Fisherwomen organisations in Europe advocating for fisherwomen rights

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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

- 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
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