

# Re-orientation of fishermen from commercial fishery towards other economical activities - 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 other 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

Apart from the “Termination of the activities of fishing vessels for good” additional measures were taken to facilitate conversion of fishermen towards different economic activities such as recreational activities, agro-tourism and recreational fisheries, and small scale water transportation. Special financial support measures were partly funded from the European Fisheries Fund and 15% from the national budget.

## 5. Context and Objectives

### a) Context

Angling was been one of the most popular leisure activities in Lithuania, while the Curonian lagoon and the coastal Baltic Sea being one of the most important recreational fishery playgrounds. However there has always been a misconception that the development of recreational fishing and the introduction of fishing tourism could have no positive effect to increase fish stocks and assist conservation.

### b) Objectives

To provide financial measures to facilitate the conversion of fishermen towards different economic activities including the recreational fishery and fishery tourism.

## 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. To evaluate and develop regulations on angling, there was a Board of Amateur Fishing Development established from governmental, non-governmental organisations and the commercial sector.

## **b) ICZM tools**

Development of the entire specialised infrastructure and diversification of activities follows the long term perspective (precautionary principle). It should be noted that recreational fishing has priority over commercial fishing in the inland waters (including the Curonian lagoon) and similarly it is expected to be extended to coastal waters.

## **7. Cost and resources**

Approximately €3.200,000. 85% of the funding came from the European Fisheries Fund and 15% from the national budget.

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

The economic effect of this activity is also complemented by the positively altered public interest.

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

The main factors responsible for the success of the activity are the proper continuous funding and careful implementation by the managing organisations.

## **10. Unforeseen outcomes**

Despite the efforts to facilitate the conversion of fishermen towards different economic activities, only a few of them have selected that opportunity directly. The reason behind that is different financial support schemes being more beneficial for those quitting the fishery business totally. Some of the fishermen, after scrapping their fishing boats, bought new ones for recreation activities.

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## **13. Sources**

- Action Programme of the Lithuanian Fisheries Sector for 2007-2013