women in fisheries and the image of the wider maritime world

On Friday, the delegation met members of the association Uhaina from Saint Jean Luz, who organised a wonderful day of visits and meetings. The trip south began early in the morning with a visit to a fish market near the town of Pasajes in Spain, then progressed northwards back into France, where we were welcomed with a drinks reception by the mayor of Ciboire. A splendid lunch was organised by Uhaina, and Nicki Holmyard was regaled with renditions of Happy Birthday in the dozen different languages represented in the room. A visit to the auction of Saint John Luz was followed by a short drive to the municipality of Cape Breton, where fishermen's wives sell direct to the public from stalls on the quayside. The group saw many different types of fish and shellfish for sale including

Relations between the maritime world and the world of agriculture

AKTEA also invited organisations and associations of women working in other economic sectors (agriculture) to attend the conference. The objective was to share their experience of communication.

Karen Serres, president of the Women Farmers of the COPA (Committee of Professional Agricultural Organizations in the European Union, FIPA (International Federation of Agricultural Producers) and the FNSEA (main farmers' union in France) told how the sharing of experiences with women farmers was important for several reasons.

Firstly, the invisibility of women's contributions is the same in fishing and farming. Secondly, the progress women have made in gaining recognition of their contribution in the agriculture world can be invaluable to women in fisheries, helping them to advance their own claims. Thirdly, Karen encouraged women in fisheries to build collaborations with women farmers to initiate joint action to promote the interests of women.

Karen Serres talked about the work of the COPA and its role in Europe. Women farmers participate in European debate on matters of equal opportunity. For example, Karen participates in the negotiation process for the revision of the EC Council Directive 86/613 in which the status of collaborating spouse has its foundation.

In addition, Karen talked about the rights obtained by the spouses of farmers in France thanks to the Agriculture Act of 2006. In agriculture women can obtain the status of collaborating spouse without the authorisation of their spouse. Moreover, the status is open to women who have signed a Civil Solidarity Pact (PACS) with a farmer as his common law partner.

AKTEA's French members present at the conference found that women farmers are more easily able to achieve the status of conjoint spouse than themselves. They therefore decided to act to obtain the same rights. Karen has offered her assistance and experience in this field ♦

sole, hake, bonito and red mullet. The sale begins daily around 4pm when the boats land, and consumers travel from far and wide to buy the fresh fish. The fish selling area was recently upgraded by the municipality, which rents the stalls to fishing families.

Saturday was devoted to communications within and between organisations. Before the debate began, the floor was given to the MEP Marie-Helene Aubert, who spoke of the role and powers of parliament and the European Parliament Fisheries Committee. Two scientists were also invited to give presentations about their work. Nathalie Caill Milly (Ifremer) spoke about the place of science in fisheries management and told how TACs and quotas are put in place on a European level. On a more local scale, she spoke about the management of clams in the Arcachon basin. Denis Bailly (UMR-AMURE CEDEM) talked about the integrated coastal management project SPI-COSA.

The presentations can be accessed on the AKTEA network site, www.fishwomen.fr ♦

Revision of Directive 86/613

This revision is the result of work done by the European Parliament Committee on the Rights of Women in the rural areas. Several reports published by the Commission and several decisions of Parliament have called on the EU Commission for a number of years to revise this Directive. The aim of the revision is to enable women engaged in an independent activity to have a social status and for spouses of professions such as craftsmen, farmers or fishermen to enjoy a legal status - the status of collaborative spouse throughout Member States ♦



Aktea member's exchanging with fisherwoman in Saint Jean de Luz, France.

A big 'Thank You' goes to the following

- ⇒ The fisherwomen's association of Arcachon which hosted the 3rd AKTEA conference in their city.
- ⇒ Uhaina, the association which organized the visit to the Basque Country.
- ⇒ Aquitaine Regional Council and the General Council of Gironde, for their financial support.
- ⇒ Arcachon town council and the mayor, who made available the Palais de Congress.
- ⇒ Arcachon community centre for its minibuses which enabled us to take members to and from the airport in Bordeaux and Arcachon.
- ⇒ Monique Philip, Anne Marie and Esteban Marilys, for all the hard work they put into making the reunion and meeting so successful.
- ⇒ Maïté, who made the stay at Saint Vincent de Paul such a pleasant experience for all the members.
- ⇒ Volunteer interpreters Ana, Brigitte and Katia who did an extraordinary job in ensuring that communication between all members of AKTEA was possible.
- ⇒ Fanny for taking notes during the three days so that we could have an accurate record in our newsletter ♦



Photo : Fanny Brun

« Degustation » of local oysters prepared by Herman and Malika Petit

► Reports of member organizations of AKTEA ◀

► PEGA

⇒ Greece

Several members of the association have undergone training. Action for the establishment of the European Directive 86/613 at national level continues because it will allow the recognition of the contribution of women in fisheries. New training is planned for 2009 on entrepreneurship for women.

► Pénélope

⇒ Italy

This association has organized training courses for its members in business management. Penelope is struggling to enact the European directive 86/613 in Italy with regard to women in the fisheries sector, although women farmers have already obtained it.

► NSWN

⇒ North Sea Women Network

Organised a conference in Edinburgh in May 2008 on the management of change in fishing communities. Presentations were made on the role of women in these communities and on the impact of European legislation and public policies. A workshop session looked at measures that could be taken to improve the lives of

women in their communities. NSWN also supported a study on the impact of EU policies on fishing communities, for example the effect of a ban on cod fishing on communities. It represents the socio-economic interests of women living in coastal communities on the North Sea RAC.

► Thyrius

⇒ Spain

The women members of this association have for several years been leading a fight against the patriarchal customs which determine that local fishing rights can only be passed down between men. Several court decisions have been made in favour of the women's association, but the fishermen's associations still refuse them the right to fish. The last decision of the court in Valencia, January 2008, found in favour of the women once again and finally obliged the fishermen to change their position. The result is that some women can fish in the lake and take advantage of this law. However the spouses of these women were excluded from their local fishermen's organisation. Thyrius is now conducting a campaign for the reinstatement of the spouses. They are also promoting the revitalisation of the lake through a restocking programme.

▶ NIWIF

⇒ Irlande du Nord, R.U.

This year the network published a book based on the life stories of women and men involved in the fishing industry. It also organised a weekend fish market in the town of Kilkeel, the main fishing port of Northern Ireland, with the aim of enhancing the image of fish and fishery products both to locals and tourists. The sale of fish is done by professionals, while the women's network undertakes the organisation.

▶ Menders Federation of Galicia

⇒ Spain

The federation comprises 12 associations of the 14 existing in Galicia. The net menders are paid per hour and their wages vary between 2 - 5 Euros depending on which department they work in.

They have a plan to create a service cooperative which will provide them with the equipment used in their work. At present everything is supplied by the ship owners. The secretariat for equal opportunity and the management of fisheries in Galicia supports this project. Training on the operation of cooperatives was organised, with women gaining a diploma to validate their knowledge. They were also paid to go on the courses. The women are now putting their energies into seeking recognition for industrial injuries and diseases. The Menders Federation of Galicia organised a national meeting on Thursday 13 November at Cangas in Galicia and Ana Toupin was invited to represent the network.

▶ MnanaMara

⇒ Ireland

In Ireland fishing communities are disappearing and this forced the organisation to look at opening up membership to other people living in coastal communities, and to pool their resources for development. A large community gives access to more financial resources. Since, members are scattered throughout the country, communication is largely done through the Internet. A website sponsored by BIM was created to facilitate communication. The association is a member of the Northwest Waters RAC.

▶ 2FM

⇒ France

For several years, the federation has been in favour of establishing a training course leading to a diploma. This has been partly satisfied by the establishment of the diploma 'Joint Maritime Craft Associate' in December 2007. These courses are intended by wives of ship-owners who have the status of spouse collaboratrice.

Since July 2007, a spouse who contributes to the family business must choose one of the following statuses: employee, partner or employee. There are certain improvements such as access for spouses and (PACS) civil partners to this statute, recognition of work accidents, and the ability to obtain the status without the authorisation of the spouse!

▶ Estrela do Mar

⇒ Portugal

The Portuguese national network organised a two-day training course in which 14 women participated. Several members of the network produced a leaflet for the coastal culture festival. This work was undertaken as part of an international project involving Portugal and Norway. The network is a member of the South Atlantic RAC and takes part in the traditional fishing working group. Women members of the network are involved in a transnational project (Norway and Portugal) on the coastal culture of the country which is creating amongst other things, an inventory of fishing gear and vessels.

▶ UMAR Açores

⇒ Portugal

This organization works for equality between women and men in the Azores. It also works on the recognition of the role of women in fisheries and supports their trades. Under the aegis of an 'Equal' project, the organisation set up training courses on two islands which have the largest fishing communities. To communicate, there is an internet system which the women members use, which enables them all to keep in touch on a regular basis. Last August the fisherwomen of Açores with UMAR established the "island network-association of women in fisheries call "A Ilhas em Rede" - Associação de Mulheres na Pesca".

▶ VinVis

⇒ The Netherlands

VinVis, as a group participated actively in the consultation rounds for the preparation of the Dutch National Strategic Plan for the European Fisheries Fund. VinVis wrote a position paper with issues of women concern. After a long struggle, we finally achieved that Dutch NSP pay attention to women's role and to social and cultural issues in fisheries. VinVis participated in different international events on the financial position of the collaborative spouse in family-based agriculture enterprises. Spouses often have a weak financial position and they are not aware about it. Farmer and fisher women shared experiences and discussed together how to improve their financial position and achieve recognition of their status. VinVis has been actively engaging in building links with sister organisations in the tsunami affected areas in South-India. They support micro-credit, alternative livelihood, educational and organisation building activities for women of fishing communities. VinVis women played a leading role in the commemoration of a big disaster at sea of 125 years ago ♦

Edition AKTEA



AKTEA - European Network of Women
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Photo : Fanny Brun

Spanish, Greek and Dutch Delegations at AKTEA annual general meeting

▶ Regional Advisory Councils (RACs) ◀

The involvement of women's organisations in Regional Advisory Councils was discussed by those interested in participating. Currently, four members of AKTEA participate in four different RACs: the North Sea Women's Network is a member of the North Sea RAC, the Scandinavian women's network belongs to the Baltic Sea RAC, Mna na Mara of Ireland is a member of the Northwestern Waters RAC, and Estrela dos Mar is part of the Southwestern Waters RAC.

Associations that are not members of RACs but who would like to be raised several obstacles that prevent them from joining. The annual membership fee varies from RAC to RAC and is as high as 1500 Euros in the Mediterranean. A lack of knowledge about resource management was another reason that prevents organisations from joining. Nicki Holmyard, NSWN, has participated for several years on the NSRAC and chairs its socio-economic development group. She proposed holding a training course for women interested in

RACs, to help them find a role with which they would be comfortable and which would contribute to the work of the RACs. The training would be organised jointly by NSWN and AKTEA, who will work together to find the necessary funds to hold the course. It will be made expensive because simultaneous translation would be needed into a number of different languages.

AKTEA plan to send a letter to DG MARE asking that women's organisations be allowed to join RACS in the same category as non-governmental organisations rather than as representatives of the fishing industry. This would mean that professional organisations representing fishermen would not feel that women's organisations were threatening their seats. It is hoped that this request will be considered during the mid-term review of the RACs being undertaken by DG MARE. Numerous NGO seats for environmentalists, consumer groups etc remain vacant on many RACs and women's organisations would be willing to be considered for these ♦

The Women's Solidarity Association



The Teste de Buch municipality Femmes Solidaires association was invited to talk about communication within their network. Femmes Solidaires has around 30,000 members nationally, who belong to 185 local associations. It is managed by a representative group of 70 people.

Femmes Solidaires group aims to reduce all forms of discrimination, sexism and racism, to advance women's rights to employment, promotes equal opportunities, and campaigns against violence to women. The organisation is part of the European feminist network initiative, which is a European resource for male and female associations for a feminist and secular Europe, and also a member of the European network of women.

Femmes Solidaires group publishes Clara Magazine 6 times per year. Local associations organise activities in collaboration with other organisations working with women, and members get together once every 3 years ♦

Other information at a glance...Other information at a glance...

► *New report on women*

The European parliament has just published a report on the role of women in sustainable development in fisheries dependent areas.

The first chapter looks at the employment of women in fisheries, aquaculture and the processing industry. It discusses the role of conjoint collaboratrice and the non-recognition of their contribution in the fishing industry.

The second chapter explains the reasons for the creation of women's organizations, notes the constraints they face and also the opportunities available to them for the future.

The third chapter develops the participation of women in diversification activities. Examples from the 14 member states which are examined in this study illustrate the important role of women in diversification.

The question of gender in the distribution of structural funds is developed in the final chapter of the report. Axis 4 of the European Fisheries Fund (EFF) and women occupy a prominent place in this chapter. Finally, the report makes some recommendations for policies. Several AKTEA members participated in the production of this report, which can be accessed on the following site: www.europarl.europa.eu/activities/expert/eStudies.do?language=EN

The full report is available in English, French and Spanish and the summary is translated into other languages ♦



Photo : Fanny Brun

Reception at Cibourne Townhall, France

► *A new RAC*

Representatives of the fishing industry and other interest groups have submitted an application for the implementation of the Mediterranean RAC.

The member countries are: Greece, Spain, France, Cyprus, Malta and Slovenia. The RAC has been operational since 15 September 2008. (Decision of 29 August 2008, 2008/695/CE) ♦



Photo : Fanny Brun

Visit of Archachon Bassin, France



► *Request*

The association of women fishers in the Mediterranean is hoping to publish a book of fish recipes from the European countries representative of AKTEA. Please send three fish recipes and a brief description of your organisation to: aktea@cedem.eu ♦