

OPTIMA 5th newsletter

Fourth Transnational Meeting & Advancing Towards the Final Phase

Strengthening Collaboration at a Crucial Stage

On February 25th and 26th, 2026, project partners convened at the CRMG headquarters for the Fourth Transnational Project Meeting, a key moment in the project timeline as activities move steadily towards completion. The meeting was carefully organized in advance, ensuring smooth coordination of logistics and participation, and provided a valuable space for in-depth discussion, alignment, and reflection on the work carried out so far.

As the partnership enters its final phase, the meeting served not only to review progress, but also to reinforce a shared commitment to collaboration, efficiency, and quality in the delivery of the remaining outputs.



Renewed Focus on Final Outputs

With the project timeline advancing, particular attention is now being placed on the completion of Work Package 4 (WP4), which represents a central component of the project's impact. This includes the finalization of the training programme for sector professionals, designed to support knowledge transfer and capacity building, as well as the production of country-level videos showcasing good practices in bivalve mollusc farming. These outputs are not only essential deliverables, but also key tools for ensuring the long-term visibility and sustainability of the project results.

Partners were therefore invited to intensify their efforts and maintain close coordination, ensuring that all contributions are delivered on time and meet the expected quality standards.

Field Visit: Experiencing Aquaculture First-Hand

A particularly engaging moment of the meeting was the field visit to the coastal area of O Grove, which provided partners with a unique opportunity to observe aquaculture practices directly in the field. During the visit, participants boarded a boat to explore the traditional bateas, floating structures used in the cultivation of bivalve molluscs. This experience allowed partners to gain a deeper understanding of mussel farming techniques, from cultivation to harvesting.

The visit also included a stop at a mussel landing port, where participants observed the processes of weighing and handling the product. Throughout the activity, detailed explanations were provided on the functioning of the farming system, the different stages of the production chain, and the challenges faced by the sector, particularly in relation to climate change.

In parallel, video recordings and interviews were carried out, capturing insights from project participants and experts. These contributions will form part of the project's final audiovisual materials, highlighting the ecosystem services provided by bivalve molluscs and the sustainability of aquaculture practices.



Join Us at the Final Conference



One of the most important upcoming milestones is the **Final Conference**, which will take place on **May 27th and 28th, 2026**, in **La Tremblade (France)**, at the **Salon de la conchyliculture & des cultures marines**, a renowned international trade fair dedicated to the shellfish farming sector.

We warmly invite all partners, stakeholders, professionals, and interested participants to join us for this special event. The conference will be a unique opportunity to discover the project's main results, exchange knowledge with experts and practitioners, and engage in meaningful discussions on the future of sustainable aquaculture.

Beyond presenting outcomes, the event will also serve as a space for networking, collaboration, and inspiration, bringing together voices from across Europe and the sector. Whether you have been directly involved in the project or are simply interested in innovative and sustainable practices in bivalve mollusc farming, your participation will be highly valuable.

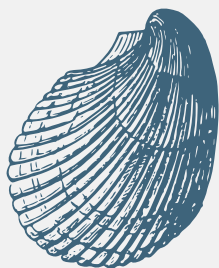
For more information: <https://www.salon-conchyliculture.com/>

Looking Ahead

As the project approaches its conclusion, the importance of strong cooperation, clear communication, and timely delivery cannot be overstated. The coming months will be decisive in ensuring that all planned activities are successfully completed and that the project achieves its full potential.

By continuing to work collaboratively and maintaining a shared focus on quality and impact, partners are well positioned to deliver meaningful and lasting results.

Stay tuned for further updates as we move closer to the Final Conference and the successful completion of the project.



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OPTIMA Project



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