

## AQUA 2018 World Press Conference #WeRAquaculture

The European Aquaculture Technology and Innovation Platform (EATiP) is an industry-led stakeholder forum that is recognised by the European Commission as a key actor in driving innovation, knowledge transfer and European competitiveness. EATiP encourages collaborative research and innovation to strengthen aquaculture as a responsible and healthy pathway to reach food and nutrition security in Europe, using its Vision and Strategic Research & Innovation Agenda. EATiP reviewed its priorities in 2017, highlighting the goals to be achieved to unlock the potential of aquaculture in Europe.

Through exchange of knowledge and cooperative actions at a pre-competitive level, EATiP engages aquaculture producers, technology and service suppliers, feed companies, research institutes, universities, NGOs and other stakeholders to jointly stimulate science-based developments of high relevance to the aquaculture sector. The ultimate goal is to empower responsible aquaculture as one of the main providers of healthy & nutritious food to a growing population on a global scale.

EATiP's membership includes newly established 12 Mirror Platforms, i.e. regional or national industry-led multi-stakeholder aquaculture clusters. These represent almost 800 different companies and organisations from 10 different European countries, 80% of which are coming from the private sector. Together, the Mirror Platforms represent an important capacity to establish a stronger relationship between the industry and the consumer, to assure a sustainable aquaculture sector and to consolidate the role and importance of aquaculture in society.

Internationally, EATiP is engaged in supportive actions to improve consultation and direction for sustainable aquaculture development worldwide. Through the EURASTiP project, it encourages knowledge exchanges between Europe and South East Asia among industry professionals, researchers and educators, and works towards the creation of national multistakeholder platforms in Vietnam, Bangladesh and Thailand.

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