

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 **ALBANIA** (*sending Partner*) for the fishermen from **Durrës Municipality** for visiting the area of **Trabia**, thanks to the facilitation of the Partner **ITALY** (*hosting partner*).

In line with the Project document, this report will collect information on the effectiveness of the 3-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, and trial of fishing tourism trip.

1 Participants

The Albanian delegation was composed of 6 members:

- 1 project staff (*Floreta Kërtusha, Durrës Municipality*);
- 3 administrators/fishermen (*Dritan Zaimi, Korab Leka dhe Altin Lekgegaj*);
- 1 fishing expert RCDC (*Mimoza Çobani*);
- 1 tour operator: “Dea Lines”, Durrës (*Arjana Isaku*).

All the members of the Albanian delegation, are involved in main TOURISMED activities carried out, such as: *training sessions, pilot testing and study visit*, in order to promote fishing tourism as a sustainable tourism practice in Durrës.

The composition of the delegation was designed to be overwhelming, in order to involve different actors that do have an impact on TOURISMED. Hence, have been selected three fishermen that represent three different form of fishing activities:

- *Cultivation of mollusks, vessel “Leka”;*
- *Pelagic fishing vessel “Matia”;*
- *Artisanal fishing, boat “Mirdita”.*

Also, it has been selected a local tour operator, Dea Lines, trained on fishing tourism as diversification of touristic packages in Durrës city.

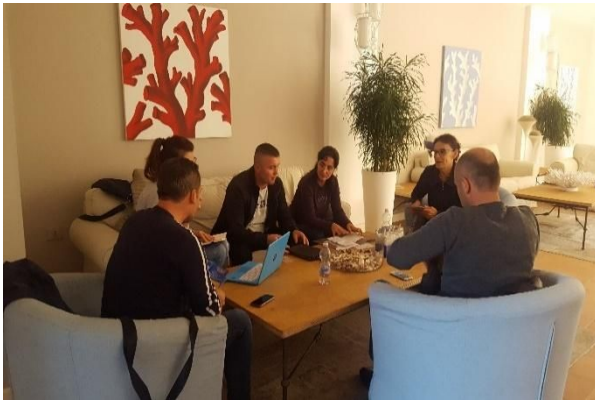
2 Description of the visit

First day: 23 October 2018

During the first day of the Study visit, the Albanian delegation had the opportunity to visit the Fishery Port in Trabia. After that the Albanian delegation, as invited partner, has been discussing with regard to problems, best practices and experiences of project partners, in order to better develop the fishing tourism trials in Durrës city. The meeting among members of Albanian delegation has been held at the Hall of Tonnara Hotel, Trabia (see pictures below).



Picture 1



Picture 2

Also, according to the Agenda, the French and Albanian delegations met each other at the premises of Restaurant “Lido Vetrana”, where they had a brief introduction of their members and their involvement in TOURISMED activities, as well as a short presentation of the Study visit. After their introduction, both delegations had a Dinner at Lido Vetrana Restaurant (see picture 3).



Picture 3

Second day: 24 October 2018



Moreover, the project staff Mrs. Tiziana Tobia, presented the role of the Municipality in training sessions and fishing tourism trials in Trabia, while explaining all the applied administrative procedures and difficulties that appeared during the pilot testing.

After that, the representative of each delegation, made a short presentation with regard to their members and the importance of the Project at local realities, by focusing on main legislative and administrative aspect.

During the second day, a Press Conference has been held at the City hall of Trabia, from the Mayor of Municipality of Trabia, Mr. Leonardo Ortolano and project staff. During the Press Conference (when local media was present), Mr. Ortolano, made a presentation of project objectives and activities, by explaining the state of art of pilot testing in Trabia.



In the end of the press Conference the both delegations (fishermen and stakeholders) visited the premises of Municipality of Trabia, by doing pictures with the Mayor.



After the Press Conference, the participants all together had a lunch by tasting local products. Later on, both delegations made a guided visit to a special city as Trabia, by visiting the wonderful and unique Churches, as well as by walking around the Lanza Square, Calvario and by visiting the impressive Museum of Pasta.

After the guided visit in Trabia, in the afternoon, at the City Hall of Trabia, in the framework of activity 'all together in the same boat', it has been developed a round table among members of both delegations (Albanian and French) and project teams, throughout a multi-stakeholder participatory tourism approach. During the round table fishermen from both delegations discussed on main problems, difficulties on fishing tourism trials, by sharing their experiences and practices based on national legislations and instruments (administrative, humane etc.). They finalized, that it is necessary to have a harmonization of fishing tourism legislation, as well as facilitation of administrative procedure with regard to licenses.

Third day: 25 October 2018

During the third day, delegations composed of fishermen and stakeholders from France and Albania had the chance to get in touch with fishing tourism experience in Trabia.

The departure from Marina of San Nicola L'Arena, where the delegations had the opportunity to test the itineraries of fishing tourism on board of the vessels selected by the Project. The participants observed the fishing methods: *selective fishing by trammel nets*.



In order to experience 'ittitourism', after the fishing tourism trials, the delegations had a lunch in a Restaurant at the San Nicola L'Arena harbor, eating the delicious caught fish.



In the end of the day, it was held a guided tour around the Lanza Castle and Cappella of Santa Rosalia.

Forth day: 26 October 2018

"Tonnara" Hotel: Final greeting amongst two delegations and transferring of the Albanian delegation to the airport.
End of the study visit.

3 Lessons learnt and restitution plan

The lessons learnt can be expressed as follows:

Fishing tourism can improve cooperation within the area, strengthen the economic and environmental sustainability of fishing, promote the consumption of local fish and aquaculture products, and diversify the fish consumption. Through this activity, fishermen and their families can have complementary incomes by diversifying their activities to tap into the tourist market, e.g. offering trips aboard fishing boats, accommodation in fishermen's home and the opportunity to eat a fish caught. This additional income can help reduce fishing families' dependency on the volatile income from fishing.

Tourism can also contribute to the general economy of the area by providing job opportunities or additional income for local inhabitants (e.g. in local shops, restaurants or other service-providers).

The additional incomes must come not only from the direct spending by the visitors, but also from companies which offers service to them.

- *The main elements learnt by your organization and the participants from the study visit by learning how the fishing tourism is implemented in the partner Country. Please define if any improvement will be adopted in your Country following to the visit (referring to the business model, the equipment and measures for tourists on board, itineraries, etc).*
1. Fostering economic (fishing) and tourism development in designated area by making local products (traditional fishing, mollusk culture) a lever to create tools for tourism, attracting new visitors, out of conventional ones, improving the area's profile and enable local actors to work together in order to increase their incomes.
 2. Moreover, new skills gained in the tourism sector can help give fishing families a competitive advantage in the labor market.
- *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).*

Finding varied and suitable forms of fishing and/or aquaculture to create more attractive and diversity packages that can be offered to tourists. Essentially, the study visit lays down two key necessities to both areas (Durrës, Trabia):

the development of more fisheries-related tourism products (more boats adapted for “pesca-turismo”, fisheries-related ecotourism activities and other services such as dining and accommodation offered by fishermen) which would give to this activity of much more “penellates” on fisheries picture.

- *Report here shortly also the attitude and feedbacks from the participants toward the study visit, and describe how the participants of the study visit will transfer the lessons learnt to the other fishermen and interested stakeholder in your territory.*
1. Fishermen's associations as a mean of harmonization of the interests of traditional fishermen and tourism fishing form applicators;
 2. Building adequate ports for traditional fishing and potential fishing tourism;
 3. Having the necessary port facilities, fishermen gathering areas to taste and enjoy the typical fish products and dishes of the region by exchanging the ideas, suggestions and sharing problems between them;

4. Fiscal incentives for fishermen, (e.g. fuel price).
5. Adapting the legal acts to the needs of tourist fishing by avoiding the conventional forms (rather inadequate) and building those of more suitable to implement by applicants of tourism fishing.