

## WP2 – Deliverable 2.2.3 2 press conferences

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Deliverable Number D.2.2.3

<b>Project Acronym</b>	INVESTINFISH
<b>Project ID Number</b>	10042901
<b>Project Title</b>	Boosting INVESTments in INnovation of SMEs along the entire FISHery and aquaculture value chain
<b>Priority Axis</b>	1 – Blue innovation
<b>Specific objective</b>	1.1 – Enhance the framework conditions for innovation in the relevant sectors of the blue economy within the cooperation area
<b>Work Package Number</b>	2
<b>Work Package Title</b>	Testing innovative solutions and assessing effectiveness
<b>Activity Number</b>	2.2
<b>Activity Title</b>	Consultation network between INVESTINFISH partners and regional authorities to share common goals
<b>Partner in charge</b>	LP – T2i
<b>Contribution by</b>	All Partners
<b>Partners involved</b>	All Partners
<b>Status</b>	Final
<b>Distribution</b>	Private

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## EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

This document has the aim of collect the actions made to spread Investinfish information coming from the Kick-off meeting, to promote local-based selection of SMEs, and to promote the final event in Sealogy (Ferrara, IT).

## INVESTINFISH PROJECT

INVESTINFISH - “Boosting INVESTments in INnovation of SMEs along the entire FISHery and aquaculture value chain” is a project funded by the Italy – Croatia CBC Programme under the Priority Axis 1 “Blue Innovation”, Specific Objective 1.1 (S.O.1.1) “Enhance the framework conditions for innovation in the relevant sectors of the blue economy within the cooperation area”.

INVESTINFISH sees the cooperation of n. 6 Partners from 5 Different Regions: T2I (LP – Italy – Veneto), Sviluppo Marche (PP1 – Italy – Marche), D.A.Re. Puglia (PP2 – Italy – Puglia), Punto Confindustria (PP3 – Italy – Veneto), Istrian Development Agency (PP4 – Croatia – Istria), Zadar County Rural Development Agency (PP5 – Croatia – Zadar).

INVESTINFISH main objective is strengthening of competitiveness of F&A production system through promotion of investment programs aimed at acquisition of innovation services. INVESTINFISH implements pilot actions providing some IT-HR F&A SMEs with a roadmap to innovation instruments & services, boosting creation of marketable innovative products and/or processes that will improve the SMEs potential market positioning.

Expected benefits for enterprises are: accelerate time to market, increase linkages with innovators, increase F&A enterprises R&D expenditures in new & greener components/technologies/services, to boost HR-IT competitiveness. INVESTINFISH intends also to offer to the F&A sector to substitute the value chain concept with value network, proposing a shift from traditional value chains towards more collaborative value networks.

## Kick-off Meeting

The press was engaged to communicate the start of the project. The news was published in several outlet such as:

<http://www.svim.eu/notizie/432-al-via-il-progettoinvestifish-con-il-kick-off-meeting-di-venezia>

<https://www.foggiatoday.it/economia/progetto-investinfish-pesca-acquacoltura-italia-croazia.html>

<https://www.adriaeco.eu/2020/04/04/svim-investinfish-rilancia-sulla-blue-economy/>

## Blue Thematic Innovation Labs and local-based selection of SMEs

The core part of the press engagement was related to the local-based selection of SMEs, as this was needed to reach potentially interested companies and motivating them in taking part in project activities.

Several press releases were launched, and are here attached in the annexes.

## Final conference

Below the documents related to the final conference:

<https://distrettoittico.it/site/1330/tavolarotonda>

<https://svemarche.eu/conferenza-finale-del-progetto-investinfish-alla-fiera-sealogy/>



Per superare la crisi, un sostegno innovativo per il settore ittico

16 Aprile 2020 | Rovigo, Italy

## Press Release

Il tessuto imprenditoriale del nostro paese è caratterizzato da un forte legame tra chi produce e chi vende; ne è prova concreta la forte crisi che sta interessando il settore ittico, a causa dell'emergenza Covid-19 e della chiusura forzata del canale HORECA (Hotel, Ristoranti e Catering) e di conseguenza il blocco delle forniture del pescato.

I dati di Veneto Agricoltura e del suo *Osservatorio Socio Economico della Pesca e dell'Acquacoltura* evidenziano come, ad esempio, il Mercato ittico di Chioggia, sicuramente rappresentativo della situazione regionale e non solo, abbia registrato dallo scorso Marzo una contrazione del valore della produzione locale di quasi il -61%, mentre in termini di quantità la diminuzione è stata del -49%.

Dati significativi se si pensa che la produzione del settore ittico in Veneto copre una delle attività economiche più importanti, soprattutto per le province di Venezia e di Rovigo, con un valore di 200 milioni di euro, 7 mila addetti, 4000 imprese e quasi 700 imbarcazioni.

Lo stop forzato dovuto all'emergenza sanitaria potrebbe però essere motivo di riflessione per le tante aziende del settore e momento di riorganizzazione della propria struttura interna, in termini innovativi. Molto spesso si sente dire, a chi viene proposto di investire in formazione o in innovazione, che non c'è abbastanza tempo a disposizione; ora può essere il momento giusto per dedicarsi a queste attività.

Qualche spunto potrebbe essere dato dalle nuove tecnologie su cui già alcune aziende stanno investendo e dai contributi messi a disposizione per finanziare progetti innovativi. Su questi punti e più in generale sul reale bisogno di innovazione delle imprese si fonda **il progetto Investinfish**, finanziato dal programma Interreg V A Italia Croazia.

Le attività del progetto si rivolgono alle **aziende del settore ittico** del territorio veneto che vogliono orientarsi verso le nuove tecnologie e gli strumenti innovativi disponibili sul mercato. **Un gruppo di esperti metterà a disposizione delle aziende la propria competenza** in vari settori, che possono riguardare l'efficientamento del servizio, la valorizzazione dei prodotti, la maggiore qualità del pescato, controlli e sicurezza.

Con grande probabilità, nel prossimo futuro, i consumatori faranno molta più attenzione all'origine dei prodotti e alla qualità nonché richiederanno servizi sempre più personalizzati: si tenderà a rivolgersi al mercato locale piuttosto che alle grandi catene di distribuzione, ci si informerà sui processi di produzione, sull'impatto

ambientale e sulla salute del consumatore. Farsi trovare preparati, ora più che mai, rappresenta una necessità, di fronte ad un futuro economico incerto ma che sicuramente richiederà avanguardia e adeguamento alle nuove norme sociali.

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**INVESTINFISH: a project to foster innovation in fisheries and aquaculture companies****26 settembre 2019 | Rovigo, Italy**

## Press Release

Talking about innovation for companies often refers to very complex systems related to 4.0 technologies that can totally revolutionize the very concept of the traditional enterprise; cases of cutting-edge companies are chosen as examples and an attempt is made to reproduce their model on a smaller scale.

The INVESTINFISH project, on the other hand, targets more "traditional" companies that need innovation but lack the tools (both methodological and financial) to invest in it.

INVESTINFISH is a project co-funded under the Interreg Italy-Croatia program, aimed specifically at encouraging a higher degree of innovation in the maritime economy sector (blue economy) through territorial cooperation.

The primary objective of INVESTINFISH is **to strengthen the competitiveness of the fishing and aquaculture production system** through the promotion of investments for the acquisition of services functional to the development of companies in the sector.

Some small and medium-sized enterprises will be involved within a series of pilot actions implemented for the creation of innovative, expendable products or processes that will improve their market positioning.

The activities of the project, which officially began on January 1, 2019, led to an analysis of the main needs of the fisheries and aquaculture sector, the basis from which to identify areas of innovation on which to build pilot actions.

It is within this framework that the *Cross-border Blue Innovation Thematic Labs* will be organized: these workshops will be held within the territorial areas involved in the project, which will aim to present a new call open to companies in the fisheries and aquaculture sector who will be able to benefit from expert accompaniment and support services for the development of the innovative solution best suited to their needs.

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**INVESTINFISH: t2i LEAD PARTNER OF EUROPEAN PROJECT PROMOTING FISHING AND AQUACULTURE INNOVATION.****26 June 2020 | Rovigo, Italy**

## Press Release

*The project co-funded by the European Interreg Italy-Croatia programme aims to incentivize investment programs to renew the business model and plan for restart after the coronavirus emergency. There is time to join the call for applications until mid-July.*

**t<sup>2</sup>i - Technology Transfer and Innovation** - a consortium company dedicated to innovation, founded by the Chambers of Commerce of Treviso-Belluno, Verona and Venice-Rovigo - is promoting the **European project INVESTINFISH**, to help SMEs in the provinces of Venice, Padua and Rovigo, active in the fishing, aquaculture and seafood processing sectors, to exploit the potential of their products and develop innovation projects.

The initiative, which was created within the framework of the **INTERREG Italy-Croatia programme** and is financed with European funds worth about 1.5 million euros, has t<sup>2</sup>i as its lead partner and aims to create a new and inclusive approach to cross-border cooperation between the two Adriatic Sea countries, accelerating and anticipating innovation trends in the sector.

The main objective of INVESTINFISH is to strengthen the competitiveness of the production system of the fisheries and aquaculture sector through the **promotion of investment programs to renew its business model**. This is a very important opportunity for all those local SMEs that intend to embark on innovation paths to remain competitive in an ever-changing market.

By taking part in INVESTINFISH, companies will be able to benefit from the support of **innovation experts** together with whom they can structure their projects for development and resumption of activities following the difficult period caused by the Covid-19 emergency: all at zero cost, because the value of the consultancy is fully supported by the European program. Thus, the development of the project involves the **coaching of SMEs by personnel specialized in innovation processes and the implementation of pilot actions** with a precise roadmap to provide tools and services suited to the objective, promoting the creation of marketable innovative products or processes suitable for making the SMEs' own potential more performant and improving their market positioning. A path to business model renewal that will go through activities such as background analysis, technology screening, development of an innovation plan and analysis of funding sources.

Accelerated time-to-market, enhanced networking with innovators, increased investment in research and development in key areas such as components, technologies and services, and improved human resource competitiveness are just some of the major benefits that can accrue to companies from this initiative.

"Small and medium-sized companies in the aquaculture and fisheries sector can find in this project an opportunity for growth and development, focusing on innovation processes that often remain unexpressed," says Roberto Santolamazza, director of t2i. "Today, however, also in light of the economic framework brought about by the health emergency, it has become clear that innovation is an indispensable factor for the survival of the sector. This project, moreover, is also a tool capable of replacing the concept of value chain with that of "value network," that is, the possibility of generating value both for one's own business and for the socioeconomic ecosystem that surrounds it, through an approach based on collaboration and the sharing of knowledge and best practices."

Participating in the project is very simple: just sign up for t<sup>2</sup>i's call for applications available at <http://www.t2i.it/events/event/selezione-di-aziende-del-settore-ittico-per-il-sostegno-allo-sviluppo-di-progetti-innovativi/>. There is time to join until mid-July.

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