

TOURISMED

Fishing Tourism for a Sustainable Development in the Mediterranean area

Deliverable 3.5.4: *Study Visit Report*

Partner responsible for this report: Cyprus University of Technology

Document Information Summary

WP:	WP3 – Testing
Activity:	Activity 3.5: Exchange of information for testing activities
Deliverable Number:	3.5.4
Deliverable Title:	Study Visit Report
Partner responsible:	Cyprus University of Technology (sending organization)
Participants:	University Of Piraeus (hosting organization)
Project website	www.interreg-med.eu/tourismed
Status:	final

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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 organized by the Partner Cyprus University of Technology (*sending Partner*) for the fishermen from Cyprus for visiting the area of Greece (Nea Makri and Rafina), thanks to the facilitation of the Partner **University Of Piraeus** (*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

Describe shortly the composition of the delegation (defining the features of the fishermen participating) and the selection of criteria adopted.

- 1). Christakis Damianou, Cyprus University of Technology (CUT), contact point of CUT for TOURISMED*
- 2). Photis Gaitanos, professional fisherman in the area of Larnaca*
- 3). Theofilos Dimitriou, professional fisherman in the area of Limassol.*

The persons were recommended by the Pancyprrian association of professional fishermen. The criteria was to select people who plan to start fishing tourism activities. Another criteria was to select at least one fisherman from the 2 main fishing areas (Limassol, and Larnaca). The president of the local association at Zygi was invited, but he was not able to attend.

2 Description of the visit

Include here:

- a scheme with the daily agenda of the visit;*

Agenda

Place: Rafina Attica

Dates: 14 & 15 November 2018

*Participants: (Cyprus) Theodoulos Dimitriou, Christakis Damianou, Photis Gaitanos
(Greece) Andreas Vassilopoulos, Yannis Athinaios, Yulie Raftopoulou, George Papanikolaou*

Wednesday 14/11/2018

- 14:00 – 17:00 Routes and paths with environmental/historical interest
We had the chance to see possible trips to be provided to tourists in case the conditions are not suitable for fishing or to be used as complementary tour to attract tourists.*
- 18:00 Tour in the traditional fish market
We were able to see the fishes available in Greece.*
- 19:00 Dinner
The Cyprus team and Andreas Vasilopoulos attended and discussed various issues regarding fishing tourism.*

Thursday 15/11/2018

- **10:00-13:00 Traditional fishing with Yannis Athinaios.**
We had a meeting with Y. Athinaios and discussed the framework of fishing tourism in Greece. Then we have visited his boat and saw the equipment used for fishing tourism. Then he explained to the Cyprus team the itineraries implemented.
- **13:00 – 14:00 Visit the Palaeontological Exhibition**
Visit a possible route to be used for the tourists in case the weather conditions are not suitable for fishing tourism trips.
- **14:00 – 16:30 Office Meeting / Discussion**
We had a meeting with A. Vasilopoulos, Yulie Raftopoulou, and Yiannis Athinaios. We discussed the framework of fishing tourism in Greece. The Greek team showed us the audiovisual means they prepared to promote fishing tourism (poster, Virtual reality videos). Then we discussed the fishing tourism platform. Various recommendations for improvement was provided to us.

3 Lessons learnt and restitution plan

Describe shortly here:

- *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).*

We had the chance to see possible trips to be provided to tourists in case the conditions are not suitable for fishing or to be used as complementary tour to attract tourists. It was a good experience since now we can create similar activities here in Cyprus.

We were able to see the fishes available in Greece.

We had realized that the equipment used for fishing tourism can be easily obtained and start fishing toursims. The regulations to be created here in Cyprus are extremely strict and it is very unlikely that any fisherman will be interested in such activity. Our goal is to provide this feedback we had to the stakeholders here in Cyprus responsible for establishing the regulations for fishing tourism.

We now have clear idea of possible audiovisual means to be prepared here in Cyprus to promote fishing tourism (poster, Virtual reality videos).

- 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 have presented the fishing platform that we developed here at CUT. We believe fishermen will benefit by advertising their itineraries. Also, both partners' teams had the chance to discuss the similarities and differences between the two countries' regulations when it comes to fishing tourism laws and fishing tourism in general.

- 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.

The participants were very pleased with the knowledge learned and hope that they participate again in similar events.

