

WORKGROUP ON FISHERIES/AQUACULTURE FINAL DOCUMENT



Corfu, 11th June 2014.

Prior to presenting the conclusions from the Workgroup on fisheries, I would like to express my pleasure that by this year's way of organization of the Forum we were involved in the process of development of the Strategy for the Adriatic-Ionian region, moreover, we were given the possibility to take an insight in all the ways of involvement of the chambers of commerce in the implementation of future action plans that will result from it.

Although this year's Workgroup was not coinciding with the meetings of the General Commission for the Mediterranean Fisheries, we still did not have a significant number of participants, although, it did not diminish the quality of discussions and proposals that should result in concrete projects in the future. Also, I hope that this is not an indicator of how much fishery is important to us, it should be for our region of crucial importance, since it is connected with the overall development policy of the coastal area, environmental protection, and especially the sector of tourism.

Conclusions

- What is recognized as very important for the implementation of the future strategy is the involvement of all stakeholders from the very beginning, as well as their linking. It is necessary to strengthen the activities on establishing of clusters, both within the fishery itself and the mariculture, including linking with other sectors.
- Taking into account that some of the countries of the Adriatic and Ionian region already have such systems of association, and some are at the beginning, in the next programming period we should prepare projects that would help empowering of this process, and increasing the competitiveness of the region at the same time. Namely, establishing of clusters should not be observed only in the scope of one state, but in the macro region, or as a regional networking of stakeholders and thus their strengthening for the presentation on the third markets.
- An integrated Coastal Zone Management is a starting point which will serve to avoiding conflicts, overlapping and uneven development of activities. Given the enormous pressure on the coastal area, the action plans in the fisheries and mariculture must be consistent with spatial plans and management plans.
- Fish caught by the principles of sustainable fisheries and aquaculture based on scientifically substantiated facts in a clean environment, provides an opportunity for the production of organic food and also the formation of a joint recognizable brand, which will enrich the tourism offer of the entire region.
- The health safety of fish and other living marine organisms, as well as security in terms of their sufficient production, are the challenges for all of us in the region. Even in this segment, we are also at different levels of development, therefore all of us would welcome the project proposals, which would



- have clearly defined goals and roles of all partners, especially the role of partners who have established all monitoring programs for health safety of fish and other marine organisms.
- Despite the connections and commitments of all of us to invest our best efforts in the regional development, it is necessary each of us respectively to preserve some of our specific features and traditional activities.
- At this point, it is important to preserve specific types of fishing, which essentially are not commercial, rather they have a character of the additional assurance of existence, but they represent our cultural wealth and diversity of ways of living in this part of the Mediterranean.
- In this way, among other things, we should contribute to the preservation of life on remote islands, as less developed areas of the coastal part of the Adriatic and Ionian region. Namely, the measures of the fisheries policy should be adjusted so that they do not endanger the survival of this type of fishing, at the same time without disturbing the principles of sustainable fishing.

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