

TOURISMED

Fishing Tourism for a Sustainable Development in the Mediterranean area

Deliverable 3.5.4: *Study Visit Report*

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Purpose of the study visit

The project “Fishing tourism for a sustainable development in the Mediterranean area” (TOURISMED) was developed, aimed at testing and transferring a fishing tourism business model in the coastal areas of Italy, Cyprus, Greece, Albania, France and Spain as a tool to promote sustainable fishing tourism and to foster the preservation of the marine environment and the traditional fishing culture across the Mediterranean Sea.

Within the framework of the Work Package 3, referred to the testing of the fishing tourism business model, the project gave a strong importance to the Exchange of information (Activity 3.5) between partners, in order to facilitate the sharing of best practices while valorizing the peculiarities of each territory and strengthening the sense of networking among fishing tourism operators.

It is included in this activity a Study visit that each organization involved in testing the model should have realized in a partner Country, involving around 4 stakeholders (balanced between fishing associations and tourism operators) to learn how the fishing tourism model is adopted in a Partner Country.

This deliverable 3.5.4 is the Report of the Study visit organized by the Partner University Of Piraeus (*sending Partner*) for the fishermen from Greece for visiting the area of Corsica (Propriano and Bonifacio), thanks to the facilitation of the Partner **PETRA PATRIMONIA CORSICA** (*hosting partner*).

In line with the Project document, this report will collect information on the effectiveness of the 2-day visit. It will be focused on how to set up a fishing tourism business, necessary equipment and measures for tourists on board, creation of itineraries, trial of fishing tourism trip.

1 Participants

1. Prof. Vasileios Tselentis - University of Piraeus, Department of Maritime Studies
2. Giannis Athinaios – Fisherman
3. Panagiotis Koutelias – Fisherman
4. Giovanni Daveronis – President of the Attica Restaurants Association

The people involved from the Host Institution were:

1. Tommaso Scavone – contact person for Petra Patrimonia Corsica
2. Remi Bellia – Med and international expert in the field of fishing tourism and ittitourism
3. Yannick Leger – local development expert, in charge for PETR Valinco
4. Philippe Botti – Fisherman
5. Dominique Festa – Fisherman
6. Théo Sitzia - Fisherman

Selection criteria: The Greek participants were chosen taking into account the professional background of the people, combined with their will to learn and travel. The professions were mixed, we had 2 fishermen and one Restaurant owner.

2 Description of the visit

Study Visit in Corsica

Agenda

	Day 1: 25th February 2019
	Arrival in Ajaccio
	Day 2: 26th February 2019
09:00	Transfer to Propriano
10:30	Meeting with local fishermen and with public stakeholders (Tourist Office of Propriano, etc) 21 Avenue Napoléon III, Propriano
13:30	Lunch at the Restaurant “No stress” in Propriano
15:40	Visit to the Megaliths of Cauria (Sartene)
17:30	Meeting with the Pôle d'Equilibre Territorial et Rural Valinco
	Dinner at the agritourism “Table De La Machja”
	Day 3: 27th February 2019
09:00	Transfer to the City of Bonifacio
10:30	Meeting with local fishermen and with the Prud'homie des pêcheurs de Bonifacio
13:30	Lunch at the Restaurant “Kissing Pigs” in Bonifacio
15:00	City tour in Bonifacio
18:00	Transfer to Propriano
	Day 4: 28th February 2019
	Transfer to Ajaccio
	Departure from Ajaccio

Lessons learnt and restitution plan

The aim of the study visit was to learn how the fishing tourism is implemented in the partner country, namely Corsica, France. The main elements gained by our organization centred on the two fishermen and the one restaurant owner who were part of the Greek delegation. On the fishermen's side, we believe the visit was of invaluable significance to the Greek fishermen. In all occasions when we met with the fishermen in both Propriano and Bonifacio the Greek fishermen, engaged in discussions with their counterparts, even though there was a language barrier.



Figure 1: Visit in Propriano

It was amazing to see how easily they communicated and exchanged information on issues concerning legal matters pertinent to fishing tourism, to details about the different fishing gear used in each county. The discussions with Philippe Botti and Dominique Festa in Bonifacio, were most interesting and stimulated many discussions and new ideas.



Figure 2: on board visit in Bonifacio

In particular, the Greek delegation was impressed by the strictness of the French law concerning the number of tourists allowed on a fishing boat (max 4), the fact that the tourists were not allowed to participate in any way with the fishing process and could only watch the procedures and techniques from within a strictly defined space (defined by a red square, painted on the deck), which included their seat, amounting to approx. 1,5m². Much discussion took place in trying to explain this difference with the Greek law, which is much more tolerant.



Figure 3: on board visit in Bonifacio

Another interesting aspect of the visit to Bonifacio was the experimental vessel (AJ 929266 - PROJET PILOTE CRP DE CORSE) that was moored in the bay and the rationale behind building a vessel that would be used to study the requirements of fishing tourism. An interesting approach with many results gathered over the years to make the legislation even more effective.



Figure 4: Exploring fishing gear used in Bonifacio

A large part of all the discussions centred on the different fishing gear used in France and Greece and the legislative background behind the types allowed. Many differences were highlighted and explanations were given to reason such differences, in discussions that were very interesting to both parts.



Figure 5: Study visit in Bonifacio

Two final points concerning the fishermen:

1. On their own initiative the two Greek fishermen approached several local fishermen in Propriano, on the morning of Wednesday 27th of February and discussed the various types of fishing gear used in Corsica, a topic of particular interest to the Greek fishermen. Our fishermen were impressed by the friendliness and openness of their French counterparts. "It was as if we were friends for a long time", our fishermen commented on their discussions. The French fishermen even gave them pieces of different fishing nets used in Corsica, in order for the Greeks to take home and inform other Greek Fishermen.
2. The Greek fishermen and the Greek delegation as a whole, were very impressed by the initiatives undertaken by the Fishermen's Associations in France in order to manage fishing stocks in their area, by regulating the time of year when certain fish species can be fished, their size and in general quotas allocated. This self-regulation and sense of balance and long-term attitude towards the profession and the marine environment, has not been attained by the Greek fishermen, till now. Our members believe that such initiatives should also be instigated in Greece and believe that they can become the pioneers in our country.

Please describe

- *Describe the suggestions (if any) that your delegations gave (or would like to give) for improving the fishing tourism in the Country hosting the study visit (for this point you should coordinate with the hosting organization).*

We believe that our study visit was well organized and full of novel and valuable experience and knowledge for the Greek Delegation. Mr *Tommaso Scavone* and *Remi Bellia* planned a very balance study visit, especially covering the fishing aspects and providing a plethora of information and new ideas to our Fishermen. Taking into account the time of year and the distances covered by car, we believe that the visit was a total success and most valuable to the Greek delegation.



Figure 6: Visit to the Megaliths of Cauria (Sartene)

The study visit as organized by Petra Patrimonia had another novelty in that it highlighted the necessity of looking a fishing Tourism in a much broader perspective, in order to attain sustainability. Thus the discussions with Yannick Leger and the Pôle d'Equilibre Territorial et Rural Ornano-Tavaro-Sartenais-Valinco was focused on understanding how to integrate and to link coastal sustainable tourism with inner and mountain sustainable tourism, taking into account specificities of territories as well as local communities. Yannick Leger took the opportunity to provide a general overview about policy strategies and implementing actions

that the PETR is going to carry out at territorial level. A study visit was organized to the Megaliths of Cauria (Sartene). It made it even more clear to the delegation that a balance between the sea and the hinterland must be achieved in order to attain sustainable tourist development. For the Greek delegation it was a most enjoyable and inspiring visit.



Figure 7: Visit to the Megaliths of Cauria (Sartene)

3 Attendance lists



3.5 Exchange information for testing activities: Study visits in Trapani (Italy)

Corsica (France), 25-28/02/2019

BONTACIO 27/02/19

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3.5 Exchange information for testing activities: Study visits in Trabia (Italy)

Corsica (France), 25-28/02/2019

RORIANO 26/02/2019 2019

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