

# Fishery fleet reduction in the coastal fishery - LT

## 1. Policy Objective & Theme

- SUSTAINABLE USE OF RESOURCES: Preserving coastal environment (its functioning and integrity) to share space
- SUSTAINABLE ECONOMIC GROWTH: Improving competitiveness

## 2. Key Approaches

- Socio-economic

## 3. Experiences that can be exchanged

The financial support scheme for the conversion of fishermen towards different economic activities was different for the lagoon and coastal fishery and such an approach could be applied in other cases of small scale fisheries.

## 4. Overview of the case

In 2008, the largest part of the application of the Lithuanian Fishery Sector (2007-2013) Activity Programme were submitted according to the activity sphere "Termination of the activities of fishing vessels for good giving the vessels over to scrap" of the first priority direction "Measures of adapting the marine fishing fleet" and according to the sphere of activities "Re-orientation of fishing vessels of the internal waters to other than fishing activity" of the measure "Fishing in the internal waters" of the second priority direction "Aquaculture, fishing in the internal waters, processing and marketing of fishery and aquaculture products".

## 5. Context and Objectives

### a) Context

The fishing industry in Lithuania has deep-rooted traditions. The Lithuanian regions, which depend on fishing activities to a great extent, have experienced great economic and social difficulties recently due to a decrease in fishing capacity and the resources-saving policy being pursued. It is becoming ever more difficult to make a living from fishing in Lithuania, young people show little interest in this activity, and the fishery communities are weak, lacking initiatives to improve their well-being, as well as that of the fishery sector. Though production of the Lithuanian fishery sector constitutes a very small part of the Gross Domestic Product – less than one per cent, this sector plays an important role in the country. According to the European Commission's fleet register the Lithuanian fleet has 221 vessels. There are fourteen vessels above 40 m in length with an average age of thirty years. Of these, thirteen vessels are currently fishing in the high seas.

### b) Objectives

The main aim of the measure "Termination of the activities of fishing vessels for good" was to address the incompatibility of the fishing efforts and the existing fishing rights, the insufficiency of income derived from the fishing activity to ensure business profitability, a need to modernise the obsolete Lithuanian fishing fleet. The implementation of these measures also was conducive to the achievement of EU environmental objectives.

## 6. Implementation of the ICZM Approach (i.e. management, tools, resources)

## **a) Management**

In Lithuania, the Department of Fishery, Ministry of Agriculture was responsible for the implementation of this activity. Additionally different organisations, including the fishery communities are involved in the implementation. Presently the National Paying Agency under the Ministry of Agriculture according to the Action Programme of the Lithuanian Fisheries Sector for 2007-2013 is the main body responsible for the programme implementation.

## **b) ICZM tools**

Restructuring of the entire coastal business sectors is following the long term perspective (precautionary principle)

## **7. Cost and resources**

More than €71 million of the total financial funds is allocated to the implementation of the Lithuanian Fishery Sector 2007-2013 Activity Programme, €54 million of which is the assistance from the European Fisheries Fund.

## **8. Effectiveness (i.e. were the foreseen goals/objectives of the work reached?)**

During the period between 2004 and 2008, the fishing fleet of the Baltic Sea was reduced by as much as 40% of its capacity. However, since vessels with a length exceeding 40 meters adapted to fishing in the open sea (Atlantic) and is an important segment of the fleet, a general decrease in the fishing capacity of the Lithuanian fleet accounts for only 3.8%.

## **9. Success and Fail factors**

Main factors are responsible for the success of the activity but proper, continuous funding and careful implementation by the managing organisations deserve mention.

## **10. Unforeseen outcomes**

According to research, there is no further need to reduce the Lithuanian open Baltic Sea fleet capacity in 2009–2010.

## **11. Prepared by**

Arturas Razinkovas, Klaipeda University, LT

## **12. Verified by**

Antanas Kontautas University, LT

## **13. Sources**

- Action Programme of the Lithuanian Fisheries Sector for 2007-2013
- Internal materials from the Coastal Research & Planning Institute, Klaipėda University