



ACTION E2

DELIVERABLE E2.2: Final report on the results and main achievements of networking activities

(LIFE13 ENV/ES/000131)

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1. Introduction

The main objective of iSEAS project was to demonstrate that a sustainable scenario (in terms of biological and socioeconomic indicators) of the European Fisheries is possible through the enhancement of the real application to the fishing sector of existent knowledge and innovative solutions on discards' reduction and management, creating new added-value mechanisms to the fishing activity.

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Within this scope, a key action of iSEAS was the development of networking activities with other relevant projects and initiatives to foster replication and opportunities for the uptake of the available foreground.

Among these activities, which were designed to ensure an efficient transfer of knowledge and know-how during the implementation of the ISEAS project, the following were included:

- adding and updating information about related projects on the web section "Life + Platform"
- setting up a common calendar as an online tool to disseminate information about events of the networked projects and achieve, through this, a greater impact
- implementing specific actions with each contacted project to search for synergies: common solutions, potential agreements, share resources, co-organize events, etc.
- inviting/visiting other groups from relevant projects to participate in dissemination actions as well as in meetings with these project's beneficiaries
- setting up a list of "common interest matters" and open regular on-line discussion forums through a Linkedin Group
- organising a workshop to boost the exchange of experiences in parallel to the major Project public events and invite representatives of the network projects to attend (in person or virtually).

As a result of these networking activities, 32 projects were identified and contacted due to their common interest in sustainability and efficient management of natural resources, both from a biological and socioeconomic perspective.

Those 32 projects represent more than 100% of the estimated number of projects to contact for this action in the proposal.

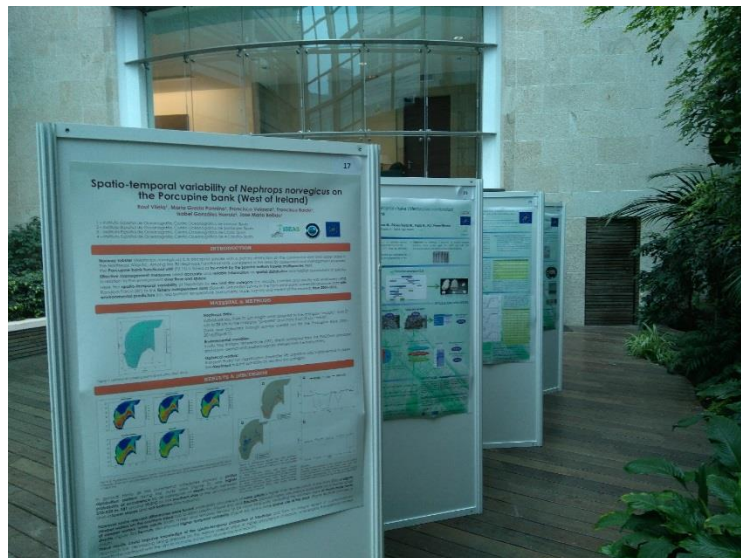
2. Methodology

2.1 Networking objectives

A key part of iSEAS project was to achieve the engagement of the main stakeholders and general public throughout the life-course of the project, with the development of a networking strategy by supplementing and enhancing the dissemination activities.

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This networking strategy was designed to boost the implementation of the project and its results through the transfer of know-how which will be highly beneficial to all parties, by identifying other projects on the issues of sustainability (in terms of biological and socioeconomic indicators) and efficient management of the agrifood sector (including the seafood industry).



The rationale behind this action is oriented to learning from others' experiences, to have a multiplying effect on the project impact and to know and share other methodologies and tools to integrate and promote in LIFE iSEAS activities

Under this approach, the following target areas were identified to explore synergies with other projects:

- Technologies for an efficient use of organic matter.
- Technologies designed to optimize processing plants considering the use of energy and water (ECO-efficient processes).
- Aspects related to the sustainable management of the marine environment with the involvement of stakeholders and for the design of new approaches to manage fishing areas and resources.

- Systemic value chain design and optimisation using GIS.
- Characterization of technical requirements for bio-fertilizers and for other added-value by-products.

2.2 Networking action

The E.2 action “Networking with other similar LIFE+ projects” was undertaken to allow the creation and harnessing of synergies that contributed to the iSEAS project success by sharing problems and solutions, efficient approaches, taking advantage of innovative methods, co-organizing events, and learning about methodological perspectives regarding other key issues such as management, dissemination, etc.

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For this purpose, the iSEAS proposal established the following tasks:

- E2.1.** Create a list of potential networking projects in which beneficiaries participate
- E2.2.** Create a list of potential networking projects in which beneficiaries do not participate
- E2.3.** Create a virtual community/social network site involving persons / institutions identified in E2.1. / E2.2. and open it to other interested bodies.
- E2.4.** Invite/Visit other groups from various relevant projects to participate in dissemination actions as well as in meetings with projects’ beneficiaries.
- E2.5.** Prepare electronic newsletters (every 6 months) to send members of the network.
- E2.6.** Report on the data and results of the planned networking actions.

Moreover, the following activities were developed for achieving the networking objectives of iSEAS project:

- Attend the kick-off-meeting of LIFE 2013 projects in Madrid to develop contacts and possible further collaboration with other Spanish projects.
- Add and update information about relevant projects on the web section “Life + Platform”
- Set up of a shared calendar as an online tool to disseminate information about events of the networking projects and achieve a greater impact with dissemination efforts
- Define a list of “common interest matters” and open regular on-line discussion forums through a Linkedin Group
- Co-organizing events to boost the exchange of experiences with representatives of the networking projects to attend (in person or virtually).



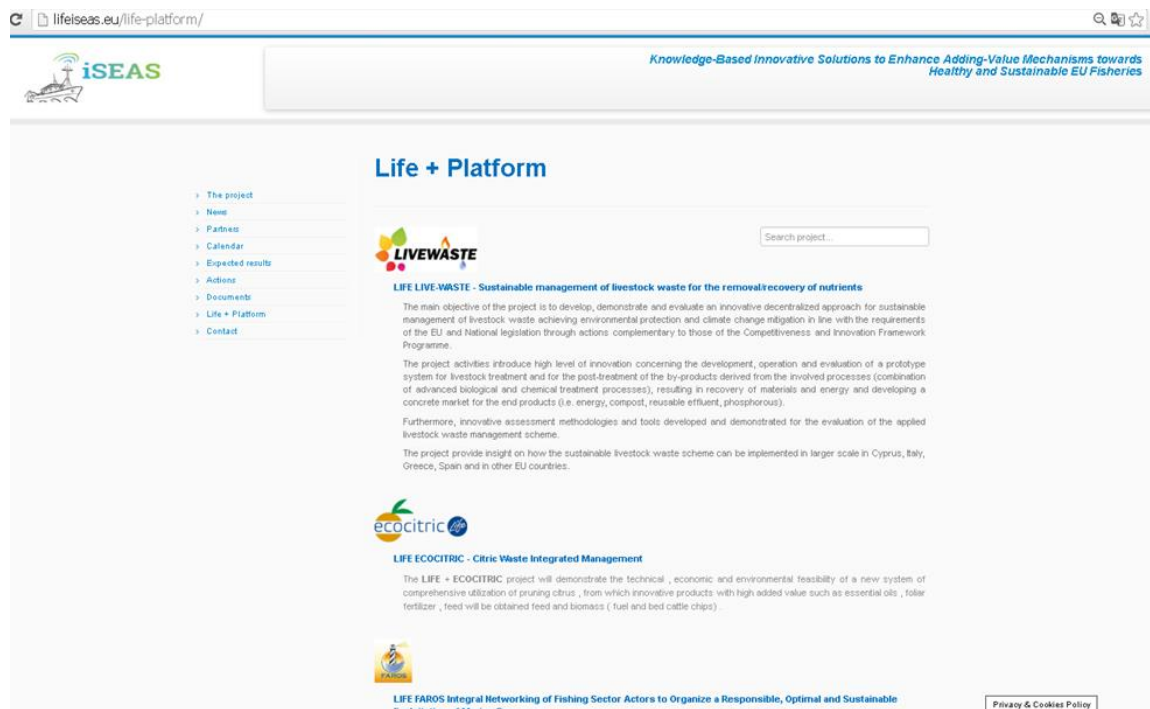
To contribute to task E2.3, the LIFE + Platform was developed on the Website as a virtual community with common interest matters and benefit from potential synergies. At the end of the project, this section involved 32 projects.

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As a first step, the LIFE+ database was explored in detail for identifying network projects. Each partner provided two lists of projects, one for on-going and finished projects in which Life iSEAS's partners participated, and a second list with other relevant projects in which they did not participate.

Once the lists of relevant projects for networking were defined, a formal letter, presented as annex to this report, was sent to their coordinators informing about iSEAS project and its results and proposing a number of actions for aimed at networking:

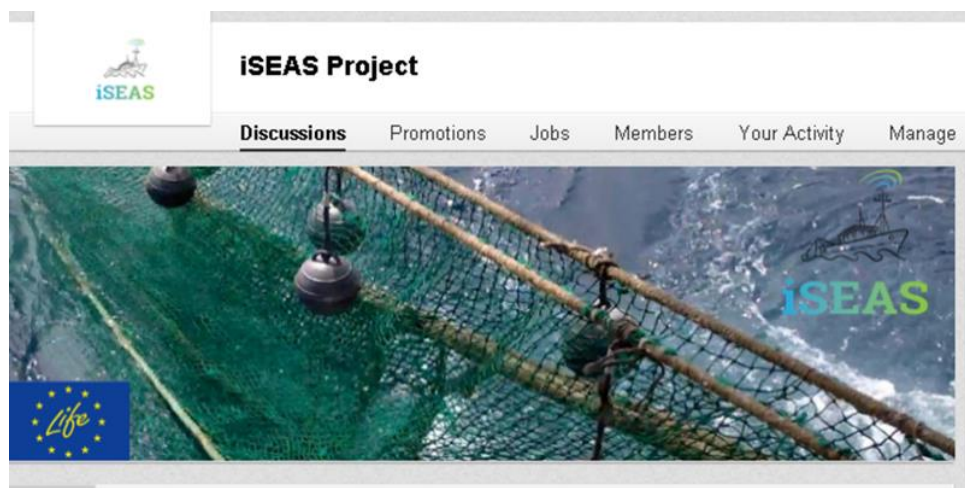
1. Invite to join our network, providing visibility through the [Life Platform](#) available in the iSEAS website in order to create a virtual community. Currently this section includes a public database with information on 32 related projects. The list of contacted projects is presented as an annex to this deliverable report.
2. Share the projects' public event calendar and commit invitation to attend.
3. Share links on the websites (those available).
4. Set up a list of "common interest matters" and open regular on-line discussion forums by creating a discussion group at LinkedIn.
5. Share efforts in some of the planned communication actions (i.e. co-organize a workshop, edit a joint leaflet, edit a shared promotional article in a relevant trade magazine, etc.).
6. Co-organise events to boost the exchange of experiences and invite representatives of the networking projects to attend (in person or virtually).
7. Explore the opportunity of involve the contacted projects in common dissemination activities.



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With regard to the task "E2.3 Create a virtual community/social network place involving persons/institutions identified in E2.1/E2.2 and open it to other interested bodies", a LinkedIn Group was set up to facilitate the exchange of information about fishing discards' related issues. Different discussion threads were proposed during the project lifetime on several issues: regulation, best practices for discards reduction, socio-economic analysis, etc.

At the moment of delivery of this report, this group counts on 23 members.



On 9th June 2016 a half- a- day Seminar "*Facing the economic and social importance of fishing discards ban from an integrating perspective*" was held at the Institute of Environmental Hydraulics at the University of Cantabria (Santander, Spain).

As a meeting point for researches, professionals, technicians and policy makers, this seminar included a half-a-day networking activity aimed at the exchange of best practice, knowledge and experiences among representatives from different projects (DiscardLess, DESMAN, MINOW and VADEAR) whose topics are similar to the Life iSEAS project.



After the accomplishment of the Seminar and as a complementary side-activity, it was organized a networking workshop.

Through a detailed exposure of various actions carried out within the framework of iSEAS, a participatory round of interventions was established in order to know both what kind of contribution would be feasible and what kind of synergies could be established among the networking projects attending.

This was an opportunity to learn from other projects' findings and approaches and to exchange experiences with seven representatives of six European projects, in order to explore further opportunities exchange and to integrate these projects' agendas of public events to some extent as a mean to intensify co-operation, pursuing with shared actions a common benefit approach.

On 29th September 2016, the *8th International Meeting on Biotechnology – BIOSPAIN 2016 held in Bilbao*, Spain the final event of LIFE Seacolors project "Demonstration of new natural dyes from algae as substitution of synthetic dyes actually used by textile industries".

This event was aimed to announce to the scientific and industrial community the most relevant results obtained in the project, while creating awareness about the opportunities of algae in traditional sectors, such as the textile. As well, it was intended to create a wide network where partners could exchange experience between the marine, biotech and textile sectors, in order to share opportunities and establish privileged links between diverse projects and partners, creating great opportunities for collaboration and synergies and to exchange experiences and

results with other EU granted projects or entities with the same thematic or areas of interest that the present project.

The event included the participation of Spanish representatives of different industry, academic and research experts



The fair in which this event took place, BIOSPAIN 2016, is the largest biotech event organized by a national bioindustry association in Europe and one of the largest in the world by the number of one to-one meetings (+3.000) and companies participating (+850). 34% of the delegates came from outside of Spain.

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On the 2nd February 2017 a Science-policy workshop took place in the European Fisheries Control Agency - EFCA (Vigo, Spain) to inform about progress achieved within the framework of Life iSEAS, MINOUW and DiscardLess projects. This event was organized in the frame of the initiatives carried out by Life iSEAS (networking actions) and COLUMBUS project, which aim was to ensure that applicable knowledge generated through EC-funded marine and maritime science and technology research can be transferred to different end-users.

EFCA representatives presented their different activities to assist the EC, MS and fisheries stakeholders for the implementation of the CFP and the landing obligation.



The iSEAS, MINOUW and DiscardLess projects presented an overview of the initiatives they were carried out related the discards problem:

- Recent research progress about the problem of discards: motivations, data, etc
- Technologies and strategies to reduce and avoid discards
- Management, handling and use of the unwanted catch

The final objective of the meeting was to facilitate dialogue between on-going research and innovation projects at European level aiming to tackle the different challenges around avoiding the fishing discards and applying the current regulations to this regard. In addition, this event was an opportunity to identify specific areas for further collaboration among EFCA, Life iSEAS, DiscardLess and MINOUW (with knowledge transfer support from COLUMBUS).

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On 9th - 10th March 2017, in Rome, a diverse group of approximately 60 fisheries stakeholders met with 50 scientists from the DiscardLess project to discuss the EU Landing Obligation at FAO Headquarters. This group represented many different organizations, interests and opinions, including fishers and their representatives from the small-scale fleet to large trawlers and pelagic fisheries, seafood processors, NGOs, Advisory Councils, the European Commission, national administrations, and the European Fisheries Control Agency.

Conference participants came from all EU fisheries regions, from the Baltic to the Mediterranean, and also from outside the EU including Chile, North Africa, the Middle East, the USA and Australia



The “*International conference on advances in marine technologies applied to discard mitigation and management- MARTEC*” (<https://www.martec2018.com>) was held in Vigo, Spain, from 2nd – 4th May 2018, Vigo.

MARTEC was focused on innovative solutions to meet the requirements to comply with the new legal framework of the fishing sector related to the Landing Obligation while ensuring the sustainability of marine resources and the long- term viability of the fishing activity as well.

Scientific works will be presented during the first two days, whereas the 4th May was focused on the participation and debate with the fishing sector

This international conference included a social program opened to different stakeholders interested in the following topics:

- Advances on board: Innovative fishing gear and solutions for the identification and quantification of the total catch.
- Data management and processing: Definition of an efficient modelling tools of fishing activities and policies for resources assessment.
- Solutions in land: Innovative management solutions for the landing obligation compliance. Socio-economic implications: Determination of the best available techniques to comply with the landing obligation. The future of fishing sector: Opportunities and threats beyond 2019. Round table with experts.



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Other networking actions to advance into the establishment of synergies between relevant projects included:

- Jose M^a Bellido from IEO (09th -13th April 2018) and Ricardo I. Pérez from IIM – CSIC (12th November 2018) participated at the Advanced Course “*Managing Discards in Fisheries Ecological and Socioeconomic Analysis and Methodologies*” organized by The International Centre for Advanced Mediterranean Agronomic Studies Zaragoza and the EU H2020 RIA project MINOUW.
- Periodical multilateral meetings, in presence or remote meetings, via videoconference
- Creation of an internal website for sharing reports, deliverables, publications, etc. with relevant content for the involved projects, with a double function as a repository of information and a common calendar for planned dissemination actions. The partnership has yet to identify the type of web tool to be used (intranet, basecamp, sharepoint, etc.) as well as its features and functionalities.
- Interactions have also been promoted between the project and both individual companies and multi-actor organisations with direct interest on technologies which are aimed at adding value to marine biomass coming from discards. One key opportunity to raise awareness about this matter to the marine stakeholder community is the accomplishment of *Business2Sea* event scheduled in Porto (PT) from the 14th to the 16th of November 2018 and where LifeISEAS will also be presented. CETMAR, who co-organises the event with

Forum Oceano, has been the link to confirm the inclusion of LifeISEAS in the agenda and will represent an important opportunity to continue expanding the project network.

3. Conclusions

The “Action E2: Networking with other similar LIFE+ Projects” aimed at identifying previous and present projects on the issues of sustainability (in terms of biological and socioeconomic indicators) and efficient management of the agro-food sector. The development of this action allowed to identify methodologies and tools to integrate and promote in LIFE iSEAS activities. The activities of this action enabled sharing experiences with other related projects and networks and to find synergies. This pooling and exchange of information and experiences on each particular project was highly beneficial to all parties.

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The E2 was developed as scheduled on the proposal.

A total of 32 projects have been detected and contacted with the purpose of boosting networks for finding synergies and sharing knowledge and experiences to integrate and promote in LIFE iSEAS activities. This represents more of the 100% on the number of projects planned to be contacted.

Contacts established with all the projects identified in the framework of activity E2, especially with the coordinators and partners of H2020 projects DiscardLess and MINOUW, will be continued during the next years with the purpose of knowledge exchange and possible collaboration in new projects in the scope of the reduction of unwanted catch and the valuation of biomass that is not sold in the market.

The planned results with the development of the E2 Networking Action included the following:

- Identification and contact of a complete set of related projects to LIFE iSEAS (up to 30).
- A virtual community/social network place involving persons/institutions previously identified to set up a list of “common interest matters” and open regular on-line discussion forums (Linkedin).
- Experts exchange among networked projects (up to 10 exchanges/visits) to boost the exchange of experiences, sharing problems and solutions together with efficient and effective approaches based on innovative methods.

Indicators of Progress

- Number of selected projects: 32
- Number of contacted actors: 32
- Number of participants/visitors to the virtual community/social network place involving identified participants in this Action: 23

- Number of participants on the organized networking events: 307

APPENDIX

- ANNEX I: Contacted projects
- ANNEX II: Letter templates
- ANNEX III: Template for registering and planning networking activities

Contacted projects

- **LIFE LIVE-WASTE** Sustainable management of livestock waste for the removal/recovery of nutrients
- **LIFE ECOCITRIC** Citric Waste Integrated Management
- **LIFE FAROS** Integral Networking of Fishing Sector Actors to Organize a Responsible, Optimal and Sustainable Exploitation of Marine Resources
- **LIFE AQUEMFREE** In-Farm remediation by solar photocatalysis of agro-waste water with pesticides from remnants, cleaning and rinse.
- **LIFE BIOCOPAC PLUS** Sustainable bio-based coating from tomato processing by-products for food metal packaging
- **LIFE BE-FAIR** Benign and environmentally friendly fish processing practices to provide added value and innovative solutions for a responsible and sustainable management of fisheries
- **LIFE + TL-BIOFER** **LIFE + TL-BIOFER** Nutrients and regenerated water recycling in WWTPs through twin-layer microalgae culture for biofertilizers production
- **LIFE Fresh Box** a sustainable transport solution conserving quality of fresh produce, reducing waste & fuel consumption
- **LIFE SMILE** Strategies for Marine Litter and Environmental prevention of sea pollution in coastal areas
- **LIFE VALPORC** Valorization of pig carcasses through their transformation into biofuels and organic fertilizers
- **LIFE PECHEAPIEDELOISIR** Pilot experiments on sustainable and participatory management of recreational seafood hand harvesting
- **LIFE SYNSPIRIT** Sustainable production of bio-methanol by bio-methane and biogene CO2 gas from organic waste and residues
- **LIFE GISWASTE** GIS based decision making tool for food by-products valorization alternatives in the Basque Country
- **QUARTERBACK for LIFE** Crude glycerine water used on-site as a feedstock in an anaerobic digestion reactor to produce the renewable fuel biogas
- **VADEAR** VALorización de la fracción legalmente comercializable del DEscarte producido por la pesca de ARrastre en el Mediterráneo Occidental Español
- **LIFE + 3R FISH** Integral Management Model of recovery and recycling of the proper solid wastes from the fishing and port activities
- **LIFE GESTINMER** System for the integral management of the wastes produced by the mussel cultured in rafts and longlines
- **LIFE AGROWASTE** Sustainable strategies for integrated management of agroindustrial fruit and vegetable wastes
- **FOOD WASTE TREATMENT** Integrated process for a sustainable and cost effective food waste treatment
- **DISCARDLESS** Strategies for the gradual elimination of discards in European fisheries

- **LIFE + PISCES** Partnerships Involving Stakeholders in the Celtic Sea Ecosystem
- **FISH SCALE** Food Information and Safeguard of Habitat a Sustainable Consumption Approach in Local Environment
- **WASTE-C-CONTROL** Waste management options for greenhouse gases emissions control
- **LIFE + SIG AGROASESOR** Customized Advanced GIS advisory Tools for the sustainable management of extensive crops
- **LIFE AGROLCA MANAGER** Software for sustainable environmental management in agribusiness
- **MINOUW** Science, Technology and Society initiative to minimize unwanted catches in European Fisheries
- **SECUREFISH FP7** Improving food security by reducing post harvest losses in the fisheries sector
- **ECOPUERTO** Clean and Solidarity Coastal Waters
- **DESMAN** Study on possibilities for manipulation of unwanted catch on board within the main fleets of Euskadi (inshore, deep-sea and small-scale fishing gear)
- **METABIORESOR** Integrated Pilot Plan for complete energy recovery of different municipal and livestock waste materials and by-products
- **MAPDESCAR** Atlas of fish discards of the trawl and driftnet fishing fleet in the Northeast Cantabrian National fishing ground
- **LIFE SEACAN** Reducing the pressure of fish canneries on the marine environment with novel effluent treatment and ecosystem monitoring

Letter Templates

Subject: Life iSEAS project network

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Dear Mr/Mrs ...

I am contacting you on behalf of [iSEAS](#) partnership, a Life Project titled "*Knowledge-Based Innovative Solutions to Enhance Adding-Value Mechanisms towards Healthy and Sustainable EU Fisheries*".

The overall objective Life-iSEAS project is the minimisation of adverse ecological and environmental effects of discards in fishing activities and to demonstrate the applicability of a set of technologies to support real-time decisions for more selective fishing patterns and strategies. The project will as well demonstrate the feasibility of the use of unwanted fisheries biomass to produce valuable chemicals of interest for the food, cosmetics and pharmaceutical industries.

We have visited the information about your project at Life Programme Database and through your website, and consider that there may be some synergies to explore between your project and ours.

We understand that your knowledge in the area of XXXX and more specifically in the field of XXXX could be an useful input to foster specific collaborative initiatives between us. We would like to invite your organisation and your project partnership to join in our virtual community, a networking enabled platform for sharing experiences among previous and present project partnerships on the issues of sustainability and efficient management of the agro-food and fisheries sectors.

Within the next few weeks, unless you communicate to us that you reject to accept this, we will add a link to your project website in our virtual community. Further on, we'll inform you about any news related to our project, and would like to receive information from yours, being glad to spread this through our communication means to possibly common targets. Moreover, when we organise or participate in any specific dissemination event, we will be pleased to announce it to you and invite you and your partners to attend.

I would like to encourage you to visit our website and suggest to take advantage of any further opportunity for collaboration you may identify. Please find enclosed with this letter a short leaflet and find out about the aims of Life-iSEAS project at a glance.

Thank you in advance for your interest.

Should you need further clarifications, please do not hesitate to contact us.

Kind regards,

Subject: iSEAS project network and Invitation to participate in first iSEAS workshop

Dear Mr/Ms...

I am pleased to contact you again on behalf of iSEAS partnership, the Life Project titled "Knowledge-Based Innovative Solutions to Enhance Adding-Value Mechanisms towards Healthy and Sustainable EU Fisheries".

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One of the commitments we have in iSEAS project is to promote a network of projects complementarily dealing with fishing discards and value-added technologies to comply with the landing obligation of the CFP. The overall objective Life-iSEAS project is the minimisation of adverse ecological and environmental effects of discards in fishing activities and to demonstrate the applicability of a set of technologies to support real-time decisions for more selective fishing patterns and strategies. The project will as well demonstrate the feasibility of the use of unwanted fisheries biomass to produce valuable chemicals of interest for the food, cosmetics and pharmaceutical industries.

We are planning to organise a first iSEAS half-a-day workshop on the 9th June 2016, in Santander. The workshop will focus on the socioeconomic consequences of the landing obligation and, in general, of any strategies for minimizing fishing discards. The event is being planned for an open audience aiming to catch the attention of fishers, fishing industry and their representatives, authorities, researchers, NGOs, etc.

We would like to use this opportunity to learn from other projects' findings and approaches and to exchange experiences, while providing the audience with a more complete view on the State of the Art and on the efforts being implemented from various research and innovation projects to deal with this matter.

Apart from the open workshop, we would like to harness this chance to organise a short meeting with the representatives of a group of European projects we are contacting, in order to explore further opportunities to integrate the agendas of public events to some extent and intensify co-operation, of course pursuing with this a common benefit approach.

Within the next few weeks, unless you communicate to us that you reject to accept this, I would like to have a phone conversation with you to explain this proposal in more detail and agree on next steps.

Thank you in advance for your interest.

Should you need further clarifications prior to my phone call, please do not hesitate to contact me back by e-mail and ask.

Kind regards,

Template for networking activities

ISEAS TASKS	NETWORKING PROPOSAL	TIMETABLE PROPOSAL	MOTIVATION TO COLLABORATE	CONTACT PERSON
ACTION B1 (JULY 2014 – DECEMBER 2017): CATCHING DOCUMENTATION				
iObserver testing and validation with data collected from scientific observers	Testing and validation of technologies / solutions for identification and quantification of the total capture	June 2016 – December 2017		
ACTION B2 (JULY 2014 – JUNE 2018): DISCARDS GIS				
Improvement and development of new features of the Management Geoportal (MGN) web service developed in the FAROS project.	Making improvement suggestions from a user perspective	January 2017 – December 2017.		
ACTION B3 (JANUARY 2015 – JUNE 2018): DISCARDS MODELS AND MAPS				
Definition of a new remote sensed environmental variables as well as greater amount of commercial fishing data.	Interchange information and results on discards models for areas to be avoided	June 2017 – June 2018		

ACTION B4 (JULY 2014 – JUNE 2018): LANDED BIOMASS, IN-LAND USE				
Adaptation of ships (to bring separately target species and discards)	Providing suggestions about solutions for discards storing on board	January 2017 – October 2017.		
Design of a pilot facility named iDVP (Integral Discards Processing and Valorization Point)	Providing suggestions about solutions for discards landing in Port	January 2017 – October 2017.		
Installation of the final machinery in Marin (Galicia, Spain)	Providing alternatives for discards valorization	October 2017 – June 2018.		
ACTION C2 (JULY 2016 – JUNE 2018): ENVIRONMENTAL AND SOCIO-ECONOMIC IMPACT ASSESSEMENT				
Determination of the reduction of environmental impacts associated with the extractive fishing activity when compared with the present situation.	Proposing approaches and making suggestions from similar tasks within other projects.	January 2017 – June 2018		
Estimation of the potential socio-economic benefits of the project at vessel and sectoral level.				
ACTION D1 (JULY 2014 – JUNE 2018): DISSEMINATION ACTIVITIES				

Development and implementation of a communication strategy	Jointly assess chances to apply/suggest the organization of a “stakeholder hearing” by the EC. http://ec.europa.eu/fisheries/news_and_events/events/030511/index_en.htm	July 2016 – June 2018		
Organization of events, workshops, conference, etc. Publications in mass media and technical forums	Sharing common efforts and leveraging resources (See Timetable)	Specific dates and themes.		
ACTION E1 (OCTOBER 2014 – JUNE 2018): EXCHANGE OF INFORMATION ABOUT THE PROJECT				
Technical management of the project, coordination among the different partners and assessment of the project progress.	Attendance to technical and coordination meetings of other projects.	June 2016 – June 2018		
ACTION E2 (OCTOBER 2014 – JUNE 2018): NETWORKING ACTIONS				
Creation of a virtual community/social network place involving persons/institutions	Assess which of the ICT based means already set up by iSEAS would be useful to support the above agreed actions.	June 2016 – June 2018		

EVENTS CALENDAR

Please, describe the type of the event and indicate the quarter of the year in which they have been estimated.	2016		2017				2018				2019				2020	
	III	IV	I	II	III	IV	I	II	III	IV	I	II	III	IV	I	II
1- Presentation of socio-economic implications	X															
2- Presentation of solutions to be implemented: iObserver					X											
3- Presentation of solutions to be implemented: SDI						X										
4- Presentation of solutions to be implemented: FSI						X										
5- Presentation of solutions to be implemented: iDVP							X									
6- Final conference								X								

After
Life

