

# **Fisherwomen organisations in Europe advocating for fisherwomen rights**

Katia Frangoudes  
UMR-AMURE / University of Brest, France

Email: [Katia.Frangoudes@univ-brest.fr](mailto:Katia.Frangoudes@univ-brest.fr)

## **Middle of 1990 :**

-Crisis of fisheries sector and

-Fisherwomen are organised in organisations

### **2 groups of women:**

- Spouse contributing to fisheries and aquaculture enterprises
- Women working in harvesting (shellfish) or
- in others ancillary activities ( net mending)

## **Main reasons contributing to establish organisations**

- Advocate about women rights in fisheries industry (training, legal status, etc).
- Claim professionalization of harvesting activities
- Access to fishing rights maintain by men
- Claim better working conditions at board
- Improve safety at sea

## **Women organisations**

- Independent organisations with little connexions to men organisations but few are
- Members of men organisation

**They are organised at different levels:** Local, regional, national

**Until 2002:** little connexions between women organisations of the different European countries

## **First transnational connexions were supported by European Commission through DG MARE**

- Organisation of conferences and workshops (1998, 2002)
- Realisation of different studies on the role of women in fisheries and aquaculture in EU
- A research programme “FEMMES” financed by EU (women role in private and public spaces) (2002-2005)

**2005:** Women organisations decided to establish the European network AKTEA

## **Objectives of AKTEA Network**

- To promote the visibility of women's role in fisheries and aquaculture
- to promote the recognition of women's contribution in these sectors
- to promote the participation of women in decision making in fisheries,
- to promote exchange of experiences, problems and resolutions among women in European fisheries and aquaculture, etc.

## **Membership:**

- Women organisation as regular members (18)
- Individuals as associated members

## **Activities**

- Annual General meeting
- Publication a biannual newsletter (in 2 languages)
- Web site: [www.fishwomen.org](http://www.fishwomen.org)





## **AKTEA's action**

Advocate for women rights at the level of European Union: Parliament and Commission  
(2 DG : MARE and Social)

And

promote the action of women organisations at the EU level.



# Achievements (1)

- Public hearing *on women networks* organised by EU parliament in July 2005
- A communication of EU Parliament *in favour of the establishment fisherwomen networks in Europe* (19/12/2005)
- European Fisheries Fund is referring to gender dimension (Regulation 1198 of 27/7/2006)
- Communication of European Commission *in favour of the integration of women organisation in the Regional Advisory Council* (EC n°17/6/2008)
- Publication by the EU parliament a report *The role of women in the sustainable development of European Fisheries Areas*, European Parliament, Policy Department B, study PE 389.586, 64 p. (FR, EN)
- Participation to the consultation process of the evaluation of EU Roadmap of equality between 2006-2010

## Achievements 2010 (2)

- Revision of the EC directive 86/613 EU July 2010 replaced by 2010/41 of EU
- Public hearing ***on women and sustainable development of fisheries areas*** organised by EU Parliament in December 2010
- Discussion with the cabinet of the Commissionaire in charge of fisheries about the importance of women organisations
- The strategy of the EC on gender equality between 2012 and 2012 mentioned the establishment of a European Network of fisherwomen
- - The EU commissionaire wishes the creation of fisherwomen European network with the support of the Union

# AKTEA is lobbying

- Statistics on employment based on gender (EU level)
- The number of projects initiated by women financed through the EFF to (mid-evaluation)
- The number of projects run by women financed by axis 4 of the EFF and the number of women involved in the local action groups (mid-evaluation)
- Implementation of the directive 2010/41 by all Member States (CCS status)
- Strength women participation in the decision making process concerning resources management,
- Enlarge AKTEA network with women of new members states

# AKTEA challenges

- Lack of finance
- Languages difficulties
- Lack of common knowledge between members / building capacity of leaders
- Need a voluntary action of public power to support women initiatives

# THANKS

