

**FEDERATION OF EUROPEAN
AQUACULTURE PRODUCERS**

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Press Release

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Subject: **Successful "Deep Dive" for the first FEAP NextGen Academy training**

On March 25th and 26th, FEAP organized its first ever FEAP NextGen Academy training, bringing a class of young fish farming professionals from across Europe to the heart of Brussels for a "Deep Dive into EU institutions". This training, sponsored by AquaSoja (Soja de Portugal) was a first for FEAP, whose members and team are developing increasing efforts into investing in youth and generational renewal in the European fish farming sector.

Following multiple exchanges over the past year with Young Aquaculture Professional Associations and Networks such as NOWA (the Network of Women in Aquaculture) YAS, (Young Aquaculture Society) and YoungFish Norway, FEAP decided in 2024 to develop a program called "FEAP NextGen", aiming at connecting young fish farming professionals and providing them support and opportunities to get a better understanding of the European dimension of fish farming policy making.

When FEAP started a few months ago developing this idea, little did we expect to drive so much interest and so many applicants for this first edition. For this first training, FEAP received over a hundred applications, and choosing 15 participants for this first edition has been a tough process as we had to sort so many good profiles.

The whole process, from organisation to delivering, has been extremely energizing. Indeed, the team of participants (15 participants from 14 countries) hosted for two days created a unique blend of backgrounds, languages, professional skills, personal life stories, boldness, fun facts and high motivation. They made the most out of their two days and had the chance to meet with representatives from AAC, MAC, EATIP, FEFAC, DG Research, DG MARE, and MEPs including MEPs Gabriel Mato, Francisco Millán Mon, representatives from European Commission DGMARE and DGRResearch as well as stakeholders from Market Advisory Council, EATIP, FEFAC and Aquaculture Advisory Council.

These meetings helped demonstrate how democracy and collective solution-making works. Bringing a critical eye and reality check of complexities of EU policy making, all understood the value and privilege of having organisations and institutions listening and carrying the voice of citizens, producers and consumers, to the highest level of decision making. Many participants brought to the table very practical questions and challenges faced by European fish farmers, which they could address first hand with the European stakeholders involved in the training.

After this first training, we feel the future of aquaculture will be bright! We could not be more convinced that, to make #EUAquaculture the champion sector it must become, all EU producers horizons must meet, young professionals and their story must be at the center and receive all the attention, space and resources needed so that their energy and motivation unfurls into sustainable successes.

One thing's for sure: FEAP and the #FEAPNextGenAcademy will be there to push in that direction, and our first class of 2025 – the EU'DeepDive Class – will inspire our work in the months and years to come.

Thank you again to our sponsor #Aquasoja SOJA DE PORTUGAL who trusted in FEAP and this first NextGen Academy edition!

Keep following FEAP for our future NextGen actions <https://feap.info/nextgen/>

Pictures available [here](#).



About the Federation of European Aquaculture Producers

The Federation of European Aquaculture Producers is an organisation that represents the European fish farming profession and is based in Brussels. FEAP is composed of 24 national fish farming associations from 23 countries, both EU and non-EU. The combined yearly production of FEAP members surpasses 2,5 million tonnes of nutritious, safe, delicious, and environmentally sustainable fish.