



NATIONAL REGIONAL DEVELOPMENT AGENCY, LITHUANIA (NRDA) - ACTION PLAN

Part I – General information

Project: EXTRA-SMEs

Partner organisation: National Regional Development Agency (NRDA)

Country: Lithuania

NUTS2 region: LT (Lithuania)

Contact person: Aida Adeikienė

Email address: aida@nrda.lt

Phone number: +37061560403

Part II – Policy context

The Action Plan aims to impact:

Investment for Growth and Jobs programme	
European Territorial Cooperation programme	
Other regional development policy instrument	x
Name of the policy instrument addressed:	
European Maritime and Fisheries Fund – Operational Programme of Lithuania Fishery Sector 2014 – 2020	
European Maritime and Fisheries Fund - Operational Programme of Lithuania Fishery Sector 2021-2027 (currently under consultations)	

Part III – Details of the actions envisaged

Strategic development pathway (please describe the shortages of the policy instrument, the aims of the policy measures included and the lessons learnt from the project that constitute their basis)

Lithuania is small country and usually all EU funding programmes and plans are prepared for all Lithuania as NUTS2 region. After that in separate Region Development Plans are included some specific priorities and areas there are important for NUTS3 region. In this Action Plan are analysed funding programmes in national level:

European Maritime and Fisheries Fund – Operational Programme of Lithuania Fishery Sector 2014-2020: aimed to support the aquaculture sector regionally through supporting; enhanced research and innovation, information, and communications technologies (ICT), SME competitiveness, and the shift to a low-carbon economy. This 5-year operational program has a unified structure and is a logical pathway for all levels administrative governs. It includes strategic plan, operational plan, five-year action plan and financial programme, performance and monitoring indicators. Measures concerned by EXTRA-SME's encountered in Priority 2: "Increasing the competitiveness and viability of aquaculture enterprises, in particular SMEs, including improving safety and working conditions", expected performance indicators: Change in volume of aquaculture production; Change in value of aquaculture production; Employment created.

Operational Programme of Lithuania Aquaculture Sector Development 2014-2020: the situation analysis of aquaculture sector in Lithuania, SWOT analysis, the five-year aim and objectives, performance and monitoring indicators. The aim of this plan is to set goals, directions and objectives



for the development of the aquaculture sector in order to encourage the development of promising production capacities for valuable fish species, to ensure more efficient operation of aquaculture enterprises and to create greater added value of aquaculture production. Measures concerned by EXTRA-SME's are encountered in Priority 2: increasing the competitiveness of the aquaculture sector by acquiring and developing production technologies that are in demand on the market and promoting exports.

European Maritime and Fisheries Fund - Operational Programme of Lithuania Fishery Sector 2021-2027 (currently under consultations): the planning of Programming Period 2021-2027 considers with the completion of the Operating Programme of Lithuania Fishery Sector 2014-2020 and presents significant results with added value of its implementation, while identifying problems and lessons learned from the experience of the outgoing Programming Period. Measures concerned by EXTRA-SME's encountered in Priority 2: "Promoting sustainable aquaculture activities and the processing and marketing of fisheries and aquaculture products, thus contributing to food security in the European Union". In order to promote sustainable aquaculture activities, increase the competitiveness of the production of its products and ensure that the activities are environmentally sustainable, actions and resources are provided to help achieve these objectives. In total, more than € 28.84 million Eur is planned to be allocated. But in this programme is to less paid attention to aquaculture SME extraversion and internationalisation. The planning of the Operational Programme of Lithuania Fishery Sector 2021-2027 is currently under public consultations (until end of December 2021). The stakeholders can express their views and suggestions. The results of consultations will be taken into account in the formation of position of NRDA that will be send to the Lithuanian Ministry of Agriculture.

Good practice and experiences learnt from EXTRA SME's project: analysing situation in Lithuania and comparing with situation in other project partners regions, we found, that in Lithuania support should focus on aquaculture companies finance opportunities with explicit provisions and incentives for aspiring exporters. Sustained efforts should be made on the part of authorities to liaise with existing commercial networks abroad and increase the visibility of the aquaculture sector, in such way so as to present an opportunity for foreign market representatives to cooperate with a sector with a great deal of potential.

Exchange of experience and confrontation with the realities in the aquaculture sector of the partner countries, learning from the good practice with which they faced and solved common problems. The actions included in this plan aim at boosting the extraversion, internationalisation and competitiveness of Lithuania aquaculture SME's.

These interregional sessions also enabled the identification of several key messages for the European Commission. These included the following:

- **Continue the investments in the modernization of aquaculture sector** by accumulating and exchanging knowledge, implementing innovations, promoting cooperation, and attracting young professionals: (i) encourage aquaculture sector entities to co-operate with scientific institutions implementing aquaculture training programs and aquaculture associations in order to make their activities more efficient; (ii) increase the access of aquaculture sector actors to knowledge and innovation by making greater use of opportunities for cooperation between scientific institutions, consultants and the aquaculture sector, regional organizations at national and international level; (iii) invest in the identification of bio-economy development opportunities in the aquaculture sector and their implementation; (iv)



support research, evaluation and innovation (in the areas of fish farming, environmental mitigation, environmental services, adaptation to climate change, etc.).

- ***Invest in the increase of resilience and competitiveness of the aquaculture sector and its market orientation:*** (i) *promote to use advanced technologies, innovation, including digitalisation, to increase the efficiency of the use of material, human and natural resources;* (ii) *promote aquaculture operators to process farmed fish and engage in cooperation with the local food system and short food supply chains;* (iii) *encourage aquaculture producer organizations and other associations to present the products and achievements of aquaculture enterprises at international and local exhibitions, fairs and other publicity events.*

ACTION 1. INTERNATIONALISATION AND EXTRAVERSION OF AQUACULTURE SME'S

1. The background (please describe the lessons learnt from the project that constitute the basis for the development of the present Action Plan)

Outcomes of EXTRA SME's project activities A1 and A3: A1.2 (identifying new products and processes potential to improve internationalisation and extraversion); A1.4 (mapping the barriers and bottlenecks to internationalisations for EXTRA SME's businesses); A3.5 (study visit in Szczecin and in Siauliai where the all partners discussed regional strategies on internationalisation and extraversion improvement for aquaculture SMEs). From these activities and discussions with project partners and stakeholders we have learned that extraversion and internationalisation is very important for the development of aquaculture SME's. Extraversion and internationalisation give more possibilities for increase of these sector competitiveness in domestic and foreign markets. Already we have the beginnings of an international extraversion exchange with the EXTRA-SME's group. We would seek to deepen this and to strengthen the SME competitiveness strand.

2. Action (please list and describe the actions to be implemented).

- *Identification of the aquaculture SME's willing and capable to expand their activity abroad.*
- *Inclusion of a specific action related to the extraversion and internationalisation of aquaculture SME's in the "Lithuanian aquaculture sector development plan 2021-2027". These actions should be more related to the increase of the export amounts through connection in to international aquaculture companies' networks (using EXTRA-SME's project partner connections).*
- *Identification of the most suitable actions to start an internationalisation process of aquaculture SME's.*
- *Address access to skills and professional advice gaps in Lithuania and in separate regions (often due to the small scope of the aquaculture sector in Lithuania).*
- *It will be initiated new calls related with business support services in separate regions in Lithuania: features – consultation of aquaculture SME's about export channels, internationalisation networks.*

3. Players involved (please indicate the organisations in the region who are involved in the development and implementation of the action and explain their role)

NRDA



*FARNET-Lithuania Representative
Municipalities involved in aquaculture activities
Association “Network of Local Action Groups of Lithuanian Fisheries Regions”
Aquaculture SME’s
EXTRA-SME’s project partners*

4. Timeframe

September 2021 – February 2023

5. Costs (if relevant)

About 400 000 eur (for 4 service centers)

6. Funding sources (if relevant):

Operational Programme of Lithuania Fishery Sector 2021-2027.

ACTION 2. STRENGTHENING OF COOPERATION BETWEEN SCIENTIFIC INSTITUTIONS AND AQUACULTURE SME’S

1. The background (please describe the lessons learnt from the project that constitute the basis for the development of the present Action Plan)

Outcomes of EXTRA-SME’s project activities A1 and A3: A1.2 (identifying new products and processes potential to improve internationalisation and extraversion); A1.4 (mapping the barriers and bottlenecks to internationalisations for EXTRA SME’s businesses). ; A3.5 (study visit in Siauliai where the all partners discussed the use of innovative technology to increase aquaculture SMEs’ economic potential). EXTRA-SME’s partners discussed about the technological innovations and how they can assist to ensure the high quality of the fish produced. From the project we have learned, that it could potentially address the ways that SMEs can be funded by governmental or private bodies that will allow them to modernize their production chain, which in turn can lead to an increased presence of European fish products in the global markets. On way is close cooperation with scientific institutions. Already we have the beginnings of cooperation activities between science representatives and aquaculture enterprises an international extraversion exchange with the EXTRA-SME’s group. We would seek to deepen this and to strengthen the SME’s cooperation with scientific institutions for implementation of advanced technologies and methods, including the identification of opportunities for the development of the bioeconomy, in the aquaculture sector.

2. Action (please list and describe the actions to be implemented).

- *Establish a review of transnational best practice from the EXTRA-SME’s best practice report to support the optimization of aquaculture companies’ cooperation with scientific institutions in Lithuania.*
- *Identification of the aquaculture SME’s willing and capable to cooperate with scientific institutions.*
- *Inclusion of a specific action related to the competitiveness in global market of aquaculture SME’s in the “Lithuanian aquaculture sector development plan 2021-2027”. These actions*



should be more related to the increase of aquaculture companies' cooperation with scientific institutions in Lithuania through connection in to international aquaculture companies' networks (using EXTRA-SME's project partner connections).

- *To maintain periodic review sessions with Association "Network of Local Action Groups of Lithuanian Fisheries Regions", scientific institutions and other stakeholders to monitor status.*
- *New calls for the scientific projects trough Lithuania Science Council. In project should be not less than two scientific institutions: one from Lithuania (coordinator), one from abroad, and not less than two aquaculture SME's: one from Lithuania and one from abroad. Features – scientific projects related to implementation of advanced technologies and methods, including the identification of opportunities for the development of the bioeconomy, in the aquaculture SME's, cooperation with foreign scientific institutions and aquaculture SME's for increase of global competitiveness.*

3. Players involved (please indicate the organisations in the region who are involved in the development and implementation of the action and explain their role)

NRDA

FARNET-Lithuania Representative

Municipalities involved in aquaculture activities

Association "Network of Local Action Groups of Lithuanian Fisheries Regions"

Klaipeda University Marine Research Institute Fishery and Aquaculture Research group

Vytautas Magnus University Agriculture Academy Faculty of Water and Land Management

Aquaculture SME's

EXTRA-SME's project partners

4. Timeframe

January 2022 – May 2023

5. Costs (if relevant)

About 500 000 eur.

6. Funding sources (if relevant):

Operational Programme of Lithuania Fishery Sector 2021-2027.

Date: 2021-07-22

Signature: _____

Stamp of the organisation (if available): _____

*Direktorė
Aida Adeikienė*

