



NATIONAL PILOTS OF THE TRAINING PROGRAMME FOR MENTORS SUCCESSFULLY COMPLETED ACROSS EUROPE

OPTIMA partners have completed the pilot testing of the Training Programme for Mentors, a key milestone designed to validate the course content, test the e-learning platform, and gather feedback from aquaculture professionals. All pilots confirmed the growing importance of digital mentoring and the value of online training in supporting a more sustainable and innovative mollusc aquaculture sector.

ITALY – M.A.R.E. COOPERATIVE & DEMETRA FORMAZIONE

The Italian pilot, held online on 26 August 2025 with seven experienced mentors, reviewed the programme structure and training modules. Participants emphasized the need to clearly define the **mentor's role** and expressed interest in **future recognition or certification** for this emerging professional profile.

SPAIN – CONSELLO REGULADOR DO MEXILLÓN DE GALICIA (CRMG)

CRMG hosted the Spanish pilot on 27 August 2025 with eight mentors from Galicia's mussel farming community. The session confirmed the **relevance of digital tools** in complementing traditional field-based learning and highlighted the program's potential for **upskilling and fostering innovation** in the sector.

FRANCE – COMITÉ NATIONAL DE LA CONCHYLICULTURE (CNC)

On 25 September 2025, CNC hosted the French pilot with five mentors from its network. The session highlighted how the training could support regional shellfish committees in assisting producers and **improving knowledge transfer**, particularly through the digital tools introduced by OPTIMA.



GREECE – IDEC

IDEC organized the Greek pilot on 25 September 2025 with five mentors from the bivalve aquaculture sector. Participants appreciated the bilingual access to the platform and recognized the **“digital mentor”** as a key figure for guiding farmers remotely and integrating e-learning into everyday operations.

IRELAND – IRISH FARMERS' ASSOCIATION (IFA)

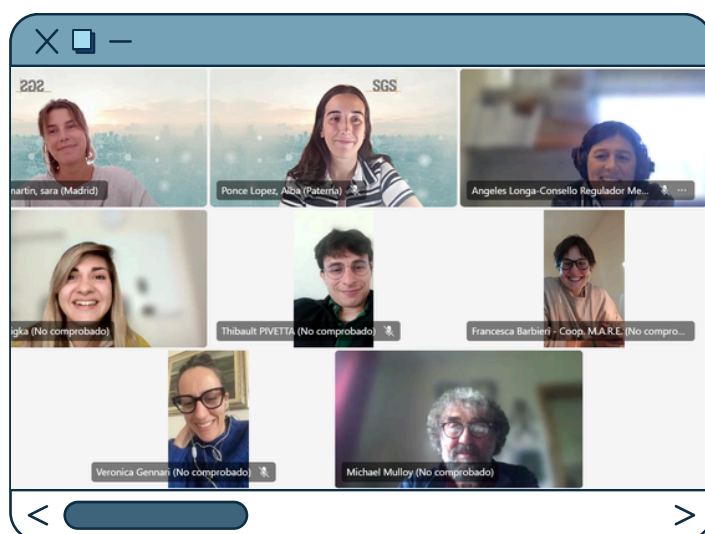
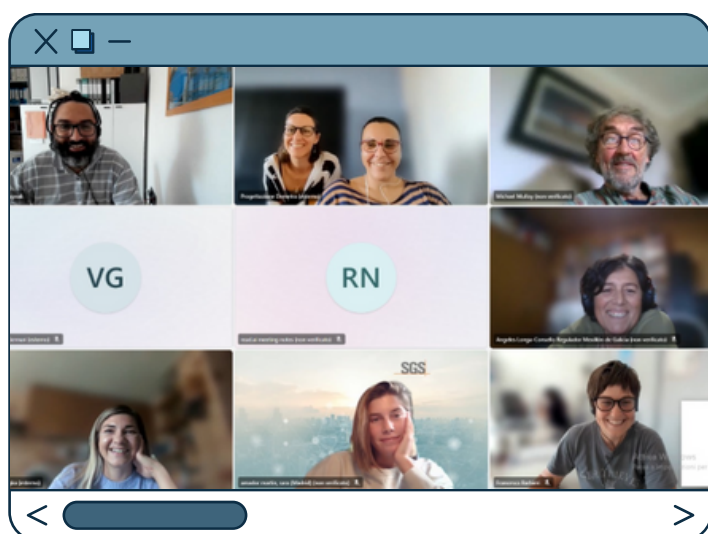
The Irish pilot, held on 29 September 2025, focused on the **digital competences** needed to support remote learners in rural and coastal areas. The five mentors noted that the course could strengthen **peer learning** and make continuous professional development more accessible for aquaculture workers.

LOOKING AHEAD

With the successful pilot tests now completed, OPTIMA partners are refining the Training Programme for Mentors based on the valuable feedback collected. Building on this progress, the consortium has moved forward with the development of the **Workers Training Programme and the production of the Good Practices Videos**, both essential components for promoting innovation and supporting sustainable growth in the European mollusc aquaculture sector.

On 19 September 2025, partners met online for a dedicated **Workshop on the Workers Training Programme**. Led by M.A.R.E. Cooperative and coordinated by DEMETRA, the session focused on finalising the **programme guidelines**, defining the key target groups, and identifying the core competences to be addressed. Partners also reviewed the proposed structure of the training modules and confirmed their collaboration with IDEC, which is responsible for developing the **project's e-learning platform**. The meeting concluded with a discussion on strategies to ensure effective participation and recognition within the training pathway.

Further progress continued 27 October 2025, with an online workshop focused on the creation of the **“Good Practices” video for bivalve mollusc aquaculture**. This video, designed to be accessible on various digital devices, will offer practical guidance for professionals, mentors, and workers in the sector. Each partner will contribute national material, which SGS will integrate into a final unified video. Additional thematic sections on **environmental impact, ecosystem services and climate change** will also be developed to complement the national contributions.



OPTIMA IN THE SPOTLIGHT: RECENT PRESENTATIONS

BOUTCAR PROJECT MEETING

During the Transnational Project Meeting of the BOUTCAR project, funded by the European **EMFAF** fund, which took place on 21-22 October in Athens, the OPTIMA project was presented during the **WORKSHOP session** organized by the project, where a series of European projects were presented with the aim of finding **synergies, collaborations and integrations between different EU projects**.



ECOMONDO FAIR

On Thursday, 6 November 2025, during the **ECOMONDO fair in Rimini (Italy)**, Andrea Gugnali from M.A.R.E. Cooperative presented the OPTIMA project and its online training platform at the **ART-ER Forum Space**, within the session **“BLU-ER: The Blue Economy Forum – Community Projects: Aquaculture, Research & Digitalization”**. The presentation showcased how OPTIMA is contributing to the digital transition of the aquaculture sector by promoting the use of innovative online tools and facilitating the exchange of knowledge and best practices in bivalve mollusc farming at the European level.



OPTIMA
Good Practices in Molluscs Aquaculture

Stay connected for more updates as we continue promoting sustainable practices in mollusc aquaculture. For more information, visit our website: <https://optima-erasmusproject.eu/>

THANK YOU FOR BEING PART OF THIS EXCITING JOURNEY!



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OPTIMA Project



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