

Press Release

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Malta, Greece and Cyprus launch a new project to support small scale fisheries

Malta, Greece and Cyprus have started working together in the framework of the EU funded project “**Support Measures for Small-Scale Fishing**” in order to increase the degree of involvement of the small scale fishing sector in the decision making processes set under the Common Fisheries Policy.

The consortium of the three partners from Malta, Greece and Cyprus seeks to map out the current situation in each country and produce recommendations so as to strengthen the participation of the small scale fisheries in established bodies.

In Malta, the AquaBioTech Group will work closely with the Ministry of Fisheries and Aquaculture, the fishermen associations and other stakeholders in order to provide the best outcome for the fisheries community.

George D. Mantas, Business Development Manager of the AquaBioTech Group said: *“Traditionally the fishermen liaise with the local authorities and that was enough for them to reach the decision makers. Now with the new Common Fisheries Policy that has changed and that is why we need to establish a more effective way of communication between the fisheries community, the decision makers in EU and the Regional Advisory Bodies for the benefit of all parties. With this project starting at a regional level it is a very good way forward to achieve these objectives.”*

Following the Fisheries Board meeting held on the 4th of April where the AquaBioTech Group presented the project to the local stakeholders, **Dr. Andreina Fenech Farrugia**, General Director of the Department of Fisheries and Aquaculture said: *“The Maltese fisheries communities are a very important part of our society, providing social and economic benefits to the country while contributing significantly to the Maltese tourism industry. An inclusive fisheries community participating in the decision making process can create opportunities and result in a more productive and profitable industry that benefits the Maltese society and economy.”*

According to the 2015 Annual Economic Report on the EU Fishing Fleet of the Joint Research Centre (JRC), the Maltese fishing fleet consisted of one thousand forty five (1,045) registered vessels and the Ministry of Fisheries and Aquaculture estimates that it provides direct employment to around one thousand (1000) people.

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Note:

The Support Measures for Small-Scale Fishing project is a DG MARE Call for proposals funded by the European Commission grant agreement No MARE/2014/04 – SI2. 723876

AquaBioTech Group is the Maltese partner in the “Support Measures for Small-Scale Fishing” project consortium.

The AquaBioTech Group is an international research and development, engineering and consulting company strategically located in the centre of the Mediterranean on the island of Malta, operating globally with clients and projects in over fifty-five countries. The vast majority of the company's work is related to the marine or aquatic environment, encompassing aquaculture developments, market research / intelligence, through to project feasibility assessments, finance acquisition, project management, technology sourcing and technical support and training.

Photographs: