



PRESS RELEASE

On the occasion of the 60th anniversary of the intergovernmental organization

CIHEAM organizes an international conference on sustainable development of coastal areas and fisheries in the Mediterranean

- Top-level experts and representatives of CIHEAM member countries will gather on 14 October in Alicante (Spain) to address the need to conserve the coastal areas and marine and fishery resources suffering the impacts of human activity
- The Conference will include thematic working meetings to analyse the situation of women in the fisheries sector and to explore opportunities for collaboration among the Mediterranean fishing port museums
- CIHEAM works to define strategies and identify synergies that will guide the transition towards a more sustainable blue economy in the Mediterranean

Zaragoza, October 6, 2022.- Experts and representatives of Mediterranean countries belonging to **CIHEAM**, an intergovernmental organization cooperation in agriculture, food and fisheries, will gather on **14 October at Casa Mediterráneo, Alicante**, analysing and proposing solutions to the many challenges facing the Mediterranean Sea and coastal zones today, such as **overfishing, artisanal fisheries management, the role of women** in the fishing sector, sustainable **aquaculture** development, management of **protected marine areas, loss of biodiversity, invasive species, micro plastics** and the impact caused by **climate change**, among others.

The Conference will be inaugurated by the Secretary General of Fisheries from the Spanish **Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food**, Alicia Villauriz, a representative from the Spanish **Ministry of Foreign Affairs, European Union and Cooperation**, and **CIHEAM's Secretary General**, Plácido Plaza. The Secretary for Agriculture and Rural Development from the **Regional Ministry of Agriculture, Rural Development, Climate Emergency and Ecological Transition**, Rogelio Llanes, a representative from **Alicante's city council**, and the **Director of Casa Mediterráneo**, Andrés Perelló, will be also present at the opening of the event. In addition, representatives from some of the most relevant international organizations in terms of fisheries and coastal zone management (**GFCM-FAO, ICCAT and UNEP/MAP**) and the Deputy Secretary General of Higher Education and Research at the **Union for the Mediterranean**, Álvaro Albacete, will be participating as speakers.

This international gathering will be part of **CIHEAM'S 60th anniversary** celebrations. CIHEAM was founded in 1962 and currently has 13 member countries (Albania, Algeria, Egypt, France, Greece, Italy, Lebanon, Malta, Morocco, Portugal, Spain, Tunisia and Turkey). During the event, CIHEAM will present the results of their **study on coastal zone and fisheries management in the Mediterranean**. The aim of the study was to join efforts and seek institutional synergies that can support stakeholders in protecting the sea, coast and marine resources of the Mediterranean and ensuring the development of economically and socially sustainable activities.



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The event will also include thematic working meetings to analyse the situation of **women in the fisheries sector** and to explore opportunities for collaboration among the Mediterranean **fishing port museums**, particularly those related to fishing communities that strive to maintain socially and environmentally more sustainable practices. In both cases, the intention is to create a Mediterranean network to facilitate the mutual efforts of different stakeholders.

CIHEAM Zaragoza: an international point of reference in the field of fisheries and aquaculture

CIHEAM's Institute in Spain, co-organizer of the event, is an international point of reference in the field of fisheries and aquaculture. Since its creation in 1969, fisheries and aquaculture have become important priorities in CIHEAM Zaragoza's training activities, as can be appreciated in the offer of master's programmes in **Sustainable Fisheries Management** and in **Marine Aquaculture**, as well as **advanced courses for professionals** in these fields of expertise.

CIHEAM Zaragoza has recently led the **European H2020 project MedAID**. The main purpose of the project was to enhance the competitiveness and sustainability of the Mediterranean aquaculture sector, particularly seabass and seabream production. CIHEAM Zaragoza currently participates in the **European H2020 project NewTechAqua**, which seeks to expand and diversify European aquaculture production of finfish, molluscs and algae.

CIHEAM: 60 years working towards sustainable development of the Mediterranean

Aligned with its motto "Sharing knowledge, feeding the future", over the last six decades CIHEAM has been striving to achieve sustainable development of the agriculture, food and fisheries sector in the Mediterranean. In this endeavour, its four institutes (Bari, Chania, Montpellier and Zaragoza), support and execute many cooperation initiatives, leading research, innovation and development projects and delivering a wide range of training programmes such as international master's programmes and specialized courses.

The Organization has a specific **corporate group for coastal zone and fisheries management in the Mediterranean**, made up of experts from the four Institutes. Besides strengthening the coordination of efforts driven by the organization, in the fields of fisheries, aquaculture and coastal resource management, the group is working to define strategies and identify synergies that will guide the transition towards **a more sustainable blue economy in the Mediterranean**.

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CIHEAM Zaragoza is one of the four Institutes of the International Centre for Advanced Agronomic Mediterranean Studies (CIHEAM), together with Bari in Italy, Montpellier in France and Chania in Greece. CIHEAM Zaragoza was founded in 1969, offering quality and excellence in training and promoting international cooperation through research project management based on CIHEAM Zaragoza's five fields of expertise: 'Environment and Natural Resources', 'Fisheries and Aquaculture', 'Animal Production and Welfare', 'Plant Production, Health and Breeding' and 'Marketing and Agrifood Systems'. CIHEAM Zaragoza has become consolidated as a point of reference for specialized international training in the agrifood sector. It is located on the Campus of Aula Dei, one of the largest and most prestigious agricultural science complexes in Spain, strengthening synergies between the scientific community, firms and students.