



**Kathryn Stack**

**Nuffield International Scholar  
English origin, based in Belgium**



Coming from a fisheries perspective, it's been really useful to meet people from all different sectors of the food production industry. Fisheries is quite specific and it was great to see different structures, different organisations, how they work and different business models - I can apply this learning to the fisheries world and see how they compare.

#### **What was memorable about one of the visits?**

We went to a small organisation which aims to help women. We saw how a local community can come together and find ways to improve their lives.

Women who go there may have come from difficult backgrounds or from abusive relationships or maybe just trying to find work to pay some bills. Many of them have children and are struggling to make ends meet. They go on a sort of treasure hunt for old posters or bits of material and transform them into things people can buy. So for example, we met a group of ladies making bags and table placemats from things they found in a scrap heap.

I found this really inspiring because these people have very little but they have made such a worthwhile organisation which is really helping people and transforming the community around them.

#### **How did you get involved in Nuffield?**

Wayne Dredge, an Australian fisherman and 2014 Nuffield Scholar came to Brussels where I am based to interview me as part of his personal study.

I didn't really know much about Nuffield mainly because it was primarily focussed on farming but we spoke for two or three hours about his project and about what Nuffield does. I was really impressed and I wanted to get more involved so when a few Scholars came to Brussels I helped them organise meetings and meet people. I just got involved from there.

Then Wayne persuaded me that maybe I should apply. So I did and I am really happy I did as I have met some great people and I think it will certainly help in being effective in my career.

#### **What will you investigate on your individual travels?**

I am looking at how industry associations, mainly in fisheries, can better influence government policy.

This is because from a Brussels perspective, in looking at EU fisheries legislation, I have noticed there is a wide gap between government legislation and what is happening on the ground.

There is a real need especially in Brussels for industry associations to become more vocal, more active and really engage with the government to provide a bigger voice because at the moment it is not being heard. So what I will do is compare fisheries against agriculture and what is going on in the European Union against other countries.

***A Nuffield Scholarship is an intensive preparation for farmers and agri-professionals who are committed to life-long learning and to promoting excellence in all aspects of agricultural production, distribution, management and communication.***