

Report on the SEMINAR “SUPPORT MEASURES FOR SMALL-SCALE FISHING (MARE/2014/04/-SI2.723876)”

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Koperattivi Malta Hall

The partners of the Eastmedfishers project are: APC s.a. (Greece), AP Marine (Cyprus) and AquaBioTech Group (Malta).

- Project introduction by George D. Mantas, Business Development Director of AquaBioTech Group:

This pilot project is implemented in Greece, Cyprus and Malta and the objectives are:

- Identify the degree of involvement of small-scale fishermen in industry organisations and in publicly established bodies;
- Identify and inform stakeholders about fora and platforms available for fishermen and their organisations whose objective is to provide sustainable management of fisheries;
- Reinforce the degree of involvement of the small-scale fishing sector in industry organisations, publicly established bodies and other fora and platforms, by informing them about the presence of these entities and ways they can be more involved and advantages of participation;
- Facilitate the involvement of the small-scale fishing sector in setting up new organisations and supporting existing ones to increase their participation in the existing Advisory Council. This will be achieved by investigating why fishermen and their organisations are not participating in these Advisory councils and also by informing them how new Advisory Councils can be set up, if deemed necessary.
- Promote the exchange of good practices that will further increase the participation of the small-scale fishing sector in the advisory and decision-making processes being carried out under the new regionalised Common Fisheries Policy. This will be done by presenting them with good practices and by informing fishermen of the benefits of exchanging good practices in the framework of European structures and policies.

During the seminar the following presentations have been given (please find the PPT presentations attached):

- “An overview of Small Scale Fisheries in Malta” by Mallia Emanuel (Senior Manager, Department of Fisheries and Aquaculture, Fisheries Management Unit, Malta). The presentation has been interrupted because the several issues raised by the attending fishers were off topic of the seminar.

- Local Associations. The debate between the local representatives and the fishers mostly concerned the difficulties in representing the sector because the organization and participation to the meetings are very scarce.

- The presentations of MEDAC and LIFE (by Jeremy Percy, Executive Director LIFE) are reported in the annexes 2 and 3 of this report. The Européche PPT (by Paul Piscopo, Secretary Fisheries Cooperative Association) is available on <https://prezi.com/gmkxntjwedgh/europeche-who-we-are/>.

Questions and answers related to MEDAC:

- A fisherman asked to know if the MEDAC documents (opinions, letters and reports) are available. Thus the relevant website pages have been shown.

- The moderator asked how much influence MEDAC has in the decision making process as a platform and in what way it can safeguard the interest of the fishermen in the existing framework, providing some example. The answer has been that for instance MEDAC managed to adopt joint recommendations, as formally requested by the Mediterranean member States, in order to find the

possible solutions related to the landing obligation. The joint recommendation regarding the small pelagics started in 2014, with the entry into force of the landing obligation, and during the last year it has been adopted for some demersal fisheries. These two agreements are achievements of the regionalization process, that is creating for the first time an active and operative network between the fishermen, the involved member states and the EC.

- The presentations regarding the small-scale fisheries situation in Malta (by Tamàs Bardócz, Principal consultant AquaBioTech Group), Cyprus (by Antonis Petrou, Director of AP Marine) and Greece (by George D. Mantas) are respectively reported in the annexes 4, 5, and 6. The main issues related to MEDAC and resulting from the surveys are:
 - Malta: - the participation in EU representation bodies such as the MEDAC is expensive and without the Governmental support the fisheries associations cannot sustain the participation;
 - Decisions taken by MEDAC not always take into account the recommendations of the associations;
 - EU does not provide sufficient time for the stakeholders to consult and propose the recommendations of the associations;
 - the 68,75% of the interviewed fishermen doesn't know the existence of MEDAC and the 75% is of the opinion that MEDAC cannot contribute towards the improvement of technical measures.
 - Cyprus: - the associations revealed a lack of knowledge of MEDAC and the information about EU organizations;
 - the fishermen ask to be further informed from public bodies and requested more meetings for issues as Fisheries Operational Programme (FOP), Common Fisheries Policy (CFP) and MEDAC.
 - Greece: - Only the 24% of the Fisheries Associations is aware of the Mediterranean Advisory Council, and the 14% is willing to pay subscription to participate at the EU representation bodies. For the 54,76% of them the reason for not participating in representative bodies at EU level is the lack of information, for the 38,10% is the financial problem and for the 38,10% is the distance.
 - The 79,37% of the interviewed fishermen doesn't know the existence of MEDAC and the 84% is of the opinion that MEDAC cannot contribute towards the improvement of technical measures.
- The presentation about the situation in Ireland (by Jerry Gallagher, Managing Director of Northwestern Shellfish Ltd.) concerned the National inshore fisheries forum for the management of the small-scale fishery sector.
 - Mrs Camilleri Abigail, Director of Funds and Programmes Division of Malta, explained the operational programme in the context of the European Maritime and Fisheries Fund.

In conclusion Mr. George D. Mantas explained the aim of the next informative seminar that will be held in Piraeus on Saturday 28th January 2017: during the meeting a presentation of the progress of the Eastmedfishers project will be given, followed by discussion regarding the actual situation and the problems of small scale fishing, the representation of small scale fishermen in the EU Advisory Councils and other bodies. Also, the representation of the Professional Fishermen Associations in relevant bodies and means to provide accurate and timely information for fishermen will be discussed.

