



CHERISH PROJECT

**Creating opportunities for regional growth through
promoting Cultural HERitage of fISHing communities in
Europe**

Action Plan for Paphos



June 2021



This Action Plan is part of the CHERISH interregional cooperation project. It is developed with the support from European Regional Development Fund (ERDF) and made possible by the Interreg Europe programme.



Part I – General information

Project: Creating opportunities for regional growth through promoting Cultural HERitage of fISHing communities in Europe – Cherish

Partner organisation(s) concerned: Development Co. Pafos Aphrodite Ltd

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1. Introduction

This document presents the Action Plan drafted by the Development Co. Pafos Aphrodite Ltd (Cyprus) with the valuable comments, feedback and hard work of the regional stakeholders. The Action Plan has been developed within the framework of CHERISH project which has the aim to improve regional development policies to protect and promote cultural heritage in fishing communities in order to boost attractiveness of these regions for businesses, citizens and tourists.

Fishery communities in the EU share the same challenges with regard to climate change, tourism pressure and the transformation of the European fishing industry. The EU recognizes the valuable role of their cultural heritage for sustainable development and stimulates increased efforts to better position and profile the fishing communities, including its intangible heritage, like myths to daily practices, traditions, ecological knowledge and crafts. Through the development and implementation of new strategies utilising cultural assets of fishing communities' new jobs and new products or services are created as well.

Interregional cooperation and policy learning allowed the exchange of experiences on the development of policy for the protection and promotion of cultural heritage in fishing communities via the integration of the lessons learnt into the Local Development Strategy for the District of Paphos 2014-2020.

2. The Local Context of Paphos Fishing Areas

2.1 Introduction

Paphos a coastal city in southwest Cyprus and the capital of Paphos District. Today Paphos, with a population of about 35,961 (as of 2018), is a popular tourist resort and is home to a fishing harbour. Pafos is a combination of many things: a cosmopolitan holiday resort with spectacular countryside nearby, and many fascinating historical sites. The region offers the possibility of enjoying both the sea



and the mountains, as well as giving a taste of the island's cultural heritage with its many archaeological sites. Due to that is a famous tourist destination that receives more than 1.4 ml of tourists every year representing the 35% of the tourist of Cyprus and is the area with the highest percentage of tourist staying in its territory.

Paphos, like other Mediterranean coastal areas, has a fishing activity which at the past it was one of the most important sectors of the area and had contributed with a significant part of the area's economy. Based on various remains and finds, it is obvious that the sea has been explored and managed for millennia by the communities of the area.

2.2 The fisheries area of Paphos

The fisheries area of Paphos is the area of intervention of the Local Development Strategy that Paphos Development Company is responsible for implementing as a Fisheries Local Action Groups for the programming period 2014-2020. The area is a part of Paphos District (Figure 1) and it covers in total an area of 309.93 km² while the whole of Paphos District is covering an area of 1.389.80 km². In total, the intervention area covers 22.30% of the province and 3.35% of the island of Cyprus.



Figure 1: Map of the Fishing Areas of Paphos



The fisheries area consists of 16 Local authorities (Municipalities and Communities) as detailed in the table Table 1. Among them there are big Municipalities like the Municipality of Paphos, Geroskipou and Peyia, which are the only Municipalities of the fisheries area and the administrative units with the largest recorded population according to the data of the Cyprus Statistical Office.

An important characteristic of the area is the percentage of temporary residences (51.52%), which exceeds the percentage of habitation (48.48%). This is significantly different from the corresponding percentage of the District of Paphos and Cyprus. There is a high percentage of temporary residences in country houses and also residences from foreign countries which in some cases they can be more that they exceed the local population at rates of more than 70% (Geroskipou, Achelia, Timi).

The economic activity of the region follows that of the District of Paphos and Cyprus with negligible variations. The primary sector contributes by 2.60% to regional GDP with the fisheries sector to contribute to no more than 0,8%. The secondary sector contributes to 22.2% of regional GDP, while the tertiary sector accounts for 77% of regional GDP. The tourism sector is very important in the area, and it contributes to 26,3% of the regional GDP and is positively affected by the developed tourist industry in the region.

Despite the low rates of the primary sector, the fisheries area presents an encouraging image mainly due to the variety and quality of local production such as livestock, dairy and other traditional products (e.g. halloumi, carob, fruits, spoon sweets, etc.) and olive oil, creating excellent growth prospects for the local economy. Significant growth opportunities are also found in the fisheries sector even though it faces lot of problems. Also, the connection of the primary sector with the tourism is another important perspective of the area, which, combined with the rich natural environment, mainly in the areas close to the Akamas peninsula and the forest, creates considerable ground for the development of alternative forms of tourism.

The geomorphology of the intervention area presents unique variety and landscape variations, including wild beaches, rocky shores and sandy bays. Along the coastline there are two (2) fishing shelters and two (2) ports serving part of the area.

The fisheries area has a rich flora, including a wide variety of wild flowers and fauna with protected areas where important species of aquatic and migratory birds live. The marine, mountainous and lowland ecosystems are not only an integral part of the natural wealth of the area but also a motivation and attraction for Cypriot and foreign visitors.

The area has also numerous traditional settlements with architectural features that highlight the local and cultural identity. Also, the transport, health care and public services are concentrated in the urban centers, mainly in the Municipality of Paphos. The city of Paphos has the airport, but also a transport



network, but it does not cover the distant communities. As a result, several communities are cut off from health, education and leisure infrastructure, having a negative impact on the quality of life of their inhabitants.

2.3 The Fishing Sector

In the Fisheries Area there are three of the sixteen fishing shelters in Cyprus, namely Agios Georgios Pegeias, Latsi and Pomos. This indicates the importance and the perspective of the fishing industry in the area, the local economy, and the local population. In the fishing shelter you can find three types of fishing permissions, that is coastal fishing A +B, coastal fishing C and purse seine. Most of the licences are Coastal Fishing A+B. The data are given in the below table.

Fishing Shelter	Coastal Fishing A+B	Coastal Fishing C	Purse Seine	Total
Ag. Georgios Pegeias	19	1	0	20
Latsi	34	3	4	41
Pomos	40	4	2	46
Total	93	8	6	107

The majority of fishing vessels docked in the fishing shelters of the fisheries area are used for coastal fishing with A and B professional licenses (95% in Agios Georgios Pegeias, 83% in Latsi and 87% in Pomos).

Today, the professional fishing fleet is made up of 250 fishermen and employs approximately 550 either directly or indirectly. The professional fleet consists of approximately 125 vessels.

2.4 Problems

The fisheries area is facing a lot of problems. One of the main ones is the aging population and the low educational level of the people. The population of the area is mostly above the 45 years of age and the aging index rate is 70.42% (ratio number of people over 65 years in 100 subjects aged 0-14 years). At the same time, the level of education in line with the population structure is judged to be low if we consider that almost 20% of the population has attended the gymnasium cycle and 38.26% the lyceum



education. University graduates and holders of postgraduate / doctorate qualifications account for only 15.41% of the population, which makes it necessary to take initiatives to upgrade educational and cultural structures in the fisheries area.

Another problem of the area is the illegal fishing. Illegal fishing is one of the most fundamental man-made threats to fishery resources in the region. Illegal fishing has consequently the destruction of habitats and the reduction of fish stocks in the area. Illegal form of fishing are the violation of time and local restrictions, the breach of species, size and catch (overfishing), breaches of size and type of fishing gear, fishing in protected areas, the use of explosives and chemicals and amateur fishing with nets etc. The impact of illegal fishing in the area has causes important problems to the marine life (flora and fauna) but also for the fishing sector and the local communities.

The lack of skilled human resources in the fishing sector and the low integration of new technologies is another problem that can be found in the fisheries area. The low level of specialization in the fishing profession coupled with the lack of incentives to integrate new production methods and the modernization of existing equipment constitute a major preventing factor in the development of the fishing sector.

Another important problem is the fact of the aging population of the fishermen. They are quite old, mostly above the age of 65 years old and there are no any young people interested to start working in the fishing sector. The fact of the aging fishermen can be considered as positive since it provides a substantial amount of practical experience and knowledge but at the same time they are lacking the technical background, including the experience of new information technologies and sustainable resource management, which can boost the area's productive capacity.

At the same time the fisheries area is also dealing with the low participation rate of women and young people in the labour force of the fisheries sector. The proportion of women and young people employed in the fishing sector appears to be much lower than that of men, partly due to difficult working conditions on fishing boats and the fact that there is not enough income generated by the fishing activity that could give enough money for a young person to survive from the fishing activity. At the same time this situation is leading to the continues decrease of the employment in the fishing sector. Less and less are becoming the number of fishermen in the area of Paphos.

Currently, the fishing communities of Paphos area are also dealt with a significant reduction in their fleets something that is promoted by the European regulations to protect the marine reserves. In the Paphos fishing area the reduction during the last decade is tremendous, from 600 vessels to only 125 vessels. At the same time the increase in the use of recreational vessels in the port is leading to a decrease in the amount of space available for the fishing vessels for both coastal fishing and trawling.



There are also significant structural problems of the fishing sector. The overfishing of several species, the preference of consumers in certain species of fish combined with the low productivity of Paphos waters and the reduction of fishing grounds are significant disadvantages of the region's fishing activity. In addition, significant pressures on marine environments and fishing (from foreign invasive species) are also problems that can be found in the area.

Finally, a significant problem is the lack of knowledge of the traditional fishing methods and the fishing heritage among the local population so actions must be taken to showcase and share information on the historical and cultural importance of this heritage of Paphos fishing areas.

3. Lessons learnt from the Cherish project

The Action Plan of Paphos is a result of a continuous work and collaboration with the regional stakeholders as well as a result of the learning process and the exchange of experiences that was performed during the Phase 1 of the CHERISH project. The valuable best practices, study visits, seminars and discussions with the partners and the interregional stakeholders as well as the TEK sessions gave us a lot of material, knowledge, and ideas that we could use for the elaboration of the action plan but moreover to improve our policy instrument that is the Local Development Strategy with new projects that promote and preserve the cultural heritage of our fishing areas.

In particular, from partners Good Practices and the Interregional Learning and Exchange of Experience (ILEE) meetings several good practices and experiences during the working sessions and field visits were identified. The lessons learnt for defining the actions of the Paphos Action Plan came from the following best practices

- The good practice Fishing tourism regional law n. 23 5/6/2012 (Abruzzo, Italy), shared by partner of Abruzzo Region (Italy), has been a good example to define a context in Cyprus regarding activities related to the sea, such as tourism and fishing tourism. Also, the fishing tourism experience from Pescara and their relevant updates on their laws as well as the experience from the study visit gave the opportunity to discuss the new funding scheme about fishing tourism.
- From the same region (Abruzzo, Italy) and during the 3rd ILEEE held in Pescara in July 2019 we visited the Martinsicuro Ecomuseum of the Sea and of Fishing, partly based on involving local fishermen in the management of the Ecomuseum. Since in one of the fisheries areas, that is Polis town there is a place of old warehouses in the Latsi marina and the fishermen want to use somehow, it gave us the inspiration to make this a fishing museum, something that we don't have in Cyprus. For doing that funds were needed and could be done by the Local Development Strategy with the inclusion of a funding scheme for the local communities with a call of public



infrastructures that are focuses on promoting the cultural heritage of the Pafos fishing communities.

- The fishery Wharf of Arnemuiden that preserves historic boats as a mean to preserve and disseminate old craftsmanship in building, maintain and restore historic vessels was of interest since in Paphos there is a vernacular shipbuilding wharf, which is one of the few vernacular shipbuilding wharfs of the island with one of the last families that still restores ancient and historical fishing vessels by using traditional tools and techniques, and transfers the art from generation to generation but also have an archive of blue prints of old vessels by involving young people.
- The Lugar do Real best practise from Portugal which is a platform with the main objective to disseminate and enhance the social image of fishing activity and professionals of the fishing sector in the area. This kind of practise was an inspiration to do something similar for Paphos fisheries area and use it to disseminate the TEK work since lot of data have been collected such as testimonies, photographs, archives research, videos, etc. The platform will also be used to promote the fisheries areas, the gastronomy, the traditional shipbuilding, the net making, stories from fishermen, photo gallery and videos.
- Aquamuseum of Vila Nova de Cerveira best practise which presents the ethnographic heritage associated with River Minho fishing. It gave us ideas on how to proceed with creation of the museum in the Latsi marina which the old warehouses will be converted to a museum for the sea.

Part II – Policy context

The Action Plan aims to impact:	<input type="checkbox"/>	Investment for Growth and Jobs programme
	<input type="checkbox"/>	European Territorial Cooperation programme
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Other regional development policy instrument

Name of the policy instrument(s) addressed: **Local Development Strategy for the District of Paphos 2014-2020**

The Local Development Strategy for the District of Paphos 2014-2020 is the main tool for development planning in the fisheries area of Paphos. It has been approved under the Priority 4 «Increasing employment and territorial cohesion» of the Operational Programme Thalassa 2014-2020 that is funded by the European Maritime Fisheries Fund (EMFF) 2014-2020. The responsible Managing Authority for the OP Thalassa 2014-2020 is the Department of Fisheries and Marine Research.



The Development Co. Pafos Aphrodite Ltd is the Fisheries Local Action Group and the intermediate body responsible for the implementation of the Local Fisheries Strategy of Paphos for the period 2014-2020. The strategy was approved in November 2016 with a total public budget of €2.250.000.

The aim of the Local Development Strategy is to create self-sustaining, diversified, and lively fishing areas, attractive for work, residence, and visit. The strategy has 5 strategic objectives that is:

- Improve the competitiveness and added value of local fishing production giving emphasis on quality,
- Diversify the local economy and enhance the attractiveness of the region as a place of work,
- Improving the quality of life and enhancing the attractiveness of the area as a permanent living area,
- Protect and enhance the natural and fishing culture of the region
- Strengthening the cooperation and capacity of local actors to achieve sustainable development.

The Local Development Strategy was prepared based on the bottom-up approach taking into account the consultation process held with the competent Ministries, Local Authorities, social and economic partners and bodies of the wider public and private sector and also through informal dialogue with the European Commission. The Local Development Strategy includes the financing of projects in the fisheries areas with emphasis on helping the fishermen of small-scale fisheries and fisheries communities diversify their economic activities and to finance projects aimed at creating jobs, improving the quality of life in coastal areas, and to stimulate innovation. The co-financing rate of individual projects will range between 50% and 75%. The potential beneficiaries include fishermen, vessel owners, processing Units, collective Organizations, private and public Bodies etc.

Although the Local Development Strategy considers some heritage elements from local fishing communities as cultural resources it leaves out the traditions of the fishing communities since there is no measures for the promotion or protection of cultural heritage. By extinction of fishing communities, many related cultural heritage will be abolished and replaced with new urban development, which results in loss of part of human cultural heritage, especially for the fishing areas. Highlighting the values of fishing cultural heritage will help to policies to ensure the continued existence of this tradition as well its associated cultural heritage.

Based on this it is necessary to improve the Local Development Strategy by focusing on the implementation of new projects that will support the promotion of cultural heritage and which will strengthen the cooperation between the different stakeholders and therefore will improve governance of the Strategy as well new measures will be added that will promote the management of heritage by achieving a balance between heritage exploitation, economic growth and environmental protection. Also, funding of new projects that will facilitate an integrated management of cultural heritage of fishing



communities to improve the usages of the local resources as well as to promote the tourism in the fishing communities.

For achieving these changes, the Paphos Development Co. Aphrodite Ltd will implement three actions during phase 2 of CHERISH project, in collaboration with several stakeholders. That is the following:

- Action 1: New call of projects for Fishing Tourism
- Action 2: Web platform to promote the traditions of the fisheries areas of Paphos
- Action 3: Call of public infrastructures that are focuses on promoting the cultural heritage of the Paphos fishing communities

Part III – Details of the actions envisaged

ACTION 1: A New Call of Projects for Fishing Tourism

Relevance to the project

During the ILEEE in Pescara we had the opportunity to experience fishing tourism and to discuss with the local fishermen about this activity they offer to tourist. The best practise «Fishing tourism regional law n. 23 5/6/2012» was identified as a best practise and presented at the ILEEE in Pescara which is a legal framework that regulates the activities related to the sea, contributing to diversification of fishing activities and integration of fishermen's income. Fishing tourism (pesca tourism) involves fishing sharing the culture with local fishermen, as well as learning the traditions and lifestyle of the fishermen. It is partly a subset of the marine eco-tourism and special interest tourism sector. It emphasises external recreational purposes. The activities involved in fishing tourism are generally conducted by professional fisherman who use well equipped vessels needed for fishing and maintain overall safety and hygiene. The Law was regulated for the first time in Italy and regulates the activities related to fishing tourism. The legislation, besides providing the possibility for tourists to be guests of the boats, also allows the creation of refreshment points on the ground, with the concrete possibility of enhancing local traditions.

For many years, Cypriot fishermen were requesting from the relevant governmental authority to address a legal framework for fishing tourism so they will be able to practise fishing tourism. Fishermen were seeing this as an opportunity to preserve the fishing culture, to make aware the people of the profession of the fisherman but at the same time to diversify their economic activity and improve the fishermen's incomes.

The best practise and the experience from the ILEEE of Pescara give us the opportunity create the relevant legal framework for fishing tourism in Cyprus.



Nature of the action

For many years, the issue of Fishing Tourism was under discussion between the Association of Fishermen, the Department of Fisheries and Marine Research and the FLAGS. There was not any legislation or any official definition of fishing tourism. There were only some fishermen who organized sea trips which do not comply with the goal and objective of the fishing tourism as we know it. Some steps have been put forward during the last year mainly coming from the need of the fishermen to finalize the legislation and the concept of the fishing tourism which they see as a way of gaining some extra income but also as a way to preserve the fishing culture.

From the discussion with the CHERISH project partners as well as the ILEEE in Pescara (practise Pescaturismo - which gave us the opportunity to discuss with the relevant stakeholders (FLAGS, Region, fishermen)) we learned more about the legislation and how Abruzzo included the fishing tourism in their OP. This made us get a clearer picture of how we could implement this in Cyprus. Using this experience, we started discussing and having a lot of meetings with the fishermen and the Department of Fisheries. Finally, a legal framework for the fishing tourism was finalised in October 2019. According to the law the fishing boats needed to fulfil specific criteria and to go through an inspection to receive the relevant certificate that are fishing boats that can practise fishing tourism. Also, the fishermen needed to have a specific training and certificate of coastal skipper for being able to practise fishing tourism.

Based on the above needs that were a result of the new fishing tourism legislation all the relevant documentation for the inclusion of a new call of project in the Local Development Strategy was prepared in order to cover the that will cover the additional cost that was needed for the fishermen to make the relevant adjustments to their traditional boats and upgrade them as to be able to practise fishing tourism. In order to pass the experience gained from the best practise to Cyprus we followed these steps:

- Detailed study of Pescaturismo, what the regional law is covering and what is the definition given for fishing tourism
- Detailed study of the concept of fishing tourism in Cyprus -the status so far and what has been done
- Several meetings with the Association of fishermen and the Department of Fisheries and the Department of Merchant Shipping to discuss how the Pescaturismo experience can be implemented in Cyprus
- Definition of fishing tourism and all the relevant conditions for someone to practise fishing tourism



- Preparation of relevant documentation for a change in the Local Fisheries Strategy (as part of the Local Development Strategy 2014-2020) with the addition of a new call and a new budget.
- Approval of the request by the Managing Authority (Department of Fisheries)
- Preparation of the new call of projects for fishing tourism.

The new call of projects was approved by the Managing Authority, and it was added to the Local Development Strategy of Paphos. The call of projects for improving the traditional boats to practise fishing tourism was launched on the 4th of March 2020 with the deadline to submit the proposals until the end of July 2020.

Also, we have requested the addition of an education program in the Local Development Strategy by the Managing Authority (new measure in the Strategy) which was approved and that has to do with the addition of a 3-week intensive training seminar (116 training hours) for the fishermen so they can be certified as coastal skipper and be able to practise fishing tourism. The addition of the programme was approved.

Stakeholders involved

The action was carried out with the following stakeholders:

- Department of Fisheries and Marine Research
- Directorate General for European Programmes, Coordination and Development
- FLAG Limassol
- FLAG Larnaca-Famagusta
- Paphos Regional Board of Tourism
- Paphos Chamber of Commerce and Industry
- Cyprus Association of Coastal Fisheries and Professional Fishermen
- Fishing Communities and Municipalities of Paphos.

Timeframe

The call ended in July 2020 and 32 applications were received of a total cost of €485.000 while the budget was €300.000. From the 32 proposals due to budget restriction, 24 proposals were approved. The approval process ended in December 2020 and the approved projects signed their contracts. The projects have 18 months duration, that is until May 2022. The implementation face has started. As a next step is the payment requests, the relevant controls and the finalization and closure of the projects which is expected to be done between June – December 2022. Some projects are already mature, and we are expecting the first payment requests to be done in the second semester of 2021.



The training seminar has been approved by the Managing Authority and the public procurement tenders have been sent for approval of mid-May 2021 to the Managing Authority for their approval. It is expected to launch the public procurement for the organization of the training by a training centre by mid-June 2021. The training seminar will be organized in October-November 2021.

Costs

Funding that has been given is for the call of fishing tourism is €302.850.

Budget for the training of 20 fishermen for the certification of coastal skipper is €60.000

Funding sources

The new call of projects was included in the Local Development Strategy and the total approved budget was €300.000. A slight increase has been done to the budget to cover all the cost of the last approved proposal. The total budget is €302.850.

ACTION 2: Web platform to promote the traditions of the fisheries areas of Paphos

Relevance to the project

The inspiration for this action came from the best practise Lugar do Real Platform – Aldeias de Mar project that was presented at the ILEEE in Vianna De Castelo (Portugal). It is an audio-visual platform that disseminates and enhances the social image of fishing activity and professionals of the sector in the “Aldeias do Mar” territory. The project involved the production of a set of audio-visual contents for online viewing, the main objective of which was to disseminate and enhance the social image of fishing activity and professionals of the sector in the “Aldeias do Mar” territory. Topics covered, Sea and Resources, Memory and Traditions, Gastronomy, and Museums, covered the diverse economic, cultural, ethnographic and social dynamics related to the workers of the fishing sector or other people who carry out an activity linked to this sector.

The fishing areas of Paphos have a long history that covers many aspects, that is myths, stories, gastronomy with traditional sea food dishes and recipes, traditional shipbuilding, blueprints of boats, old photos, festivals, etc. They are not presented anywhere and except from the fishermen and the few people that try to preserve these traditions no one knows them and even if they want to learn and about them there is nowhere, they can search for. During the TEK work and with the help of the stakeholders (archaeologist and Intangible Maritime Cultural Heritage Project) a lot of material has been collected, that includes old photos, recorded testimonies from fishermen and shipbuilders, wife's of fishermen that present us fishing dishes that we didn't even know about them, the art of making the fishing nets from a fisherman who is among the few on the island that they still know how



to make the nets with the old way and tools. All this material that has been and are still collected are a lot and we need to find a way to show them to the local people, to learn about their fishing culture but moreover to preserve it.

Internet In the modern world, has become a powerful tool and is accessible to people across the globe providing opportunities that never existed before. Based on that and seeing the best practise and the way they promote the fishing culture of the area but also how it reached the children at schools with the creation of educational material was the initiation of the idea to create a similar platform for the Paphos fisheries areas so we can present and preserve the rich fishing culture of the area, to have it documented so that will not be lost.

Nature of the action

In the Local Development Strategy there is not any funding for projects that use innovative ways to promote the fisheries area, only some funding has been given form promotional campaign for fresh fish products. Since some amounts of funds are available, we are going to use them to create the web platform to disseminate the TEK work since lot of data have been collected such as testimonies, photographs, archives research, videos, etc. The platform will also promote the fisheries areas, the gastronomy, the traditional shipbuilding, the net making, stories from fishermen, photo gallery and videos.

The new activity has been proposed to the Managing Authority and is has been approved for its additions to the Local Development Strategy The steps for the implementation of the activity are the following:

- Public procurement tenders for the design and creation of the web platform
- Digitalization of all the collected material from the TEK work
- Production of videos, photos for traditional fish recipes, net making, shipbuilding, testimonies, etc.
- Uploading the material to the platform and lunch the platform and social media channels (Facebook and Instagram)

Stakeholders involved

The actions will be carried out with the following stakeholders:

- FLAG Limassol
- FLAG Larnaca-Famagusta



- Paphos Regional Board of Tourism
- Cyprus Association of Coastal Fisheries and Professional Fishermen
- The Intangible Maritime Cultural Heritage Project
- Maritime Archaeological Research Laboratory
- Traditional Boat Laboratory – University of Cyprus.

Timeframe

October 2021- December 2022

Costs

Design and setting up the platform and uploading the relevant material €30.000

Production of Videos €15.000

Funding sources

Local Development Strategy.

ACTION 3: Call of public infrastructures that are focuses on promoting the cultural heritage of the Paphos fishing communities**Relevance to the project**

The inspiration for this action came from the best practise The Martinsicuro Eco-museum of the Sea and of Fishing that traces the history of fishing in Martinsicuro with photos and objects made available by older fishermen. It is located in the area of the marina where the boats of local fishermen dock, in five rooms, nets, traps, winches, baskets, buoys, compasses, old radars and nautical charts, photos and everything that can talk about how to fish are exhibited. During the ILEEE in Pescara we had the opportunity to visit this museum and see how it works and also with what care and interest the fishermen are looking after it and they are the ones that will guide you through the museum and hear their testimonies.

The visit to the Eco-museum inspired us to do something similar in Paphos. In the Municipality of Polis Chrysochous and in the area of the fishing village of Latsi, near the fishing marina, there is an old building an old warehouse which used to function as carob warehouse at the old days. They have an important history for the area also they are at vital place, next to the fishing harbour of Latsi, an area that has a big development during the last years, with fish restaurants, shops, etc and had



a touristic development. For many years these old warehouse remain unexploited, with not any use and in a bad condition.

The best practise inspired us to do something similar as the Eco-museum, to renovate the old building and make the first fishing museum of the island. The creation of the Fishing Museum will contribute to the overall upgrade and enrichment of the tourist product of the area and at the same time it will promote the fishing culture and the history of the area attracting local and foreign visitors.

Nature of the action

In the Local Development Strategy, a call for public infrastructure projects has been approved that covers projects that can improve the quality of life of the fishing areas. However, the eligible actions do not include the creation of museums that promote the fishing culture. It has only actions such as improvement of village squares, improvement of infrastructure of public building, creation of youth and elderly centres.

The action will be a change in the terms of reference of the call for public infrastructure by adding a new eligible action which is focused promoting and preserving cultural fishing heritage focused on museums, exhibitions centres, research centres.

The steps for the implementation of the activity are the following:

- Approval of new eligible action by the Managing Authority (the request has been sent)
- Preparation of the terms of references of the call for public infrastructure.
- Launch the call in September 2021 with deadline December 2021.
- Approval of the project and implementation by September 2023

Stakeholders involved

The actions will be carried out with the following stakeholders:

- Department of Fisheries and Marine Research
- Paphos Regional Board of Tourism
- Cyprus Association of Coastal Fisheries and Professional Fishermen
- The Intangible Maritime Cultural Heritage Project
- Traditional Boat Laboratory – University of Cyprus.
- Municipality of Polis Chrysochous
- Ayia Napa Thalassa Museum



Timeframe

October 2021- September 2023

Costs

Call of public projects €400.000

Funding sources

Local Development Strategy.

Date: 11 June 2021

Name of the organisation(s): Development Co. Pafos Aphrodite Ltd

Signatures of the relevant organisation(s):

  ΑΝΑΠΤΥΞΙΑΚΗ ΕΤΑΙΡΕΙΑ ΠΑΦΟΥ ΑΦΡΟΔΙΤΗ ΛΤΔ
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