



ARIEL project cod.278

WPT1 - Small Scale Fisheries and Aquaculture Framework Analysis

THE ADRION AQUACULTURE SWOT

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THE ARIEL PROJECT

Aquaculture (AQ), along with Small-scale fisheries (SSF), are emerging sectors with high socio-economic importance and represent key drivers for the sustainable growth of Adriatic-Ionian communities. AQ sector faces challenges, such as: key enabling technologies and capacity creation, improved technological and market research for more cost-effective and sustainable solutions, co-management of resources, science-based policies, improved collection and assessment of biological data and data on production, and finally, viability and sustainability of ecosystem functioning. Under these premises the ARIEL Project, which is co-financed by the INTERREG VB ADRION Program 2014-2020, aims to promote (non-) technological solutions for the innovation of AQ and SSF among scientists, policy-makers and entrepreneurs, acting as a knowledge network and taking into account, in a single framework, the complex ecological, economic and societal challenges. ARIEL will develop capacity-building actions for policy makers to facilitate the adoption of a science-based approach to improve co-management of resources and develop appropriate supporting schemes to stimulate actors' networking and clustering. Project activities will lead to strategic and operational guidelines to promote open innovation in SSF and AQ led by research institutes, facilitated by policy makers, endorsed by entrepreneurs and recognized by consumers. ARIEL promotes the uptake of open innovation led research in SSF and AQ facilitated by policy-makers and endorsed by operators by involving multiple-skill-organizations from Italy, Croatia, Montenegro and Greece. These organizations can effectively tackle, both strategically and operationally, the complex challenges of the growing SSF and AQ sectors in the Adriatic-Ionian Region, and can identify key innovation drivers for policy and research. Finally, they can ensure the durability and transferability of the projects' results.

The ARIEL partnership



ADRION AQUACULTURE SWOT

The present SWOT table outline the strengths, weaknesses, opportunities sand threats detected in the aquaculture sector of the Adriatic Ionian Region territories. The SWOT table was developed by the Hellenic Center for Marine Research (Greece), merging the regional SWOT tables delivered by the Italian, Croatian and Montenegrin partners and the information from the desk **survey**.

STRENGTHS	WEAKNESSES
<p>⇒ Active and dynamic sector</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Increased efficiency ○ Participation in EU programs and projects ○ Foreign investments ○ Increased exports ○ Active participation of actors in policy measures' public consultations ○ High level of exports <p>⇒ Important economic sector for local communities</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Provide income and employment ○ Support rural/regional development in areas with limited economics alternatives <p>⇒ Many entrepreneurs are relatively open for new ideas and clustering/networking</p> <p>⇒ Close collaboration with regional authorities</p> <p>⇒ Optimal coastal climatic conditions and geographical characteristics</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Quality of production ○ Fast growth of spawn/juveniles ○ Potential for new cultural species <p>⇒ Improved public perception / Acceptance by locals</p>	<p>⇒ High level of risk on investment</p> <p>⇒ Short-term/opportunistic thinking</p> <p>⇒ Financial distress</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Threaten (economic) sustainability/ resilience ○ Discourage investments on equipment and human capital <p>⇒ Hard price competition among enterprises in the sector</p> <p>⇒ Negative environmental impact of aquaculture</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Introduction of alien species and new diseases ○ Discharge of organic matter and nutrients ○ Release of chemicals ○ Introduction (intentional or unintentional) of alien species

OPPORTUNITIES	THREATS
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ⇒ Low competition by alternative activities ⇒ Growing consumer demand for fish and fisheries ⇒ EU / National Policies <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Measures supporting innovation uptake, modernization & clustering/networking ○ Research Projects ○ Join in FLAGs ○ Raising awareness on associating schemes like clusters and producers' organizations ○ Support supplementary activities (e.g. tourism) ○ Public commitment to support the sector development ⇒ Collaboration with research/academia 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ⇒ Hard global competition <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Need for organizational innovations ○ Need for new marketing tools ○ Difficulties to meet consumers' demand ○ Human capital deficiency ⇒ Not well-adjusted EU-policy measures/actions ⇒ Administration burdens / Bureaucratic obstacles / complex, multitudinal and partially overlapping legislation. ⇒ Prolonged financial crisis ⇒ Low fish prices ⇒ No consistency in policy design ⇒ Climate change ⇒ Environmental degradation stemmed from different economic activities

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