

The coasts of Europe have experienced major changes over recent decades. Some are put under pressure by the rapid development of urbanisation, industrialisation and mass tourism. Others have suffered economic depression as the activities that traditionally sustained coastal communities become increasingly unsustainable. In all these cases, the economic and social role of fishing and aquaculture in coastal societies has been modified, with new social organisations and cultural processes emerging in coastal areas. However, research on European women within fisheries, aquaculture and coastal communities in such a context is not abundant. The research that does exist usually focuses on local or national issues, and women are rarely their central object. Issues of gender generally appear in anthropological or sociological research of a broader scope and only to point out the sexual division of labour or of space. Yet, many other aspects have not been dealt with, particularly in terms of comparative research on a European scale and beyond. Comparative research should be promoted in Europe and should focus on how the important transformations occurring over the last 30 years have changed women's roles in capture and culture fisheries. Changes and differences should not only be studied across countries, but also across the various forms of social and economic organisation. Fisheries nowadays are conducted at a significant scale under different forms of organisation: family-based, small scale commercial operations (artisanal fisheries); medium and large scale commercial enterprises (industrial fisheries); or leisure fishing. The ongoing process of globalisation also deeply affects the relation of fisheries to coastal communities in terms of reciprocal dependence, both social and economic. Women are integrated or excluded in different ways under each regime, with different patterns of evolution. Public policies and regulation related to fisheries, access to coastal zone or to equality, also affects women lives. In this regard, methodological research is also needed to help gender mainstreaming in support to policy design and implementation.

For these reasons, the programme «FEMMES », financed by the 5th Framework Programme for Research of the European Commission, has decided to set a research agenda designed to raise the needs of research about the place of women in the fishing and aquaculture sector. This agenda is directed towards decision-makers for research policy at all levels, local, national and European. The issues listed in this agenda entail the development of works in all the areas

of social sciences. Most of them call for historic, sociological, or anthropological research. Some of them might require ethnological, legal, political or economic research. The comparative analysis approach is an area that should be promoted on a European level and beyond.

A. WOMEN IN ECONOMIC ACTIVITIES

Women have a double role in fisheries activities: it can be direct, through the carrying out of tasks related to the production; or indirect, where women combine domestic tasks with activities supporting fisheries and aquaculture enterprises.

1. Double tasks: domestic responsibilities and involvement in the enterprise

As in all family-based activities, women are occupied with the technical or administrative aspects linked to the fishing business. These activities are carried out on top of domestic responsibilities. In fisheries, the absence of men gives an even greater importance to this double work / double responsibility. How do women manage, both in time and in space, this double role? How do they complement the activities carried out by the men? And what is the cost of this dual role / responsibility to their personal development?

2. Women's participation in the family-based fishing and aquaculture production

The organisation of production in family-based units sees women playing an important role in on-shore operations. Women play a key role in the administration of the activity. Women also contribute to the maintenance of fishing gears and boats, the preparation of fishing trips (baiting), and the handling, processing and trading of the fish. Such work is rarely remunerated and has little legal recognition. Technical change has induced the industrialisation of many tasks performed by hand by women (such as net production, fish processing). How has social development changed women's contribution to production? What are the consequences for the economy of the family? What are the advantages and disadvantages for women within the household and the community? What impacts have the different regulation systems had on women and gender relations?

3. Women's managerial functions and access to ownership in family enterprises

Having gained recognition of their contribution to the family enterprise, some women are in a position where they can perform management functions (making decisions for investments, and the creation and management of complementary activities, etc.). They may also claim rights on the means of production, such as property rights and the right of access to resources. How do various forms of ownership impact gender relations and women's situations? What are the limiting or supporting factors for women to take responsibilities? What social and institutional recognitions are required for women's access to ownership? What are the consequences on their capacity to decide upon their personal or professional life? Is gender an issue in succession rights in aquaculture and fisheries?

4. Livelihood and social status of the wives of crewmen

Responsible for all aspects of family life when their husbands are at sea, crewmen's wives have an uncommon life. Unlike boat owners' wives, their husband's work does not provide them with any opportunity to become involved in or obtain an income related to fishing. What access do these women have to training and employment? What are their claims for themselves and their husbands (better working condition on board, safety at sea.)?

5. Women as fishers

In most European countries, women fishers represent a minority group. It is important to expand on the existing knowledge about women's roles and actions as fishers. What constraints do women meet in fishing? How do women cope with regulation in fisheries? How do they cope with technological changes? What factors promote women's integration or exclusion from the fishing fleets? How do female fishers combine their fishing activities with household and community work?

6. Women in aquaculture

Aquaculture is a relatively new and rapidly developing industry. It is important to examine how aquaculture includes women as owners, managers, and workers. What are the working conditions and career patterns for these women? Globalisation, industrialisation, technological development and capitalisation have led to comprehensive changes in the industry; how have these changes

influenced women's roles and positions? How do forms of ownership impact on women's situations in aquaculture? Do these changes represent opportunities or threats to women?

7. Women in small scale distribution of fishery and aquaculture products

Ways and means of distributing fishery and aquaculture products have undergone major changes. These changes often exclude women from further participation in traditional ways of trading, but, at the same time, may also offer new opportunities. What are the tasks accomplished by women and workers' organisations in the area of distribution? What types of changes can be seen in commercialisation strategies and distribution? What are the comparative advantages of collective initiatives relative to single-person enterprises? What are the factors that impact the supply of marine products? What measures are needed to increase the recognition and attractiveness of these activities (i.e. training, legal recognition, financial and technical support to individual or collective initiatives)?

8. Women's initiatives and strategies of economic diversification into activities complementary or alternative to aquaculture and fishing/shell fishing

The uncertainty that weighs on fisheries incomes coupled with the need to reduce the pressure on resources have increasing numbers of fishing households looking to diversify their income sources. Women are among the first to be concerned, looking at a range of alternative activities, from securing wage-earning work outside the fishing sector to developing additional activities based on their fishing activities. In the latter case, women may initiate value-adding activities or activities linked to tourism. What are the initial motivations for such diversification? What kind of support do they need, what are the changes induced by these initiatives, and what is the place for collective initiatives?

9. Strategies to adapt to new regulations and global competition

Most of the activities run by women (fish selling, processing, net making and net mending) face a number of international and regional pressures, including the industrialisation of production, the globalisation of trade, and the development of standards (food safety, traceability, safety at work, etc.). In order to continue operating, they are forced to adopt costly adaptations. How

do women respond to these challenges, and how are their responses perceived by public authorities?

10. Women in «new» managerial and administrative positions

In many European countries, women enter into new and established professions related to fisheries: administrative and managerial work in the public and private sector, education, marketing, consulting, financing, and research, among others. What are the working conditions of these women? What career patterns exist? Are women able to gain access to decision-making positions or do they mostly occupy subordinate roles? What influence do they have? Does it make any difference in gender issues whether there are women or men in these positions?

B. LEGAL RECOGNITION OF INFORMAL WOMEN'S PARTICIPATION IN ECONOMIC ACTIVITIES

In some European countries, the contribution of women (spouses or partners) in fisheries and aquaculture has obtained legal recognition, allowing women individual access to social benefits.

1. Women's juridical status linked to the fishing/shell fishing and aquaculture sector

Legal recognition of the work done by women independently from their husbands translates into the definition of a status and grants access to social benefits. How do official authorities and industry organisations formalize such rights? How do women go about obtaining wider recognition? In what ways and for what reasons do they seize – or distrust – opportunities offered to them? What are the consequences, in terms of personal or professional development, of having or not having such legal recognition?

2. Consequences of the legal recognition of women's contribution on the dynamics of family-based enterprises and of the whole industry.

The legal recognition of women's autonomous work implies extra costs in the short-term, while its long-term benefits are underestimated. In France women should contribute 3 euro per day for 37,5 years to receive a pension of 512 euro per month. How do these short-term extra costs affect the economic viability of the enterprises? Does the choice to adopt or not the status relate

more to the power relation and the perception of women-men roles or to the difficulty to anticipate implications? Can it affect the overall dynamic of artisanal fisheries?

C. WOMEN AND COLLECTIVE ACTION

The establishment of women's organisations and the integration of women into men's organisations have allowed women to participate in public debates concerning fisheries and about their own condition.

1. Women's access to public spheres and representation

In the fisheries sector, which is still very much marked by male dominance, women seem to have made important inroads towards entering and gaining recognition and representation in the public sphere. What have been the incentives and means behind these gains? What has been achieved and what are the limitations? What are the prospects for the future?

2. Development and dynamics of women's organisations

Women may have limited access to the public sphere through fishermen's organisations, unions, political parties or religious organisations. However, when access to these organisations, generally run by men, is denied to them, or when they wish to portray a different message, women in fisheries and aquaculture have, throughout the past decade and in many places, formed their own organisations. What are the factors that explain this dynamism? Do women act for the benefit of their organisation (association/networks)? Do they succeed in promoting women's issues and interests? Why are women's groups often organised in response to a crisis in fisheries? Under what conditions can they gain more permanence? What are the long-term prospects and real agendas of these organisations?

D. WOMEN'S ROLE IN THE SOCIAL REPRODUCTION OF COASTAL COMMUNITIES AND THEIR CULTURES

This section of FEMMES' research agenda will highlight the roles played by women in the social reproduction of coastal communities and their cultures.

1. Women and the perception of fishing activities and identities

Women, due to the influence they can exercise over their husbands, can be an important factor for desirable changes such as improving work relations or maritime safety. Is such a notion reality or myth? What are the social processes driving examples of such influence, and what are the tools and support needed to develop this potential? The way women perceive sea-related professions greatly influences their sons' choice of professions; is the recruitment of young people into the fisheries sector dependent on the perceptions of women?

2. Women's activism for the sustainable development of coastal areas

Fisherwomen and other coastal women tend to get involved in community life which calls for more solidarity and sharing. Beyond personal solidarity or works of charity, can this involvement be extended to social and political action in coastal areas? Is there a place for women in local politics and beyond? What are the lessons from past experiences?

3. Gender analysis and mainstreaming for fisheries and coastal management

Present strategies for fisheries and coastal zone management suffer from the lack of equity for certain segments of the population, especially women. For management practitioners, coastal communities are homogenous, without any difference between men and women, young and old, etc. The use of «gender analysis» can provide coastal managers better information about how men and women access and use the resources differently. Who has the power to make decisions? Whose priorities are being addressed? Who benefits from different policies concerning coastal management, and who loses out?

E. THEORETICAL AND METHODOLOGICAL APPROACHES

1. Gender sensitive statistical information.

Quantitative indicators and methodologies are needed to document and estimate the relative contributions of women and men to the economic and social structure of the industry. Indeed, such indicators are a prerequisite to the above research. In particular, there is a need for methodologies to ensure the

homogeneity of statistical data across space and time, particularly for follow-up studies on public policy.

2. Qualitative approaches (generation approach)

Studying the careers of women over several generations provides a useful comparative tool between countries. Such studies shape future policies by examining women's roles and relations in fisheries and their trends over time.

3. Theoretical and feminist contributions

Because of the complexity of the everyday lives of fisherwomen, spanning the traditional to the post modern, the local to the global level, studies in this area can provide valuable insight and contribution to social and cultural theories. Women in fisheries should be also seen from a feminist perspective which will permit understanding of the ways in which women act for their emancipation from or their integration into the fisheries sector. Are feminist theories on recognising the difference between men and women available in fisheries? Femininity should be recognised and accepted as it is by the society.

4. Inclusion of a gender perspective in all social sciences research and studies concerning fisheries

The lack of a gender perspective in social sciences research and studies in fisheries obstructs the study of gendered issues and relations in fisheries, such as the relations between male fishers and their wives, or the variations between male and female salaries in paid work. The inclusion of a gender perspective will permit recognition and visibility to women's unpaid work in fisheries.

5. Mediation / Publications

In order to have a positive impact, the research agendas described above must be disseminated to the public, and in particular, should target women, policymakers and other researchers. In order to succeed new working methods and financial supports are needed.

