

Live demonstration for policy makers on data-driven solutions in the fisheries sector and conservation

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Project Acronym	TECHERA
Project ID Number	10417714
Project Title	A new technology era in the Adriatic Sea – Big data sharing and analytics for a circular sea economy
Priority Axis	Blue innovation
Specific objective	1.1 – Enhance the framework conditions for innovation in the relevant sectors of the blue economy within the cooperation area
Work Package Number	3
Work Package Title	Clustering thematic activities
Activity Number	3.3.
Activity Title	D 3.3.3 Live demonstration for policy makers on data-driven solutions in the fisheries sector and conservation
Partner in Charge	PP5 Veneto Agriculture
Partners involved	LP
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Distribution	Public

Partnership:



A first live demonstration meeting of the TECHERA project was held on 23/06/2023, in Chioggia (Fig.1), taking the opportunity of the event of the “Sagar del Pesce” (Fish Festival), aimed at the stakeholders of the territory / SME of the Blue growth sector, with specific reference to the fisheries sector.

The event took place at the premises of the “Mercato ittico” (ichthyic market), since several operators were participating in the mentioned event.

The event saw the participation of 16 fishermen (14 SMEs and consortia) in the sector, to which the aims and themes of the project related to digital technologies for the Blue economy and whose representatives were shown an explanatory video (https://youtu.be/ZJKDe_gaJg).

The live demonstration presented to the stakeholders some ICT data driven solutions in blue sector developed by the project, with particular reference to ITACA (since this solution has been implemented with the support of local fishermen, who also report their experience).

The aim was to facilitate the transfer the best practice in using these tools, their exploitation and mainstreaming with the support of sectoral funds linked to blue economy.

Photographic documentation and signature sheet of the event are attached.

A second live demonstration meeting of the TECHERA project was held on 28/06/2023, at 11.00, in Ravenna, aimed at the stakeholders of the territory / SME of the Blue growth sector.

The event took place at the premises of the CESTHA operational headquarters, Experimental Center for the Protection of Habitat, in the auction room of the old fish market in Marina di Ravenna, located in via molo Dalmazia 49.

The event saw the participation of 18 companies in the sector, to which the aims and themes of the project related to digital technologies for the blue economy and whose representatives were shown an explanatory video (https://youtu.be/ZJKDe_gaJg).

The live demonstration presented to the stakeholders some ICT data driven solutions in blue sector developed by the project.

The aim was to facilitate the policy-uptake of these tools, their exploitation and mainstreaming with the support of sectoral funds linked to blue economy.

Photographic documentation and signature sheet of the event are attached.

Beside the live demonstration meetings, a survey among policy makers has been conducted to collect feedback on the further applicability and mainstreaming of TECHERA tools, with main reference to fisheries and fisheries and aquaculture sectors.

In fact, most of TECHERA tools are oriented to fisheries and aquaculture sectors, these being preeminent economic activities in the Adriatic Sea and, at the same time, having a strong relevance in terms of environmental impacts. Moreover, most of the outputs are data-driven and achieved a large number of findings that improved the sustainability of the blue economy, both at policy level (thanks, for instance, to the wider availability of decision supporting tools for management of resources) and operative level (thanks to the extensive number and typology of SMEs-oriented tools and best practices). On the whole, TECHERA project acts as a “knowledge hub”, gathering new information, data, scientific and technical knowledge suitable to enhance the framework of blue economy and especially of the fisheries and aquaculture. Taking stock of these experiences, TECHERA intends to further the exploitation of data-driven tools and solutions to support forward the strategic planning and policy-making process as well as the growth of blue economic activities, combining the economic sustainability and the environmental one.

The survey among policy makers, therefore, aimed at providing practical instructions to policy makers and institutions in further capitalizing the outputs of TECHERA cluster projects and mainstreaming their exploitation also with the support of structural and blue economy funds, as well to collect feedback on the readiness of this tools for the policy-uptake.

The survey has been conducted through a short questionnaire.

Questionnaire was made in the Google form (in English language), available at the following link:

<https://forms.gle/2FQ8Hk4vHm9Kc86t6>

Even if the questionnaire has been distributed to a wide group of policy stakeholders, reached through specific invitation mails and, in addition, informed and sensitized in occasion of Programme and project events, the collected replies raised mostly by direct bilateral interviews conducted by phone. Most of the interviewed policy makers are regional authorities that are directly responsible for the management of fisheries and aquaculture matters.

How could TECHERA outputs contribute to achieve the objective of the regional and national policies in the field of the blue economy?

All the policy makers interviewed report that nowadays the blue economy represents a significant part of the economy of the Programme area as a whole, even without counting indirect and induced income and employment effects, therefore, there is a strong need to incentive project and initiatives that, as TECHERA did, promote the capitalisation of existing results. In fact, the results of TECHERA provide Adriatic institutions with interesting insights for the policy review processes underway at multiple levels. The ways in which the tools and good practices developed by the project can be absorbed in the policies, contributing to their definition and revision process, are identified in specific contributions to sectoral policies and laws.

regarding the management of ichthyic and sea resources. In particular, TECHERA provided for tools to improve the decision-making process based on the best available scientific advice and broad stakeholder involvement and a long-term perspective, which is more than ever appropriate to respond to the needs of the sector in a context of crisis and a reduction in fishing effort. Also, it contributed to ensure that fishing and aquaculture activities contribute to long-term sustainability from an environmental, economic and social point of view.

How could the institutions and governance bodies endorse the TECHERA outputs to improve day to day management of blue economy? Which mechanisms could be set out to facilitate the process?

In general, interviewed policy makers operates in the field of EMFF, therefore, the further exploitation of TECHERA results has been directly linked to the national and regional implementation and management of this fund. In this framework, the use of TECHERA results by political decision-makers can become increasingly extensive. The main types of “political” incorporation of TECHERA results into the implementation of regional and national EMFF measures can be identified in their capacity of provide to policy maker knowledge a wide set of tools (as “innovation hub”) to better tailor measures according to current trends both at environmental level and economic one. In this context, the role played by the regional institutions could be paramount. Acting as Intermediate Bodies, implementing EMFF measures, they are responsible for defining eligibility and selection criteria for the implementation of delegated measures under the direction of the Managing Authority and under the control of the Monitoring Committee, but they also identify FLAGs (Fisheries Local Action Groups) and approve local development strategies by influencing decisions made at the local level. Therefore, as regards vertical mainstreaming of DORY results, regional institutions can:

Specifically, regarding the TECHERA tools oriented to fishermen (i.e., ITACA and PRIZEFISH tools) they can adopt:

- directly as recommendations, reward criteria or mandatory requirements into the provisions and selection criteria of regional calls.
- into the provisions and selection criteria of national calls.
- for the selection of FLAGs and local development strategies to implement them.

Which new inputs from technical-scientific level could contribute to the process? Should tools to be adapted to be exploitable?

All the interviewed policy makers support the idea that TECHERA and, generally, cooperation projects are a privileged channel for the science-based approach in policy making process. They all wish that the cooperation approach become a customary modus operandi when orienting data collection and processing activities, studies, pilot projects, dissemination of knowledge and research results, workshops and good practices. By the way, all the EU policy suggest following the principles of a good governance. Those principles include decision-making based on best available scientific advice, broad stakeholder involvement and a long-term perspective.

Therefore, it would be advisable that reference to the TECHERA experience is explicitly mentioned in the current policy making processes as well as that tools developed could be updated and further deepen as both supporting decision-making tools at policy level and stakeholders' involvement tools for a wide participatory approach.

Which new competences and skills are needed for the mainstreaming process or could be generated by this process?

All the interviewed policy makers highlighted a general lack of specific competences in the blue sectors. In particular, regarding the fisheries and aquaculture sectors, it emerged that there is a need of skilled workers, and this phenomenon prevents the wild development of innovation and therefore of the TECHERS tools. More generally, all the interviewed put the attention on the fact that behind the traditional (core) blue sectors, the blue economy is broadly embedding new emerging sectors (such a blue tourism, blue digitalisation, bio-blue technologies, etc.) that allow to include under “blue economy” also sectors that traditionally were not strictly linked to sea activities. Although this potential, one of the main threats is a limited competitiveness due to the scarce availability of qualified human capital, able to support the economic growth. Policy makers highlighted that ensuring investments in human capital and promoting strong and inclusive growth is crucial. Regarding the exploitation of TECHERA results, it emerges that the perception of blue professions and careers, starting with ocean literacy and targeting unemployed, students and young professionals, must still be spread and boosted. Indeed, the blue economy expansion should be more sustainable, as activities affect the quality of marine environment, and more based on digitalisation and IoT. This stated, the competence to be developed could be summed up in the following fields: 1. Blue-technologies and blue-biotechnologies, including all competences that are linked with the handling of new technologies and digitisation for the improvement of several utilisation processes of alive and non-living

marine and coastal resources (including competences for innovative aquaculture and fisheries); 2. Blue tourism, including competences linked to the development of advanced services for the fruition of the coastal and marine assets and heritage in innovative ways.

First live demonstration, 23/06/2023, Chioggia (VE)



Fig.1



Second live demonstration, 28/06/2023, Ravenna (RA)



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Ravenna 28/06/2023

PROGETTO TECHERA – EVENTO DISSEMINATIVO RIVOLTO AGLI STAKEHOLDERS

In data 28/06/2023, alle ore 11.00 si è svolto l'incontro disseminativo del progetto TECHERA, rivolto agli stakeholders del territorio / SME del settore delle Blue growth.

L'evento ha avuto luogo presso i locali della sede operativa CESTHA, Centro Sperimentale per la Tutela degli Habitat, nella sala delle aste del vecchio mercato del Pesce di Marina di Ravenna, sita in via molo Dalmazia 49.

L'evento ha visto la partecipazione di 18 imprese del settore, alle quali sono stati esposti gli scopi e i temi del progetto relativi alle digital technologies for the Blue economy e ai cui rappresentanti è stato mostrato un video esplicativo (https://youtu.be/ZJKDe_gaJg)

Si allega documentazione fotografica e foglio firme dell'evento.



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