

POLICY RECOMMENDATION DOCUMENT

WORK PACKAGE N. 4 TRANSFERRING

Activity 4.2 Transferring the tested model

Deliverable 4.2.8

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Introduction

TOURISMED project's purpose is to develop, test and disseminate a fishing tourism business model in the coastal territories of Italy, Cyprus, Greece, Albania, France and Spain, as a way to promote a sustainable approach to tourism, while fostering the preservation of the marine ecosystem and traditional fishing culture of the MED region.

The first phases and activities of the project were dedicated to the elaboration of such a fishing tourism model, then to its implementation and testing in pilot territories.

This document will contain **recommendations** for improving the **policies** affecting the **regulatory framework** regarding the combination of touristic and fishing-related activities, both at European and national level, to facilitate the dissemination of the fishing tourism model in the whole MED area. The document will be submitted to the competent authorities and promoted through the project's web portal and communication channels. The document will focus on:

- **Current legislation** (Feasibility Study)
- **Problems related to the absence of a common legislative framework at EU and Mediterranean level**
 - the lack of a common and coherent regulatory framework on a transnational level;
 - the need for a harmonisation and simplification of the pre-existing legislation;
 - the legal and administrative obstacles encountered in each testing Country;
- **Development strategies**
 - suitable policies and strategies to **facilitate** the initiation and development of fishing tourism activities.

Current legislation - Feasibility Study

Municipality of Trabia

Law Decree no. 293, 13 April 1999 (G.U. n. 197, 23 August 1999) and D.L. no.4, 9 January 2012 (as modified by the law no. 134, 7 August 2012).

The vessel can carry 10 persons maximum and the crew must be 3 persons maximum. Anyone can participate, children younger than 14 years must be accompanied. All year round; with particular infrastructure (accommodation) even during the night.

University of Piraeus

Fishing tourism is allowed since 2015 only for owners of a professional fishing vessel up to 15 metres max. with a license for professional fishing gear (trawlers, beach seines excluded) and parallel to their professional fishing activities. 12 persons can be on board during one trip. Joint Ministerial Decision 414/2354/2015/12-01-2015)

Cyprys University of Technology

No legislation for fishing tourism yet. A legislation is under preparation by the Dept. of Merchant Shipping. Presently it is prohibited for fishers to carry passengers.

Municipality of Durres

Absence of legislation.

Petra Patrimonia Corsica & Italian Chamber of Commerce in Marseille

After Italy in the 90's (the first country to promote a legislative framework), PACA and Corsica adopted this practice. In 2012, it was officially recognised by the French government as an activity to diversify income in the fishery sector.

Decree of 9th May 2011 amending the Decree of 23th November 1987 and Decree of 13th March 2012 amending the Decree of 23th November 1987.

Halieus

Since 1992, the Italian Law 164/92 is ruling the use of fishing boats for tourism and the security rules. In 2015, there were 32 fishers using their boat in fishing-tourism activities that are mainly managed by cooperatives (sometimes with a direct management of the boats). The law also allows fishers to practice a form of hospitality in their own houses called **itti-turismo** (different from fishing-tourism)

but this is just at the beginning. Since 2011, the Puglia Regional Law is ruling the use of fishing boats and fisher's houses bus for tourism. 12 persons at maximum are allowed to participate in one travel. Anyone can participate, children younger than 14 years must be accompanied.

Valenciaport Foundation

2014: introduction of fishing tourism in the Spanish legal framework (Law 33/2014 of 26 December, amending the Sate Maritime Fisheries Law 3/2001, of 26 March).

Fishing tourism (*Turismo Pesquero*): activity carried out by groups of seafarer professionals, through monetary compensation, aimed at featuring and disseminating the activities and products of the marine environment, as well as the customs, traditions, marine cultural heritage, that go far beyond the mere activity of extractive commercial fishing.

Tourist fishing (*Pesca-Turismo*): type of fishing tourism activity carried out aboard fishing vessels by professionals from the sector, through monetary compensation, the aim of which is to feature and disseminate their work in the marine environment, but where the tourists on board cannot take part in fishing operations.

In the Region of Valencia, it is an incipient activity and no boats are dedicated to this activity yet.

Problems related to the absence of a common legislative framework at EU and Mediterranean level

The absence of a common regulation on transnational level causes discrepancies such as:

- Spain is the only testing Country in which the participation of **trawlers** to fishing tourism activities was allowed
- Not all territories allow the participation of the tourists to the fishing activities.

<i>Active participation of tourists is allowed</i>	<i>Active participation of tourists is forbidden - Only observation</i>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Italy • Greece - only with hooks on nylon lines (pulled by the vessel or set from the vessel) with no mechanical support • Albania - no legal specification 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Spain • France

- Unsustainable legal requirements at national level

<p>Trabia - Sicily</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The authorisation does not have a pre-established duration by law, but it is advised to renew it after the expiry of the safety notes for the fishing tourism, i.e. every three years. However, each Port Authority is free to establish an expiration for the license. In the case of the Port Authority of Termini Imerese, in charge of the release of fishing tourism licences in Trabia, <i>the renewal is required every year, making it unsustainable for the fisherman that is forced to engage in bureaucratic processes year after year.</i> • No fishing tourism authorization will be issued to armed units with a single crew member. For this purpose, <i>a second crew member will have to be taken on board already when the safety notes for fishing tourism are issued. This requirement is unsustainable for most vessels that have very limited capacity.</i>
<p>Durrës - Albania</p>	<p>Complete absence of regulations: this causes confusion and a high risk of discouraging the activity or, to the contrary, of the rise of unregulated and unsafe fishing tourism activities.</p>

Suggested Development Strategies

On the basis of the above-mentioned framework, we, as TOURISMED project team suggests to:

- Establish a common and coherent legislative framework that imposes feasible and sustainable requirements
- Promote the inclusion of fishing tourism within the EU/National/Regional/Local development strategies through the active involvement of public authorities and policy makers
- Provide funds for the training of local fishermen towards the development of entrepreneurial and social skills as well as tools to implement touristic activities
- Encourage the establishment of fishing tourism association and the collaboration between fisherman and local actors in the touristic sector
- Capitalise the tools created within TOURISMED project in order to stimulate the creation of fishing tourism businesses in MED area

Contacts

The partnership is open to share the data, experiences and suggestions that emerged from the designing and implementing of fishing tourism activities in each testing areas.

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