

Deliverable Number 5.1.5

Report of the

1st Cross-border exchange in Italy

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Work Package Number: WP5

Work Package Title: "Sectorial know-how development and pilot project implementation"

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Activity Title: Network for the training and education of operators towards environmental sustainability

Partner in charge: Marche Region (PP3 in charge of the 1st cross-border exchange organization), PP12 CNR-IRBIM (co-organizer), PP4 Molise Region (co-organizer), PP8 Zadar County (WP5 Responsible)

Partner involved: all project partners

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BACKGROUND AND GOALS OF THE CROSS-BORDER EXCHANGES ACTIVITY

The ARGOS project WP5 “Sectorial know-how development and pilot project implementation” aims at improving the sectorial capacities and know-how to change the behaviours of the Italian and Croatian fisheries and aquaculture operators towards shared environmental sustainability and responsible actions. Under this WP, the Act.5.1 “Network for the training and education of operators towards environmental sustainability” is oriented to establish a cross-border network as a framework to effectively test training and education activities oriented to operators towards the adoption of responsible behaviours and to share the common Adriatic good practices. Within this framework, the Act.5.1 foresees:

- (D.5.1.4) N.2 cross-border training labs aimed at improving the sectorial capacities and know-how to change the behaviours of fisheries and aquaculture operators of the Adriatic area towards shared environmental sustainability along the whole chain of fish products;
- (D.5.1.5) N.2 cross-border exchanges aimed at promoting the exchange of experiences and know-how between the Italian and Croatian fisheries and aquaculture operator as well as at improving competences and knowledge on new practices for a more sustainable approach to their business.

The present Report constitutes the D.5.1.1 related to the first cross-border exchange arranged in Italy, namely in Marche and Molise Regions, by the ARGOS partners Marche Region, CNR-IRBIM of Ancona, Molise Region from 10 to 13 October 2022.

PRELIMINARY ACTIVITIES: THE 1ST CROSS-BORDER EXCHANGE PLANNING PHASE

The organization of the first cross-border exchange in Marche and Molise Regions required a set of preliminary activities that were coordinated by the PP3 Marche Region in cooperation with PP12 CNR-IRBIM and PP4 Molise Region and with the contribution and involvement of all the project partners. Marche Region prepared and shared with the partnership a background document outlining the activity goals, the ARGOS partners roles in the activity, a first draft of the 1st exchange programme, the target group expected composition and numbers. It also included the cross-border training labs guidelines since the workshop are integral part of the exchange. The document was presented, discussed and approved at the 5th Steering Committee meeting (13 July 2022). It included the following information:

Date and venue of the 1st cross-border exchange: Marche and Molise Region, 10-13 October 2022

Partner's role and involvement: the organization of the 1st exchange required a high level of involvement of all the ARGOS partners. PP3 Marche Region and PP12 CNR-IRBIM were responsible for planning and organizing study visits and cross-border training labs for fisheries and aquaculture operators in the Marche regional territories. PP4 Molise Region was responsible for planning and organizing study visits and cross-border training labs for fisheries and aquaculture operators in its territory.

They “hosting partners” PP3, PP4, PP12 were responsible for:

- the organization of the study visits and workshops at their regional level.
- covering the costs for joint meals in Marche and Molise, translations and local transfers in the period 10-13 October 2022.
- the involvement of their regional fisheries and aquaculture operators in the exchange organization and participation.

Partners from the other project territories acted as “hosting partners” and were responsible for:

- the involvement and engagement of their regional/local fisheries and aquaculture operators in the exchange
- covering the costs for travel and accommodations costs of their participants (BL external expertise and services for operators, BL Travel & Accommodation for PP's staff members)

Identification and engagement of the target group: the cross-border exchange target group was represented by the operators of the fisheries and aquaculture sectors from the following project areas:

- Italy: Friuli-Venezia Giulia, Veneto, Emilia-Romagna, Marche, Molise, Apulia
- Croatia: Region of Istra, Primorje and Gorki Kotar Country, Zadar County, Šibenik-Knin County, Split- Dalmatia County, Dubrovnik Neretva County

For the success of the exchange, the project representatives agreed on a maximum and balanced number of participants in the exchange:

- N.1 operator of the fisheries sectors from each participant's project partner area
- N.1 operator of the aquaculture sectors from each participant's project partner area
- N.2 representatives from each project partner's organization

The ARGOS partners were highly involved in the identification and engagement of their local operators. To this a stakeholder template was prepared by PP3 Marche Region and shared within the partnership to facilitate the potential participants identification and categorization.

The stakeholder template included the following information:

- Name, surname and contacts of stakeholder
- Stakeholder category: fishermen, fisheries associations/consortia, fisheries business support organization, aquaculture farmer, aquaculture associations/consortia, aquaculture business support organization
- Information on the stakeholder involvement

Overall programme of the 1st cross-border exchange: the first cross-border exchange programmes was shared and fine-tuned from June to October in coherence with the ARGOS project goals and so to propose visits and topics of potential interest for the Italian and Croatian operators. An overall programme including the list of activities foreseen in Marche and Abruzzo Regions was delivered and implemented under the Marche Region coordination.

Coordination and activity follow-up: a steady communication flow was established between the partners to exchange information, progresses, background materials and organizational details. Coordination meetings were arranged to the purpose between the hosting partners and the sending partners. Contribution to the ARGOS social media and we-page were prepared and posted by projects partners to disseminate the exchange activities to a wider target group.

IMPLEMENTATION OF THE 1ST CROSS-BORDER EXCHANGE IN ITALY

The first edition of the cross-border exchange foresaw both study visits and training labs in Marche and Molise Region.

Study visits in Marche for the aquaculture operators



Marche Region organized the following study visits in close cooperation with the University of Ancona, Co.Pe.Mo., Co.ge.pa and Mitilpesca srl.

Visit to the laboratories of the University of Marche

The “Aquaculture operators Group” and the project partners visited the "Aquarium" laboratory which is a unique infrastructure at National level. With a total water volume of more than 25.000 litres contained in fiberglass and glass aquaria for approximately 200 mesocosms, the Laboratory has 3 main areas for:

- temperate, Mediterranean species;
- tropical species;
- polar and deep-sea species.



There is also a phyto and zooplankton culture area (microalgae, rotifers, Artemia, copepods), a modern Zebrafish system as experimental model for medical and biological studies, and a reptile area. The tanks are equipped with modern recirculating, filtration and light systems to reduce power/hydric consumption and the overall laboratory has been designed to monitor and maintain the major environmental parameters, thus allowing different applications and typologies of experiments in controlled conditions: among these, the recovery and maintenance of vulnerable species, studies on the life and reproductive cycle of both invertebrates and vertebrates, feeding trials, the impact of multiple stressors (pollutants, biological active molecules) mimicking scenarios of climate changes.



Visit to the Co.Pe.Mo. Cooperative company (Ancona)



Co.Pe.Mo. Cooperative Company (Cooperativa Pescatori Molluschicoltori) was founded in 1973 by a group of small fishermen in Ancona. The founding core of twenty members, which still constitutes its

membership base, is actively involved in the life of the cooperative, which is considered to be a point of reference for all Italian fishing cooperatives. Co.Pe.Mo. sells molluscs collected by its members, especially clams, mussels and sea snails. It also provides for the marketing of dredge fishing and some small-scale fishermen. In particular, the Cooperative is responsible for:

- fish product trade
- restaurant supplies
- fish product supplies for retailers
- fish product processing

Visit to Mitilpesca Srl (San Benedetto del Tronto)



Milpesca Srl is a leading company in producing and selling mariculture products. The enterprise manages the Organic Mussel called "Cozza Sanbenedettese" farming activities in front of the San Benedetto del Tronto coastline, following all the steps of the supply chain.

Study visits in Marche for the fisheries operators

Marche Region in cooperation with CNR-IRBIM of Ancona organized the following study visits for the fisheries operators.



Visit to the CNR-IRBIM laboratories

The “Fishermen Group” and the project partners representatives visited the CNR-IRBIM laboratories of microbiology, acoustics, fishing technology, and population dynamic, where the researchers illustrated all the activities aimed at studying and developing sustainable fishing.

Visit to the Co.ge.pa (San Benedetto del Tronto)

Co.ge.pa is the regional consortium for the promotion and valorisation of the small-scale fisheries, established by Ministry Decree. Co.ge.pa gathered more than 40 small-scale fishermen from the Maritime District of San Benedetto del Tronto. The Consortium is involved and local, national and transnational projects aiming at promoting and valorising the small-scale fisheries sustainability, close cooperating with public and private research bodies. The Consortium implemented pilot actions dealing with improved selectivity of gears, testing new tools for traceability and marketing, improved small-scale fisheries representativeness by taking part to the Adri.SmArt.Fish, PRIZEFISH and ARIEL plus projects.



Study visits in Molise for the aquaculture and fisheries operators

Molise Region organized the following study visits:

Visit at the Port of Termoli

On 13 October 2022, a demonstration activity in the port of Termoli, on the MN Levante TM 237 boat, was carried out by operators of the "Consortium of Molise Shellfish Producers" and by researchers from ISZAM. It was illustrated the type of mussel farming adopted in Molise, the processing of awns and mussels by boat and the preparation of "Ostriga" baskets with organisms in experimentation (*Ostrea edulis* and *Paracentrotus lividus*).



Due to security reasons, only 5 out of the participant operators together with the IZSAM staff had the opportunity to be transported by boat Levante to the mussel farming plant in the sea for demonstration on mussel farming and experimental activities of polyculture (oyster- sea urchin).



In parallel, a visit with the remaining operators together with representatives of IZSAM and Molise Region was conducted at the premises of Molluscs Treatment Center "D'Abramo Nicola snc" which consisted in the illustration of the activities and technologies used for the purification and marketing

of molluscs. Then, all the participants visited the Fish Market of Termoli with the participation of the local seafaring (Shipowners' Association, COGEPA, COGEVO etc.). The participants had the opportunity to be illustrated the activities carried out on the fish market from the auction to the application of EU health regulations as well as the activities carried out by artisanal fishing and hydraulic dredges.



Visit at the Fish Market of Termoli

A visit to the Fish Market of Termoli was conducted with the participation of the local seafaring (Shipowners' Association, COGEPA, COGEVO etc.). The participants had the opportunity to be illustrated the activities carried out on the fish market from the auction to the application of EU health regulations as well as the activities carried out by artisanal fishing and hydraulic dredges.



Finally, a discussion and conclusion moment among the operators was held at the premises of the Municipality of Termoli which also saw the participation of the Mayor and of a representative of the Capitaneria di Porto (Port Authority).



The Cross-border training labs in Marche

In addition to the study visits, the fisheries and aquaculture operators were involved in n.2 cross-border training labs in Ancona (more info in the ARGOS Deliverable D.5.1.4).

The aquaculture operators participated to the cross-border training lab organized by Marche Region and the Department of Life and Environmental Sciences of the University of Ancona which provides scientific support to PP3 for the implementation of the pilot actions at regional level. The lab has been arranged at the University building and focused on:

- innovative approaches to aquaculture:
- The ARGOS pilot actions to improved sustainability by means of diversification, reductions.

Moreover, a dissemination video on the cuttlefish restocking pilot action was presented for the first time. The pilot action was, in fact, carried out by the Department.

The fishermen operators participated to the cross-border lab organized by CNR-IRBIM in its laboratories. Particular attention was dedicated to the fishing tools with low environmental impact and to the data collection process.

The Cross-border training labs in Molise

In addition to the study visits, the fisheries and aquaculture operators were involved in n.1 cross-border training lab in Termoli (more info in the ARGOS Deliverable D.5.1.4).

Molise Region – Department of Valorization of the Environment and Natural Resources organized the Cross-border training lab for the aquaculture and fisheries operators in close cooperation with the ISZAM - Marine Ecosystems and Fisheries Research Center of Termoli (Campobasso). ISZAM is the research Centre which is conducting the pilot project "Knowledge transfer on controlled

reproduction and breeding of the Flat Oyster (*Ostrea edulis*) and Sea Urchin (*Paracentrotus lividus*) for the productive diversification of shellfish farming through integrated aquaculture techniques implemented by the ISZAM within action WP5 – Act. 5.3.

During the training lab it was presented the pilot project which focuses on the development and promotion of innovative aquaculture technologies that facilitate the diversification of production towards species that are still little exploited but of high commercial value. The overall objective of the pilot action is to promote integrated oyster farming with echinoculture as a viable alternative, both economically and ecologically, to mussel farming.

PARTICIPANTS IN NUMBERS

The 1st cross-border exchange in Italy involved more than 50 participants of which:

- 10 aquaculture operators
- 15 fisheries operators
- 22 representatives from regional and local authorities
- 9 scientists from research and academia

ANNEXES

Annex I – ARGOS project: 1st cross-border exchange programme Italy

Annex II – ARGOS project: 1st cross-border training labs Italy

Annex III – ARGOS project: List of Participants to the 1st cross-border exchange - Marche

Annex IV – ARGOS project: List of Participants to the 1st cross-border exchange - Molise