

Report on the outcomes of a presentation and participation in a Dissemination Conference¹

Action number: 22163

Grantee name: Arjan Palstra

Conference Details

Conference title: 2nd International Eel Science Symposium

Conference web-page: <https://ifm.org.uk/events/2nd-international-eel-science-symposium-2/>

Conference venue²: Adelphi Hotel, Ranelagh Street, Liverpool, UK

Conference start and end date: 09/07/2024 to 11/07/2024

Accepted oral contribution details

Title of the presentation: Research and collaboration to support eel propagation

Co-authors: Pauline Jehannet, Leon Heinsbroek, William Swinkels

Other details of the presentation: My contribution is accepted for an oral presentation in Session 9. Threats, Diseases and Propagation, of the European eel.

Outcome of the conference participation

Description of the outcome of the conference presentation, including contacts made and potential for future collaborations.

(max. 500 word)

As chair of the COST Action EEL SUPPORT (www.wur.eu/eelsupport), I have visited the 2nd International Eel Science Symposium in Liverpool. The aim of my oral presentation 'research and collaboration to support eel propagation' was to present our recent research results and promote the EEL SUPPORT Action before an eel-minded audience of broad expertise. Several researchers showed interest to join the Action, represent their country in the Management Committee (e.g. UK, Ireland, Sweden) and contribute to the Action's objectives.

The abstract of my presentation, co-authored by Pauline Jehannet, Leon Heinsbroek and William Swinkels, informed the audience that in 2016, the Eel Reproduction Innovation Centre was launched, a collaborative initiative of Wageningen Livestock Research with the Dutch eel sector, united in the sustainable eel foundation DUPAN. The major aim of EELRIC is to close the

¹ This report is submitted by the grantee to the Action MC for approval and for claiming payment of the awarded grant. The Grant Awarding Coordinator coordinates the evaluation of this report on behalf of the Action MC and instructs the GH for payment of the Grant.

² For an online conference, specify virtual participation; for hybrid conferences, specify whether it is an in-person or virtual participation.

production cycle of the European eel in order to supply eel aquaculture with glass eels and to alleviate fishery pressure on the natural population. Now, we are able to produce larvae batches three times per week of wild eels and feminized eels and we have been able to feed the larvae exogenously. Larval mortality and deformity rates can still be high and therefore research focus is on improving egg quality and larval vitality.

Right from the start of EELRIC, we have created an international network of partners working on eel reproduction with the purpose to improve the exchange of information coming from, mostly, nationally funded projects. In order to accelerate with solving bottlenecks in eel reproduction, there is a need for expanding the network: more coverage, broader theme, connect disciplines, involve industry and policy makers. We have recently received funding to accomplish this within the COST Action Eel Support.

This autumn we will upscale our larval feeding trials in the new hatchery/nursery with help of Laura Gentile (University of Bologna) and Aleksandra Dobricic (University of Belgrade). Both PhD students have received funding for their Short Term Scientific Mission from the COST Action and are hosted by Wageningen University and Research.

The above text has also been posted on LinkedIn:

https://www.linkedin.com/posts/arjan-palstra-98834413_eel-eelric-eelsupport-activity-7217505502883102721-BbnX?utm_source=share&utm_medium=member_desktop

Acknowledgement of inclusion of necessary supporting documents to claim the grant

I confirm that the following documents have been uploaded on e-COST as an integral part of this report:

- the certificate of conference attendance.
- the programme of the conference or book of abstracts / proceedings indicating the oral presentation of the grantee.
- copy of the given presentation.

Pictures that illustrate my visit:



Pic. 1: The EEL SUPPORT chair and co-chair Caroline Durif



Pics. 2 and 3: Presenting before ~100 eel researchers



Pic. 4: Entree to the symposium in the fancy Adelphi hotel