

## **TOURISMED**

### **Fishing Tourism for a Sustainable Development in the Mediterranean area**

#### **Deliverable 3.5.4: *Study Visit Report***

**Partner responsible for this report: Haliéus**

## Document Information Summary

<b>WP:</b>	<b>WP3 – Testing</b>
<b>Activity:</b>	<b>Activity 3.5: Exchange of information for testing activities</b>
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<b>Participants:</b>	<b>Durres Municipality</b> (hosting organization)
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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 Haliéus** (*sending Partner*) **for visiting the coastal area of Durrës, thanks to the facilitation of the Partner Durrës Municipality** (*hosting partner*).

This report aims at gathering information and conclusions from the activities developed during the study visit.

## 1 Participants

The delegation was composed of **n. 5 members**:

- **n. 2 fishermen** using gillnets (from a Protected Marine Area);
- **n. 2 persons from fishing cooperatives**;
- **n. 1 person from Haliéus** (sending Organization).

All the above mentioned persons have been actively involved in TourisMED activities already carried out: from the training to the vessels adjustments passing through the support in the elaboration of tourism packages.

The main criteria adopted for such a composition were as follow:

- a. including all the main target profiles identified in the business model (i.e. fishermen and fishing associations);
- b. selecting the most engaged among the ones referred to in the previous point.

## 2 Description of the visit

Due to severe weather conditions (hard raining and stormy sea) the original agenda has been, unfortunately, deeply affected and there was no way to embark for the fishing tourism trials planned in Durrës, Lalzi Bay and Rodon Cape.

However, thanks to the readiness of the hosting partner, the visit was very positive and such an enriching experience for all the participants.

*Day#1 – 30 October 2018*

A meeting was held in the hall of the hotel between the members of the delegation and the representatives from Durrës Municipality (see *Picture 1*).



Picture 1

Main subjects covered during the meeting:

- state of the art of TourisMED activities and exchange of views with specific regard to the potential follow-up of the project;
- background and main differences between fishing activities and fishing tourism in Durrës and Italy (Puglia);
- potential of linking fishing tourism activities to other tourism activities in the area.

At the end of the meeting, a visit was set up at the Durrës Archaeological Museum (see *Picture 2*) – the largest archaeological museum in Albania. Although small, the museum definitely worth a look since its collection is quite impressive, the bulk of it consisting of artifacts found in the nearby ancient site of Dyrrhachium and including an extensive collection from the Ancient Greek, Hellenistic and Roman periods.



Picture 2

### Day#2 – 31 October 2018

The group walked to the Port in Durrës which is the largest seaport of Albania (see *Picture 3*).

Walking to the the north end of the East Mole intended for fishermen, information were given regarding all the port area which is undergoing major renovation and expansion.

Finally, the participants had the chance to visit some of the vessels involved in the project (see *Picture 4 – Vessel “Matia”*) and exchange points of view with some fishermen standing on the dock.



Picture 3



Picture 4

Final greetings between the two delegations were held in front of Durrës City Hall (see *Picture 5*).

Time for the italian delegation to transfer to the airport. End of the visit.



Picture 5

## 3 Lessons learnt and restitution plan

The participants were given interesting explanations regarding the territory and the way operators in the partner Country intend to build networks between tourism, fishing, nature and cultural heritage.

The most interesting find was the lack of regulatory acts (bylaws) on fishing tourism; that was the reason why, the most of the discussion was focused on transferring information about the italian legislation on the subject so to provide the hosting partner with elements to be used for an advisable process of legalisation of the activity.

In particular, italian fishermen reiterated their willingness to fully cooperate with albanian ones in case they would need any kind of help in better understanding how to build a “fishing tourism product”.

The idea is that it would be a pity for the region not to improve fishing tourism considering the natural beauties in the area and the growing willingness of local fishermen to put themselves out there for the tourism activity.

The overall positive assessment of the study visit has been confirmed one week later when, in occasion of the study visit of the spanish delegation in Puglia, the fishermen got the chance to transfer their enthusiastic feedback about the experience in Durres to their italian and spanish colleagues.