

TOURISMED

Fishing Tourism for a Sustainable Development in the Mediterranean area

Deliverable 3.5.4: *Study Visit Report*

Partner responsible for this report: Haliéus

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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 Municipality of Trabia (*sending Partner*) for the fishermen from Trabia for visiting the area of Valencia (Spain), thanks to the facilitation of the Partner “Fundacion Valencia Port” (*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, 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.

The delegation was composed by the following 5 participants:

<i>Name</i>	<i>Surname</i>	<i>Organization</i>	<i>Notes</i>
Leonardo	Ortolano	Municipality of Trabia	Major
Giuseppe	Scardina	Fisherman	Vessel "Daniela"
Giovanni	Scardina	Fisherman and President of Fishermen Cooperative	Vessel "Pietro e Paolo"
Vito	Abate	Fisherman	Vessel "Abbatuzzo"
Agostino	Vallelunga	Fisherman	Vessel "Alta Marea"
Pietro	Oliveri	Fisherman	Vessel "Nenè"
Vincenzo	Sanfilippo	Fisherman	Vessel "San Vincenzo"

2 Description of the visit

Include here:

- a scheme with the daily agenda of the visit:

	13/11/2018
16:30	Arrival to Valencia, spare time
	The initial schedule was modified due to the weather conditions. The fishing tourism experience in Valencia, aboard a sailboat that accompanies the fishing boat "Carolina" (one of the vessels participating in TOURISMED) on its normal working day, scheduled for the second day, was cancelled due to the sea conditions.
	14/11/2018
09:30	Pick up with a mini bus at the hotel selected and transfer to Vinaroz.
11:30	Welcome by the staff of a fishing tourism operator. They, together with 2 local tourism guides (one Italian that acted as translator), and VPF staff, guided the group during the first day. Quick coffee and visit to the fishing port. Exchange on board with the fishing tourism operator and a fisherman involved in the project. Exchange with the secretary of Vinaroz fishermen Guild. Visit to the Lonja (market fish).

13:30	Transfer to Peñíscola and lunch at the Restaurant “A Penosa” (managed by a former fisherman).
15:15	Guided visit to the fishing port of Peñíscola and Visit to the fresh fish auction. Welcome by the secretary of Peñíscola’s fishermen Guild.
17:00	Back to Valencia
19:00	Arrival to Valencia. Spare time
20:30	Dinner on your own in Valencia
	15/11/2018
09:30	Presentation of the project implementation in Valencian Region
10:30	Guided tour around the marina and the “Cabañal”, the Valencian fishermen's quarter by the sea, with the support of the 2 local tourism guides (the italian one acted as translator).
13:45	Lunch in “La Marítima” Restaurant at the port of Valencia. The group tasted a menu cooked by students of a local cuisine school.
16:00	Guided visit to the port of Valencia. Visit to the fresh fish auction.
17:30	End of the visit. Spare time.
20:30	Dinner on your own in Valencia

- a short description of the activities held in each day:

In the **first day**, the delegation of the Municipality of Trabia was welcomed by the staff of a fishing tourism operator: this social company plays a facilitation role, commercializing the activity. One of the key aspects that emerged from the focus group, at the beginning of the project, is that fishermen do not want, in general, to be involved in the commercialization of tourism activities. As for the moment in Spain, the fishing tourism is carried out in a normal working day, fishermen willing to perform the activity prefer to outsource these kind of tasks to third parties. The delegation was on board with the fishing tourism operator and a fisherman who carries out fishing tourism activities. The group attended the classification of the fish caught. Then, they visited to the Lonja (market fish) and had the explanation of the system of fish sale (special auction), including a simulation, controls and organization of local fishermen. After the lunch, in which the group tasted a typical fishermen dish, made up of fresh fish from the Peñíscola fish market, it was the guided visit to the fishing port of Peñíscola and to the fresh fish auction: the spanish fishing tourism operator explained the

different on-land (tourism of land) and on-board (fishing-tourism), based fishing tourism activities. It was an exchange with local fishermen; the delegation has assisted to the arrival of fishing vessels and to the unload of fish and, then, had the guided visit to the fishermen port facilities, including the fresh fish auction.

In the **second day**, it was the presentation of the project implementation in Valencian Region to the delegation of the Municipality of Trabia. After this, the group visited the main spots related to the fishermen and maritime heritage (Inner dock of the port Port, Santa María del Mar Church, Atarazanas – hystorical shipyards, the museum of the Valencian Maritime Easter Week (Semana Santa Marinera), El Musical Theater – base of the former fishermen music association, Local Market of El Cabañal” – exchange with fish retailers, sea waterfront - lungomare). After the lunch, made with fresh fish from the Valencia’s guild fish market, there was the transfer to the fishing dock of the port of Valencia. Here, guided visit to the Valencia fishing port, with the tourist guides, and the exchange with Vicente, skipper of the fishing boat “Carolina”, who is involved in the pilots in Valencia. In the end, the group visited the fresh fish auction.

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):*

The fishermen have learned information on another way of fishing in general: in particular, they have learned techniques related to the networks, the type of nets used and the processing of fish. Specifically, they plan to adopt coarse knit networks, used by Spaniards, which allow small fish to free themselves easily and grow, thus adopting more selective fishing methods.

They also discovered the differences in Regulations that define fishing-tourism in Spain and in Italy.

They appreciated the precision and the organization with which the fish market is regulated in Spain and the good living conditions of the fishermen, who can take advantage of places and tools that are made available to them by the "confraternities" of which they are part.

- *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):*

The only suggestion that the fishermen of Trabia gave to the Spaniards was on the rate card to be offered to tourists, sharing their hospitality and cooking practices on board the catch.

- *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:*

Our fishermen think of organizing moments of group sharing with the other local fishermen, to share what they have seen and learned from the Spaniards. In this way they will transfer the fascination of sharing a European project and a comparison with another reality, which can be imitated to improve one's working condition.

In particular, they will propose large-scale fishing techniques and share the sense of community and solidarity that they perceived in Spain among all the fishermen, so that they can also be realized in our reality.