

DELIVERABLE D5.1.1

SDB Meeting minutes

Project ID	10045781
Project acronym	Adri.SmArtFish
Project full title	Valorisation of SMall-scale ARTisanal FISHERY of the Adriatic coasts, in a context of sustainability
WP5	Policy making and shared management
Activity 5.1	Creation of Cross-Border association of SSF operators
Partner in charge	PP9
Partners involved	All PPs
Status	Final
Distribution	Public
Date	01/02/2021



Adri.SmArtFish

Online Meeting Minutes
Organised by Ministry of Agriculture (PP9)
via Zoom Video Communications

Meeting Minutes

Data: February 1st 2021

Time: 11:00 – 13:00

Participants:

Nr	Partner	Name
LP	Regione del Veneto	Alberto Caccin
		Matteo Bellemo
		Dionisio Crosera (representative of CoVePa)
		Igor Coccato (representative of Consorzio Ittico Veneziano)
		Omar Rosso (fisherman)
		Mirco Berton (fisherman)
		Manuel Boscolo Capon (fisherman)
PP1	Università Ca' Foscari	Fabio Borghesan (biologist/consultant)
PP2	Regione Friuli-Venezia Giulia	Francesco Cavraro
		Alberto Fonzo
		Elena Vianello
		Stefano Kutin
PP3	Regione Emilia-Romagna	Giovanni Dean (president of the fishermen consortium)
		Piergiorgio Vasi
		Luca Chiodini
PP4	Regione Marche	Massimo Modanesi (fishermen)
		Barbara Zambuchini (external expert of the Co.Ge.Pa Marche)
		Francesca Perretta
PP 5	Istarska Županija	Petra Perhat
		Robert Momić (Croatian Chamber of Crafts)
PP6	Primorsko-Goranska Županija	Mladen Brajan
		Iris Bruketa Milić
		Jelena Derviši (Trade “Jastog”)
PP7	Zadarska Županija	Martina Glavić
PP8	IZOR	Sanja Matić Skoko
		Jasna Šiljić
PP9	Ministarstvo Poljoprivrede	Mario Jurašić
		Tatjana Boroša Pecigoš

Mirta Novak
Josip Furčić
Marija Trogrlić
Ante Vujević
Matija Pofuk

Meeting Topics

Introductory presentation

Mr. Jurašić (PP9) opened the meeting by welcoming all attendees, briefly introduced the agenda of the meeting as well as the aims of the project, which are within Work package 5, Activity 5.1 (i.e. establishment of a cross-border association of small-scale fishermen). He reflected on the work already done by the Ministry of Agriculture as well as other project partners. In addition, he invited all attendees to active participation and communication. Following the opening statement, Mr. Pofuk (PP9) delivered a short presentation regarding potential organisational forms of the future cross-border association as well as the positive and negative aspects of each of the proposed options. This presentation was based on the *Analysis of the possibilities of association in accordance with the regulation of the Republic of Croatia*, which was done by the Ministry of Agriculture in the previous reporting period.

Questions and Answers

A question was asked by the Italian project partners and representatives of the small-scale artisanal fishermen about the possibility of association between Italian consortiums with Croatian associations of small-scale fishermen. The general idea is to establish two non-profit associations in the respective countries (i.e. Italy and Croatia), which could then be merged into a unique cross-border association of small-scale artisanal fishermen. The question is where shall the headquarters be placed, and accordingly, by regulatory framework of which country shall the new association abide to.

Discussion

Mr. Jurašić pointed out that this is only the first in a series of meetings to be organized. Once a certain number of interested potential members of the future association is gathered, the Statute (drafted by the Ministry of Agriculture) will be shared with everyone and further steps will be taken to establish a cross-border association.

Representatives of small-scale fishermen consortiums from Italy expressed interest to associate, and emphasized the importance of uniting the whole sector of small-scale coastal fisheries, their valorisation and common representation. Representatives of the small-scale

artisanal fisheries sector from the Croatian Chamber of Trades and Crafts (HOK) also expressed support for the creation of a cross-border association.

The question arose about the legal definition of “Consortium”, and whether this form can become a cross-border organisation together with Croatian association.

Representative of Italian consortiums elaborated that, within Italian legal framework, there exists two forms of “Consortiums”, the profit (i.e. capital company) variety, with the aim of gaining profit, and a non-profit (i.e. association) variety, with the aim of providing various services to it’s members, among other things. The small-scale artisanal fishermen in Italy are associated into a non-profit variety, which has no commercial nature, but rather has a task in managing and enhancing the fishery resources. If the consortium meets certain characteristics (i.e. more than 60% of fishermen from that region are included into the consortium), it can obtain mandates from the Italian Ministry to manage the coastal fishery resources in the area of their activity. For example, the consortium may dictate rules for sustainable resource management (e.g. more selective fishing gear, the reduction of by-catch, etc.), and therefore force all fishermen (members) in the area to manage fisheries in a sustainable way. The consortiums do not trade in fishery products (i.e. commercial business), but are rather involved with processes that happens before the landing of the fish in order to protect the fishery resources. Funds for the functioning of the association are provided by membership fees or by projects.

Consortiums of small-scale fishermen from Regione Marche, Regione del Veneto and Regione Emilia-Romagna are all non-profit associations of fishermen.

Consortium of small-scale coastal fishermen from the **Regione Marche** counts around **30 members**. They are currently working on increasing the number of members. *Consortium* of small-scale artisanal fishermen from the **Regione del Veneto** counts also around **30 members**, and they expect further 10 members to join during the spring of 2021. *Consortium* of small-scale coastal fishermen in **Regione Emilia-Romagna** counts around **10 members**, however there exist several other associations in the region, and their objective is to join all the fishermen into a single, unifying consortium.

Italian project partners pointed out that it is too early to talk about associating between Italian consortium and Croatian non-profit association, however, this issue will be resolved by the end of the project duration. In addition, having heard the presentation of the present meeting, the Italian partners expressed the need for an individual, separate discussion and conclusions between Italian partners and fishermen, before further steps are taken on the project level. The partners suggested for a meeting to be organised on Microsoft Teams or Google Meet in the course of the next few weeks.

The Italian partners proposed the establishment of an institutional network of small-scale fishermen associations in the Adriatic, which may possibly one day become a producer organization.

The representatives of the Italian consortium of small-scale fishermen have send to the Ministry of Agriculture the Statute as well as the Decree of the Italian Ministry.

Conclusions

1. Consortiums of small-scale artisanal fisherman in the project areas covering the Italian side of the Adriatic are non-profit organisations, with the task of managing the coastal resources. The aim is to establish a single association (i.e. non-profit consortium) on the Italian side of the project, which would encompass all the already present consortiums of small-scale artisanal fishermen.
2. In the Republic of Croatia, an association of small-scale artisanal fishermen exist within the Croatian Chamber of Trades and Crafts at the county level, and there is a possibility of establishing a single association that would cover all interested fishermen from all the counties in the project. Later, this association can gain a cross-border character.
3. The Italian partners and representatives of the consortiums of small-scale artisanal fishermen will confirm by email to the Croatian partners the organisational (i.e. legal) form of the consortium in Italy to help define further direction in the establishment of the cross-border association. This way the Ministry of Agriculture can determine if this form of association is legally possible to establish into a cross-border (i.e. international) association. In addition, the Italian partners will send the aims and objectives of the consortiums as well as their activities.
4. Following the verification of the legal status of the consortium (and the possibility of cross-border associating), the decision about the headquarter and area of registration of the future cross-border association will be made, and therefore by whose legal framework, the association will be governed.
5. Italian partners and fishermen will hold a separate meeting and decide on further steps regarding establishment of a cross-border association.
6. On the Italian side of the project, the official form of small-scale artisanal fishermen association exists in certain regions – a consortium (non-profit organisation), with specific rules of conduct for their members. However, the exact legal definition must be known to be able to determine possibilities of creation of a cross-border (international) association. On the Croatian side of the project, an informal form exists – at the Croatian Chamber of Trades and Crafts, which has representatives and represents the interests of small-scale artisanal fishermen. However, this organisation does not have the legal form of an association. The Ministry of Agriculture will make detailed discussions with the representatives of HOK to see if a non-profit association could be formed, the aim of which would be to join a cross-border (international) association.
7. The Meeting Minutes will be send to project partners, while partners will forward the minutes to the fishermen and the representatives of the small-scale artisanal fishermen (consortium), who participated in the meeting, and to further expand the number of fishermen who would be interested in joining the cross-border association, with the aim

of reaching the number of members outlined in the application form of the project, and to continue with other project activities.

8. On the next meeting, the discussed topics will be expanded on more precisely and directions for future actions shall be laid out.