



## AKTEA Activity Report from May 2007 to June 2008

Since May 2007, AKTEA network has realised the following: the, publication of one issue of the newsletter AKTEA and a board meeting. The board held it's meeting in Brussels not only because of its location but also because the board decided to lobby Members of European Parliament and DG MARE. The objectives of the board meeting were the following:

- to define the future action of the network and
- to organise the 3<sup>rd</sup> AKTEA conference (two French members took already the decision to host the meeting at Arcachon).

### *Board meeting*

The board decided that lobbying European institutions such DG MARE<sup>1</sup> and EU Parliament and national institutions will give a greater profile to AKTEA and to fisher women's action. The question of whether national organisations should be referred to the AKTEA network arose at the meeting. Do members of AKTEA make their membership of Aktea known by their log or correspondence? It was agreed that each organisation may reach its own decisions on these matters.

The participation of women's organisations in the Regional Advisory Committees was discussed... Three organisation members of AKTEA participate in 3 different RAC's but other organisations face difficulties in joining RACs. For some, it is that membership fees are very high (1500 euros for the Mediterranean RAC for others it is because national authorities do not recognize women's organisations as representatives of the fisheries sector. The board decided to discuss this issue with DG MARE at a meeting the following day...

Funding for the network was discussed. It was decided that the network will function better if one person is employed to assist with its organisation... It was agreed to place this item on the agenda for the meetings with DG Mare and MEPs.

Communication between the members of the board, between organisation members and with outsiders was another major issue. Communication appeared as one of the main obstacles to the consolidation of the network. The board decided the following:

- To read their message and reply even if there are language difficulties
- To ask members to send more often news and information of what is happening in their countries-to share this information through the newsletter

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<sup>1</sup> From last April DG FISH became DG MARE

- To re energise AKTEA members so that they may make greater contributions to the newsletter...

Communication seems to be a weakness of the network. The board decided that this issue will be covered at the next conference by inviting women involved in others networks to relate their experiences.

### *Discussion with European Parliament and DG MARE*

On the second day the board had for meetings at the EU parliament and with DG MARE. At the Parliament the board met MEPs (Members of European Parliament) from different countries: NL, ES, PT, FR, IT, UK, GR linked to fisheries and the aquaculture sector. The board discussed with them the actions of the network and more generally the role of women in fisheries and the involvement of wives in the fisheries enterprises. MEPs showed considerable interest in women's involvement in the fishing enterprises and also in the recognition of this contribution.

During the visit to DG MARE, the board learned about the competencies of the DG MARE, RAC's, European Fisheries Funds and its axis 4. The RAC and the axis 4 are the two issues which were of most interest to the board.

DG MARE suggested AKTEA write to ask for the integration of women's organisations to the RAC on the NGO seats and not through the fisheries sector seats.

The composition of the RAC is 2/3 of the members represent the fisheries sector and 1/3 the NGO of consumers, environment, etc. If women integrate on the RAC on the seat of NGOs it would be easier for them to take responsible positions, as with NSWN.

European Fisheries Fund: the EFF mentioned clearly that it is necessary to support women in fisheries. There are two main axis mentioning women... the axis 3 concerning collective actions and the axis 4 concerning sustainable development of fisheries areas. Women's projects or actions can be financed:

“Under priority axis 3 – measures of common interest - specific actions in favour of women can be supported. In particular, funding is available for measures which support networking and the exchange of experience and best practice among organisations promoting equal opportunities between women and men in the fisheries sector”.

#### **Under axis 4.**

The article 44.2. Foresees measures for the improvement of professional skills, worker adaptability and access to employment, particularly in favour of women. Or women initiatives for diversification can be also financed.

But as Axis 4 will be implemented through a bottom-up approach by groups of local actors. The local groups (composed by public and private partners) will define a local strategy for the sustainable development of the area. And then it will finance collective or individual projects. Women and their organisations should be represented in the local groups, including at the decision-making level. This allows for their specific needs to be taken into account in the design and implementation of the local development strategies.

## ***Programme of the general annual meeting Thursday 12 June***

- Presentation of annual activity report and the financial report.
- Organisation members of the network are call to make a 10 minute presentation of their work in the past
- Election of the board (candidacy are welcome)

## ***Saturday 14 of June main issues to be discussed in the afternoon session***

### **1. Internal communication**

- What goes well
- What are the constraints

### **2. Communication with AKTEA**

Ideas on how to improve communication between the board members

Ideas on how to improve communication between board and members

Ideas on how to improve communication between members

### **3. External communication (available for national organisations and for AKTEA)**

With the community

With administration

With fishermen organisations

With others groups of women such farmers, small scale business

Policy makers

### **Why and How**