

# POLICY BRIEF 1

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**EXTRA-SMEs**  
Interreg Europe



## EXTRA-SMEs PROJECT

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EXTRA-SMEs is an Interreg Europe project that aims to foster the competitiveness, extraversion, and internationalisation of rural and coastal SMEs participating in aquaculture value chains.

To that end, the project brings together 8 regions from 7 countries to join forces and exchange experiences on:

- Simplification of administrative procedures.
- Expansion and access to new markets.
- Innovative value-added product solutions.
- Personnel up-skilling.
- Resolution of stakeholders' conflicts of interests.



The partners participating in the project are:

- The Region of Peloponnese in Greece
- The Region of Liguria in Italy
- The Northern Chamber of Commerce in Szczecin (NCC) in Poland
- The Bucharest-Ilfov Regional Development Agency (ADR-BI) in Romania
- The Lapland University of Applied Sciences (LUAS) in Finland
- The University of Patras (UPAT) in Greece
- The Western Development Commission (WDC) in Ireland
- The Public Institution National Regions Development Agency (NRDA) in Lithuania
- The Liguria Cluster for Marine Technologies (DLTM)



# POLICY BRIEF OVERVIEW

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This policy brief provides an overview of the "Comparative baseline analysis on existing regulatory frameworks for licensing procedures and EXTRA-SMEs' economic operations" report developed by the EXTRA-SMEs project, namely a comparative analysis of EXTRA-SMEs partners' regulatory and administrative frameworks within which aquaculture value chains operate. Further to evaluating the current situation, the report:

- a) Explores the potential for improvements.
- b) Provides recommendations for policy advancements.

Aquaculture value-chains, in the context of the project, include SMEs in the fields of feed production, aquaculture production, transport, slaughtering, processing and then distribution to consumers, either as food or other types of products. The report focused mostly on fish and fish feed production, as well as processing.

The findings of the comparative analysis can be consulted by relevant public authorities and actors, in order to review and revise their existing policy frameworks and boost regional competitiveness and extraversion.

# BEST PRACTICES



- **Property registers:** ADR-BI (Romania) and NRDA (Lithuania) operate complete and easily accessible property registers. WDC (Ireland) has a central authority responsible for the registration of property transactions.
- **Spatial planning:** WDC's applied policy creates transparency and supports sustainability through the early identification of impact and opportunities for multiple uses of space.
- **Entrepreneurship:** WDC has established a comprehensive framework within which the support of SMEs falls; it offers a variety of access to finance instruments used by the aquaculture sector to grow businesses.
- **Operation permission and renewal procedures:** The region of Liguria and WDC provide guidance for the permission process.
- **Internationalisation:** "Enterprise Ireland", operating under WDC, has a comprehensive framework that does not only finance internationalisation activities, but also provides operational support in their activities.
- **Quality certificates:** UPAT provides information to aquaculture enterprises on international quality certificates: this has led to a strong exporting activity in the region.
- **Employment policies:** NCC's (Poland) policies, specifically target the aquaculture value chain being based on an EU investment package designed for the Polish fishery and aquaculture sector,

# RECOMMENDATIONS

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The following derive from the best practices as employed by EXTRA-SMEs partners:

- **Property registers:** It is recommended to introduce a publicly accessible and complete property register so that investors can find the available land for aquaculture activities.
- **Spatial planning:** It is essential to give clear roles on the treatment of marine territory in a sustainable and proof-transparent manner in order to create synergies, increase cross-border cooperation and encourage investment.
- **Entrepreneurship:** The establishment of a comprehensive and stable financial support framework is recommended to attract investors and open the way to economic growth.
- **Operation permission and renewal procedures:** It is recommended to introduce guidance documents, simplify procedures and improve transparency of the permission process.
- **Internationalisation:** The best potential use of funding and the establishment of a comprehensive framework programme could be discussed.
- **Quality certificates:** It is encouraged to provide information to aquaculture enterprises on the importance of international quality certificates, to facilitate access to international markets.
- **Employment policies:** Specific sectoral employment policies and a possible mix of vocational and university-level training could be introduced.

## PROJECT PARTNERS



**Region of Peloponnese  
(EL)**



**Liguria Region (IT)**



**Northern Chamber of  
Commerce in Szczecin  
(PL)**



**Bucharest-Ilfov Regional  
Development Agency  
(RO)**



**Lapland University of  
Applied Sciences (FI)**



**University of Patras (EL)**



**Western Development  
Commission (IE)**



**Liguria Cluster for  
Marine Technologies  
(IT)**



**Public institution  
National Regions  
Development Agency  
(LT)**

## About Us

EXTRA-SMEs is co-funded by INTERREG Europe / European Regional Development Fund (ERDF)

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