

## **FISHERWOMEN ORGANISATIONS IN EUROPE ADVOCATING FOR FISHERWOMEN RIGHTS**

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Since the middle of 1990, European fisherwomen and wives of fishers organised themselves in associations or networks to advocate for their rights, to defend family based fisheries enterprises and fisheries communities. From country to country, the reasons for establishing women's organisations were different but common claims unify them as for example the recognition of their contribution in fisheries.

In the past, little exchange existed between organisations from the different countries. The establishment of the European network AKTEA in 2006 offered them the opportunity to exchange and share information about their actions, knowledge and experiences. AKTEA network promotes the equality between women and men in the fisheries industry at the European level. AKTEA objectives are: the recognition of women contribution in fisheries, the participation of women in the decision-making in fisheries management, the improvement of women's self-confidence, political and institutional acceptance of women's organisations in fisheries, sustainable development of fisheries and of fishing communities.

This presentation will explore first the origin and nature of women's organisations in fisheries and aquaculture in different levels and countries. Second, it will demonstrate how the network has increased by its action the recognition of women role and of their organisations. Finally, it will identify opportunities and constraints for further development of women's organisations in fisheries and aquaculture.