



AKTEA

n° 9
december 2007

AKTEA : nereid of Greek mythology symbolising the shore

European Network of women's organisations in fisheries and aquaculture



Participants at the AKTEA conference

Photo : Jean-Michel Destang
Sea women Project

In this issue you will find news coming from organisations members of the network, and the main topics discussed during the 2nd AKTEA conference organised in april 2007 at Annalong, Northern Ireland.

Delegates exchanged ideas and opinions concerning the main aspects which concern women's, fisheries and communities. You will find the main aspects in this issue.

Once more, thanks a lot to Northern Ireland Women in Fisheries members for their hospitality and the good work they offered to all of us.

Arcachon and Saint Jean Luz fishers women's organisations decided to host the next AKTEA meeting in Arcachon city (France) between the 11th and the 15th of June 2008. They applied for a financial help to the local and regional authorities. We hope that their demand will be successful ♦

*Katia Frangoudes
Facilator of the network*

The 2nd conference of AKTEA Network held in Annalong (Northern Ireland)

The 2nd AKTEA conference was organised in Northern Ireland by the local women's organisation "Northern Ireland Women in fisheries (NIWIF). During two days 85 participants representing 15 women organisations originated from 8 European countries exchanged experiences about their national or local activity and identified the networks' future actions. During the first day a field trip was organised around Northern Ireland fisheries harbours, fish auctions and processing industries. Participants discovered the Northern Ireland fisheries sector and they discussed about fish and fisheries activity. The Minister in charge of agriculture and fisheries Michelle Gildenew welcomed the participants to Northern Ireland and shared with them a dinner on Thursday 26 of April. Michelle Gildenew in her speech congratulated the fisher women for the establishment of AKTEA and called on them to continue their action within the fisheries industry.

The second day, women participated in the AKTEA meeting held in Cornmill quay at Annalong town. This meeting was divided in two parts: some speakers were invited to give a speech on a specific issue and then women opened the discussion on

some specific subjects which concerned the action of the network.

Our first guest was Liam McKibben, DARD, Director of Fisheries for Northern Ireland who spoke about the socio-economic regeneration of fishing villages from the Northern Ireland approach. The Director made a summary of the state of the Fishing Industry in Northern Ireland and displayed some statistical data for the period 1992 - 2002 to demonstrate the decline in the numbers of fishermen and boats. He explained the initiatives which had been undertaken by these communities in conjunction with the government to address the associated socioeconomic depression.

Since the mid-90s a number of initiatives had been undertaken to promote regeneration in Northern Ireland fishing communities. The various initiatives and task forces have invested significant sums of money into these communities, created a number of new jobs and established several new businesses. Local communities participate in the decision making processes by proposing ideas for investment and through their involvement on the selection panels.

The second speaker was Alan McCulla who spoke of women's contribution to the sector. He mentioned the complexity of the fishing licensing system, and expressed concern that the industry was over regulated by the Common Fisheries Policy. Over regulation and too much control, he argued could impact on the sustainability of the fishing industry.

The evolution of women organisations in fisheries and aquaculture sectors in Europe was presented by Cornelia Quist member of VinVis network (the Netherlands). She underlined the main actions of women organisations around Europe. Some of these organisations are working about social aspects of fisheries and aquaculture industries but all of them claim the recognition of women work within both sectors.

Ann Bell, the secretary of the North Sea Regional Advisory Council (RAC), presented the role of the RAC and she focused on why women organisations in fisheries should participate in such organisations. For her, women organisations participating in the RAC will be the voice of fisheries communities. She told the participants that women's organisations should not only be member of the RAC but also



Marie H el ene Aubert
Member of the European Parliament

Photo : Marilyns Plongeon

take responsibilities within the board of the RAC. The example of the North Sea Women Network was given, which is in charge of the socio-economic commission within the North Sea RAC.

Another presentation was given by Marie H el ene Aubert Member of the European Parliament. She explained to the participants how to make lobby at European and at national levels. She said women organisations, before acting, should know if the promoted issue depends on European level or national one.

The European Fisheries Funds 2007-2013 (EFF-financial aids to fisheries and aquaculture industries) and its main points concerning women were also presented to the participants. The EFF opens some opportunities for women for training or for the development of trans-national networks etc. The presentation of the EFF was written by Christine Falter of the DG Fish, who couldn't join the conference. During the afternoon participants exchanged their ideas concerning the actions to be undertaken by the network at European level for the next years. Women's visibility appeared to constitute the main direction for the network's action because women's contribution in fisheries is still not recognized. To accomplish this objective the network should develop an action asking for the implementation of the ECC directive 86/613 by all member states.

The network should ask for more research programmes and studies on women's role, position and life in fisheries across Europe will give visibility to women. Another way to obtain visibility is the esta-

blishment of statistics segregated by gender.

The second action to be undertaken by AKTEA is to require the integration of women organisations within the decisions making progress in fisheries and aquaculture management. Women's organisations are asking to be members of ACFA, RACs and fishers' organisations. Within these organisations women should advocate for the future of artisanal fishing communities by giving their opinion concerning fisheries and aquaculture development.

Participants noticed their lack of knowledge concerning lobbying strategies, European institutions and the legal frame concerning fisheries management or environmental issues, or how organisations can be run. To fulfil this lack, training should be addressed to leaders of national organisations, and organised at European level. Women will have first to make a skills and knowledge analysis

on the types of training available at national level and second to find the necessary money.

Another action which can be undertaken at European level is the participation of AKTEA and its member organisations at the monitoring process of the operational Programme of EFF.

Network survival is based on our capacity to run the network on permanent basis, and money is the main obstacle face by the network. The second obstacle is the lack of common language of communication between our members, which makes communication very difficult.

AKTEA board decided to act by meeting DG Fish and maritime affairs and the European Parliament commissions in charge of fisheries and women rights ♦

Portraits of women in fisheries and aquaculture n° 1

Some women, well known as leaders of women in fisheries movements, are now taking responsibilities within fishers and aquaculture organisations. The AKTEA newsletter gives them the floor to explain the reasons why they decided to take these responsibilities. The first portrait is the one of Liliane Carriou who is chairing the local fisheries committee of Lorient, France.

In 1998, Liliane Carriou, with some other fisher women from Brittany, created the fishers women association called "Women between the land and the sea" (FETEM). Since, the association and Liliane never stopped to work for the recognition of women's contribution in fisheries, the promotion of the security at sea, the psychological support for fishers families in case of accident at sea and of course to support artisanal fisheries.

Between 2003 and 2007, Liliane chaired the national federation of fishers' women organisations (call 2FM) which groups locals women's organisations.

In 2002, thanks to this collaborative spouse status, Liliane asked her husband for the right to vote in his place. With his agreement, she became in 2003 a member of the local fisheries committee, the organisation that groups together the various actors of the fishing industry (boat owners, crew members, fish mongers, fish retailers).

In 2005, Liliane who was in charge of the social



Photo : Marilyns Plongeon

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Chairwomen of the fisheries committee Lorient-Etel

affairs commission was asked to become the president of the local fisheries committee. At the beginning she wasn't sure if she wanted to, but after a discussion with fishers she was convinced.

Liliane thinks that collective work is very important: *"Alone we are nothing, together we can do a lot. The men of the fishing industry have accepted me without any hesitation, but maybe they will change their mind in the future?"* She never had difficulties in her relations with men and she found exchanges very rich.

TAC's and quotas management, organic-fuel, fishing gears selectivity, eco-labelling, etc... Liliane learnt through the daily work, but she admits that the training for collaborative spouse she did and her work within women's organisation helped her to understand administrative texts, laws, etc.

To the question on the advice she would give to other French women willing to enter men's organisations, she says: *"you should know and recognise the value of work done by fishers. You must help them and be alert for them. It is a great experience and I share it with all the fishing industry"*.

The French fishing industry faces today a lot of changes, for instance the reform concerning fishers' organisations, and women should take such opportunities to integrate these organisations. We should stop thinking that it is not possible. Women have other views on the future of the fishing industry and they can help improve exchanges and communication among all stakeholders.

"For some years, I have noticed that more and more women work within the fishing industry : in scientific institutes, in fishers' organisations at different levels, etc. An increasing number of women are entering the fishing sector, so "Why not you?" asks Liliane.

She regrets the fact that women having the collaborative spouse status still have to ask their husbands to renounce to their rights to wives' benefit.

In fact, current French law permits collaborative spouses to participate in the elections of fishers' organisations, only if their husband doesn't want to be elected himself ♦

France :

Collaborative status becomes mandatory

Until 2006 French fishers and shellfish farmers' wives had the right to choose a social status, according to the EU directive 86/613.

Since July 2007 in France, the collaborative status has become mandatory for all spouses contributing on regularly bases to the activity of enterprises of less than 20 employees.

Spouse can choose between three statuses:

- wage earner
- associate spouse
- or collaborative spouse

All enterprises should comply with this law from the 1st of July. After this deadline all spouses working for the enterprise will be considered as illegal workers ♦

Photo : Marily Plongeon



French and Spanish delegates at AKTEA conference

—News from Northern Ireland

Changes within Northern Ireland Women in Fisheries.

There have been a number of changes within Northern Ireland Women in Fisheries since the Conference in Annalong. Trish had always wanted to see a younger woman in the role of Administrator, and Eunice Heaney was appointed to this position in August. She is now settled and is doing a great job. Trish still helps her when required. The other main change is that our Chair and Vice-Chair both resigned and we have appointed Catherine Coffey as Chair and Trish Slater as Vice-Chair.

The meetings have now recommenced after the summer break, with good attendances. Currently they are preparing to produce a small book that will tell stories from fisher-

men's wives, and also record many of the tales of the past so that they will not be lost to future generations.

"In December we are organising a Christmas meal for all our members in the village of Crossgar, not a fishing port, but a central location for us all.

We are also planning another Field Trip. This time we plan to visit the women of the SW area of France and then together cross into the North East corner of Spain to meet with women involved in fishing in that area."

A new project which they hope to set up in 2008 is holding fresh fish markets in villages on a weekly basis during the summer months of June, July and August which they hope will promote the fishing industry, "not only to our local community but also to the many tourists and day visitors coming to our area on a regular basis" ♦

— Italy

A recognition of collaborative spouse status for fishers wives?

Penelope association and the regional council of Marche, addressed a letter to the Minister of Agriculture and fisheries to claim the implementation for fishers' wives of the 86/613 ECC directive *on the application of the principle of equal treatment between men and women engaged in an activity, including agriculture, in a self-employed capacity, and on the protection of self-employed women during pregnancy and motherhood.*

Farmers' wives contribution in the family enterprise in Italy already benefits of a legal recognition. Why fishers' wives, whose contribution is the same as farmers' wives, do not benefit of this recognition?

For how long should Italians fishers' women wait before they obtain legal recognition, which will give them access to the retirement pension? ♦

— European Union

European Parliament call for the application of the directive 613/86.

On the 27th of September 2007, European Parliament adopted a report on equality between women and men in the European Union. Some articles (43, 44, 45, 46, 47, and 48) are referring to partners working in family enterprises who don't benefit from a legal status. This status would provide access to the social security, maternity and sick leaves. The report also mentions the issue of the collaborative spouse and the strengthening of Council directive 86/613 EEC ♦

E d i t i o n



AKTEA - European Network of Women organisations in fisheries and aquaculture

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Portuguese delegation at the AKTEA conference

Sweden

Coastal Women and Fisherwomen network in Gotland.

Gotland fishers' women, inspired by the women in Glommen on the west coast of Sweden, built up a network in 2000.

The network started at small scale level. Its main objectives were the safety at sea and the development of alternate activities such as tourism, tanning and dressing fish skin.

From 2002 to 2005 the network developed a successful project called "Leather from the Sea".

Fish leather is a product with multiple possibilities of use. Gotland's women have a lot of ideas on how to use this leather and develop new opportunities of income.

Fish leather is handcraft made using genuine traditional methods. Tanning and dressing fish skin following traditional methods constitute one way to develop the local fishing industry.

Women produce a number of different objects and accessories (bracelets, necklaces and others) ♦

Portugal

Star of the sea.

The Portuguese network chose a name after 4 years of existence. Its name is "star of the sea".

Women decided to keep the informal organisation for one more year but they designated one of their members to represent the network.

The network is a member of the RAC of South Atlantic ♦

France

An exhibition on organisations members of AKTEA presented this summer in Brittany.

Within the events called "Maritime Identity" organised in Ploemeur city this summer, Yolande Allanic proposed a new exhibition year on women's role in Fisheries.

This year her exhibition was called "European women in fisheries and aquaculture in Europe" and showed the objectives and actions of each organisation member of AKTEA network, in Finland, Sweden, the Netherlands, Spain, Portugal, Greece, Italy, UK, Ireland, etc.

The exhibition was presented in June at the Courégant and then it joined the exhibition organised by the district archives of Morbihan at the church of Lomener during August.

The exhibition will be showed again during the following months in different harbours of Brittany and it will be used as a tool to organise fisher's women.

Yolande Allanic member of "Femmes entre Terre et Mer" ♦

Participation in Baltic RAC

Nordic coastal and fisherwomen network is an umbrella organization for women involved in fishing and related marine sources of livelihood in the Nordic countries. It is a member of the RAC of Baltic Sea, and their participation in the RAC is justified by the idea that women should contribute to the promotion of socio-economic and other relevant issues ♦

A new member

UMAR (Union of Women alternative and response) the association of Azores islands joins AKTEA network.

UMAR is a feminist Portuguese organisation established since 1976 and has its main office in Madrid and 4 representations in Azores, Almada, Madeira and Porto.

UMAR office in Azores was established in 1992, with the main objective to conduct local and regional actions in favour of women in the Atlantic archipelagos. *"We have three delegations covering the 9 islands and for several years we have launched programmes on women issues such as domestic violence, all types of discriminations towards women, women sexual rights and reproduction, equal rights in employment and women in fisheries"*. The project Women in Fisheries in Azores started in May 2006 until 2008 and has three main objectives: to study women's role in fisheries, to support the establishment of associations and enterprises by women and to establish a women's network. This project was the result of a previous one by UMAR-Azores and others partners which iden-

tified the need for women's training. The aim was to improve living conditions within fisheries communities. "Our research action aimed at the identification of women working within fisheries sector (harvesting and/or having activities on shore), find their number, to identify their socio-professional situation, but also to give their contribution a greater visibility. The results of our study show that 2.000 women are working in fisheries processing industries (tuna canning) and 200 are participating in extractive activities.

Thanks to the different meetings in the various projects we have set up a network of Women in Fisheries in November 2007. One group is established on Terceira Island and groups women working in harvesting. Our association is trying to train fishers' women and to promote the issue of security at sea and improve working conditions of women making fishing nets ♦

Hellas

Women members of the Hellenic Union of Women in fisheries (PEGA) followed training courses.

Hellenic fishers' wives, as in the other parts of Europe, take on double responsibility: the family, particularly children education, and the administrative tasks of the family fishing enterprise. Today women contribution in fishing enterprises requires more qualification and women are claiming training courses, in accounting, in computing and business administration, nets mending and others. With such training, women should gain a better qualification to perform better their tasks. For years, PEGA was searching to organise training courses for their members in Mixaniona city. In 2006, the chance smiled on them! They obtained, through fisheries structural fund, the organisation of a training course given by DEMETRA, an institute in charge of training courses within the agriculture world. Training was given by economists, biologists, veterinaries and others. During 10 days, 23 women heard about "market and globalisation", "common fisheries policy", "fishing gears", "boat accoun-



Photo : Marilyns Plongeon

Hellenic delegation with the Mayor of Portogovie

ting", "administrative process", "conservation and valorisation of environment", "hygiene and security at sea" and how to build women cooperatives. A special focus was given on European Fisheries Funds (EFF) and the Hellenic strategic plan and operational programme. The 23 women attending this training course received 140 Euros and gave 25% back to DEMETRA.

PEGA calls all the fishers' women link to middle scale fleet (trawl and purse seines) to join them to require together the establishment of the collaborative spouse status (86/613 ECC directive). The attribution of this status constitutes the only guaranty for the fully recognition of women contribution in the fishing sector ♦

Around Europe fishers women use sea material with creativity



Photo : Lena Talvitie

Fish leather realised by the network of coastal and fishers women of Gotland (Sweden)



Photo : Lena Talvitie

Lights in fish leather by women of Gotland



Photo : Lena Talvitie

Table art in fish leather by women of Gotland



Photo : Katia Frangouides

Bags realised by women of Ostrobothnia, Finland



Photo : Katia Frangouides

Products realised in seashell and pebble by Michèle Pendelièvre, France



Photo : Katia Frangouides

Box realised by women of Nea Michaniona, Hellas