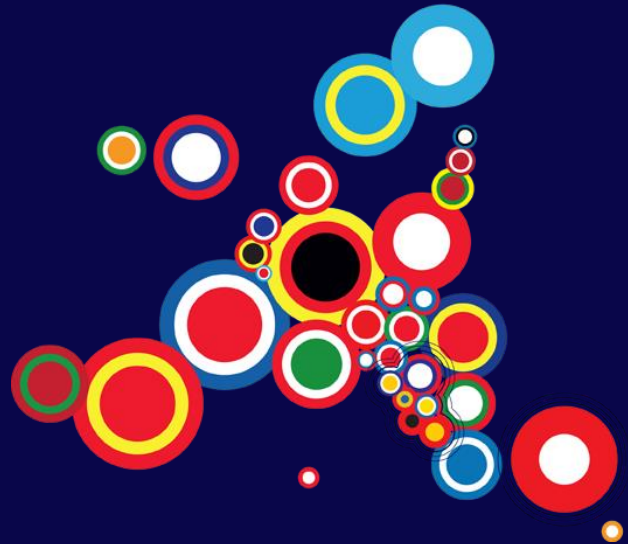




INSTRUMENT FOR PRE-ACCESSION ASSISTANCE (IPA II) 2014-2020

ALBANIA

Support to the Fishery Sector



Action summary

The Action aims to increase the contribution of the fishery sector to the economic development of Albania by improving management and protection of fishery resources in line with the EU Common Fisheries Policy.

By implementing the Action, it is expected that fishery administration acquires the capacity to design, implement, monitor and enforce the policy measures and regulations as drawn in the strategic documents. Establishment of administrative capacities in line with the overall public administration reform agenda will go along with encouraging of investments to improve the performance of fishing fleet.

Beside strengthening the administrative powers, the protection of marine resources is also ensured by increasing public awareness.

Action Identification	
Action Programme Title	IPA 2016 Action Programme for Albania
Action Title	Support to the Fishery Sector
Action ID	IPA 2016/038718.08/Albania/ Support to the Fishery Sector
Sector Information	
IPA II Sector	Agriculture and Rural Development (Fisheries)
DAC Sector	31310 – Fishing policy and administrative management
Budget	
Total cost	EUR 5,100,000.00
EU contribution	EUR 3,700,000.00
Budget line(s)	22.02.01.02
Management and Implementation	
Management mode	Direct management
<i>Direct management:</i> EU Delegation	EU Delegation to Albania
Implementation responsibilities	Ministry of Agriculture Rural Development and Water Administration
Location	
Zone benefiting from the action	Albania
Specific implementation area(s)	Marine waters and main lakes
Timeline	
Final date for concluding Financing Agreement(s) with IPA II beneficiary	At the latest by 31 December 2017
Final date for concluding delegation agreements under indirect management	At the latest by 31 December 2017
Final date for concluding procurement and grant contracts	3 years following the date of conclusion of the Financing Agreement, with the exception of cases listed under Article 189(2) of the Financial Regulation
Final date for operational implementation	6 years following the conclusion of the Financing Agreement
Final date for implementing the Financing Agreement (date by which this programme should be de-	12 years following the conclusion of the Financing Agreement

committed and closed)			
Policy objectives / Markers (DAC form)			
General policy objective	Not targeted	Significant objective	Main objective
Participation development/good governance	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	X
Aid to environment	<input type="checkbox"/>	X	<input type="checkbox"/>
Gender equality (including Women In Development)	X	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Trade Development	X	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Reproductive, Maternal, New born and child health	X	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
RIO Convention markers	Not targeted	Significant objective	Main objective
Biological diversity	<input type="checkbox"/>	X	<input type="checkbox"/>
Combat desertification	X	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Climate change mitigation	<input type="checkbox"/>	X	<input type="checkbox"/>
Climate change adaptation	X	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

1. RATIONALE

PROBLEM AND STAKEHOLDER ANALYSIS

Sector background

Although small compared with other sectors of economy, the fisheries in Albania represent an important socio-economic sector. The sector embeds high growing potentials to be exploited through formulation and adoption of appropriate policies sustained by efficient investments.

The fisheries chapter is one of 35 chapters of the Acquis: the most important part of this chapter is the body of law implementing the Common Fisheries Policy (CFP), which manages EU fisheries and aquaculture based on Articles 38-43 of the Treaty of the European Union. The main objective is to establish a responsible and sustainable fishery sector by eliminating inappropriate fishing practices, as well as creating opportunities for jobs and growth in coastal areas taking into account the application of principle of equal treatment between men and women.

In 2015, according to National Fleet Register data, maintained by MARDWA, there are 592 licensed fishing vessels from which 182 bottom trawl fishing vessels, 9 pelagic purse seiners fishing vessels, 375 Small Scale Fisheries and 26 combined fishing vessels (both bottom trawl and pelagic fishing).

Marine fishing provides more than 52% of the catch and 61% of the value with coastal lagoons and inland waters yielding respectively 21% of the catch but only 13% of the value. Aquaculture has been increasing in importance with 27% of the catch and 26% of the value.

The total full time employment in the fisheries and aquaculture is estimated at 4215 persons (Fisheries Sector Assessment Report, January 2015) with a significant number of women employed by the processing industry. On the other hand, there is no accurate data on indirect employment of women that besides household or farm work are mostly engaged in the ancillary services like fishing net repair and maintenance, inland aquaculture and fish processing.

The parameter that affects the economic performance of marine fisheries is the cost of fuel which makes up 58-72% of landed value trawlers, 49% for purse seiners and 56% for small gillnetter vessels. Since 2015, the Albanian government has removed a number of taxes on fuel used by fishing vessels.

Problems affecting the sector

The identified problems in the fishery sector reflect the general weaknesses in the Albanian administration as highlighted under the Public Administration Reform (PAR) section of the 2015 Albania enlargement report and in more detail in the 2015 OECD/SIGMA baseline measurement report¹, which benchmarks the Albanian central administration against the Principles of Public Administration. More specifically:

1. *Legal, institutional and administrative*

- a) Lack of capacities in policy and legislative development, implementation and monitoring (including public consultations, costing and budgeting strategies, regulatory impact assessment, data collection systems, reporting against policy objectives);
- b) Fragmented organisational structure and weak coordination between fishery administration and other relevant public agencies;
- c) Fishery administration is understaffed, not properly skilled, weak financial planning capacity and lack of financial resources to enforce the rules and regulations;
- d) Lack of market information.

2. *Technical*

¹ http://www.sigmaweb.org/publications/Baseline_Measurement_2015_Albania.pdf

- a) Lack of a functional fisheries management system due to limited on-time data on production and fishing effort,
- b) Limited research and monitoring capacity resulting into an insufficient knowledge on stocks. While catches in total may not have declined, there is empirical evidence that stocks of some species may have depleted. As a result, the limited reliability of information on fish stocks has affected the quality and implementation of any management plans
- c) Lack of capacity to undertake policy analysis of the sector to assist realistic decision-making regarding main issues surrounding the sector including management of resources, transposition and implementation of legislation, enforcement of the rules etc.;
- d) Discontinuous monitoring, limited control and surveillance capacity to deter Illegal, Unreported and Unregulated fishing (IUU) due to lack of staff, lack of operational budget and especially missing coordination with other public bodies such as IMOC, Coast Guard and Border Police involved in the enforcing;
- e) Absence of environmental awareness on the negative impact of various fishing practices. Issues such as catching of fish smaller than allowed size (juveniles), non-fishing periods (during spawning), harvesting of prohibited species, ecosystem damages cause of illegal fishing, use of non-selective gears etc., are not very much known among fishermen community and population in general;

3. Structural

- a) Aging fishing fleet suffering low rate of restructuring due to lack of investments to improve efficiency and revenues,
- b) Lack of professional training and education of the fishermen on technical, legal and environmental issues;
- c) Obsolete or missing fishing infrastructure regarding landing facilities, repair and maintenance facilities, wholesale markets due to low interest to public investments in the sector.

Stakeholder analysis

Stakeholders are affected either directly as in the case of fishermen and their organisations or indirectly such as processing industry, tourism, consumers, Civil Society organisations, fishing community and management agencies. Sector policies, legislation or other agendas are sporadically discussed among these stakeholders.

- The increased pressure over fishery resources can in a medium run lead to depletion of important stocks, reducing employment of fishermen and revenues generated directly from the fishing activity. Only a part of fishermen are organised in Fishery Management Organisations. Most of their interest has been in reducing operational costs especially of fuel that started to be subsidised in 2015.
- Income and living conditions of the fish depending community including women especially in coastal areas and main lakes may deteriorate.
- The processing industry may be affected at a lesser degree (in terms of costs and employment) as the demand will be likely met by imports and not by local catches. Most of the interest of the processing industry relates to the supply of cheaper raw fish (mostly sardines and anchovies) either from imports or domestic sources and especially increasing the export quotas to EU.
- Consumers may face higher prices for raw fish in the markets than in restaurants. It is the less organised layer of stakeholders. Most of the interest has been focused on food safety rather than in the preservation of the resources.
- Beside educational and scientific values, the destruction of marine and lakes biodiversity will impact tourism potential in concerned areas. The revenues of the sector may drop if the supply of fresh fish from local fishermen is decreased. In addition, pollution from industries may reduce biodiversity and attraction of tourists.

- The sector is managed by the Ministry of Agriculture, Rural Development and Water Administration that is involved in the administration of fishery resources through its dedicated departments. Any mismanagement of the resource will cause a decline in the revenues of other stakeholders.

Challenges in the sector

The main challenges to the sector relate to:

- Establishing of properly staffed and skilled administration with a capacity to design public policies and legislation in an inclusive and evidence-based manner and to implement, monitor and enforce the appropriate policies in the sector,
- Increasing the awareness of stakeholders and general public, including business and consumer associations and civil society regarding the protection of the fishery resources against illegal, unregulated and uncontrolled fishing and also of demographic and environmental hazards to the sector,
- Creating the appropriate financial mechanisms to support the private sector in taking an important stake in the improving of the fishing fleet and related infrastructure.

With the support of IPA, a new National Fisheries Strategy covering the period 2015-2020 has been prepared. The strategy foresees various measures for each of the concerned areas i.e. (i) institutional, legal and administrative, (ii) marine fisheries, (iii) coastal lagoons and inland fisheries, (iv) aquaculture and (v) marketing and processing.

In order to implement the sector reform, the fishery sector has to improve the weak institutional and organisational framework and ensure enforcement of regulations.

OUTLINE OF IPA II ASSISTANCE

The overall objective of the Action will be to increase the contribution of the fishery sector to the economic development of Albania by improving management and protection of fishery resources in line with the EU Common Fishery Policy².

EU support will include technical assistance to continue capacity building of relevant bodies involved in the management of fisheries and encourage investment in the sector to improve its economic and financial performance while establishing the conditions for a responsible and sustainable fishing.

The sector reform and administrative capacity building process has so far been supported through stand-alone actions in the first period of IPA II, while a full sector approach could be applied at a later stage, if conditions allow.

Planned results relate to enhancing the capacity of main stakeholders in line with the Principles of Public Administration to which Albania has committed to. They will therefore contribute to the ongoing public administration reform efforts. In line with the problem analysis, the IPA II support to the sector will consider two main priorities:

Priority 1 – Strengthen the institutional and implementing capacity of the fisheries administration in line with PAR and PFM strategy.

Priority 2 – Sustainable exploitation of resources and financial instruments

RELEVANCE WITH THE IPA II STRATEGY PAPER AND OTHER KEY REFERENCES

Until 2014, as mentioned in the IPA II Indicative Paper³ for Albania, there was no clear and structured policy to ensure that resources are well managed, illegal and unregulated fishing is controlled and the sustainable production and processing of fish is supported.

²including “Regulation no 508/2014 of the European Parliament and of the Council on the European Maritime and Fisheries Fund” OJ L., 149/1 20 May 2014

One of the expected results of the EU assistance shall regard the improvement of management and protection of fishery resources in line with the EU Common Fishery Policy. The indicators foreseen to monitor the improvement are:

- *Progress made towards meeting accession criteria (EC)*
- *Total investment generated through IPA II in the agro-food sector and rural development.*

The Annual Progress Report for 2015 states that "*Resource and fleet management continue to suffer from a lack of clearly defined tasks and responsibilities, institutional coordination and capacity. The vessel register is not updated continuously. Fish landing statistics remain inaccurate, particularly with regard to data on small fishing from coastal waters, lagoons and inland waters. The law on aquaculture has not been adopted yet. The Department for Fisheries Services and Aquaculture continues to lack the necessary resources and coordination with other bodies to ensure effective deterrence of illegal fishing practices, particularly in marine waters*".

The Europe 2020 flagship initiative for a resource-efficient Europe stresses the need for an urgent and significant transition towards using our natural resources efficiently. This would apply to consumers and producers in all relevant areas such as energy, transport, climate, environment, agriculture, fisheries and regional policy.

Similarly, the SEE strategy 2020 requires that the development pattern be consistent with environmental sustainability and ensure a sustainable way of efficient resource utilisation.

Improving resource utilization will in return ensure stable revenues and jobs for the fishermen community and related businesses and create premises for other industries or economic activities to flourish.

Nevertheless, the pivotal point toward sustainable use of fishery resources, before being a technical problem, is a capacity building issue to be accommodated in line with Principles of Public Administration (developed by SIGMA in co-operation with the EC) namely strategic framework for public administration reform, policy development and co-ordination, public service and human resource development, accountability, service delivery and public financial management (PFM) including public procurement. Ensuring adequate administrative capacity is essential for properly implementing the EU *acquis* and strategic frameworks. Albania will have to provide effective institutional structures for implementation of the adopted legislation and strategies, while ensuring inter-institutional co-operation for proper implementation.

LESSONS LEARNED AND LINK TO PREVIOUS FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE

Overall, previous assistance to the sector has been rather isolated on technical issues attempting to set up specific capacities regarding the setting up of Vessel Monitoring Systems.

1. Pilot Fishery Development Project (2002-2007) – project funded by World Bank (total costs 6.66 million USD) had as main objectives:
 - Improving the operation and management of fishing ports through rehabilitation and the introduction of community-based fishermen's associations,
 - Introducing an effective institutional framework for community-driven co-management of marine fisheries resources by involving FMOs and strengthening the public sector's capacity; and
 - Restoring the country's previous capacity in aquaculture, and explore the potential for further development of aquaculture, particularly for high value species.
2. Establishing and strengthening of the monitoring, surveillance and control system (MSC) in fisheries (2010-2012) – project funded under the IPA 2008 programme (total costs 2.0 million EUR). Main objectives relate to:

³ http://ec.europa.eu/enlargement/pdf/key_documents/2014/20140919-csp-albania.pdf

- Strengthening the capacity of fishery administration to manage the MSC system by improving the effectiveness in preventing the damage to marine resources and coastal ecosystems due to inappropriate or illegal fishing practices;
 - Ensuring the compliance of the legal framework with the EC Regulations;
 - Establishment of a Vessel Monitoring System.
3. Preparation of a fishery strategy for Albania (2014-2015) – project funded by the EU under IPA 2012 programme (total costs 0.25 million EUR).
- The strategy is prepared in line with EU fisheries policy legislation, specifically the Regulation 1380/2013 of the European Parliament and of Council.
- The preparation of the strategy was preceded by an in-depth assessment of the sector (legal, institutional, administrative and economic). The development and support of the sector includes 33 measures included in five major themes i.e. (i) legal, institutional and administrative, (ii) marine capture fisheries, (iii) coastal lagoons and inland fisheries, (iv) aquaculture, and (v) marketing and processing. The strategy is costed and includes indicators. Consultation made with interest groups and involved institutions such as fishermen, processors, traders, Coast Guard, Border Police etc.
4. Scientific Cooperation to Support Responsible Fisheries in the Adriatic Sea known as AdriaMed (1999 - on) is a Regional Project of FAO funded by the Italian Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Forestry Policies and since 2007 by the European Commission. Some of the main objectives of the project are to:
- Develop a common cognitive basis to support international processes aimed at fishery management;
 - Reinforce the scientific coordination among the different institutions interested in the fishing activity;
 - Establish a permanent network among the main institutions present in the Adriatic that are involved in fishery management activities.

The performance of the fishery sector suffered major institutional and administrative drawbacks:

- Several policy documents on the sector produced since 1999 remained in paper and never endorsed by governments. These documents were never endorsed because they lacked concrete means and actions for achieving their objectives and not elaborated an effective institutional framework and capacity building plan.
- Due to frequent movements from one ministry to another (in 2005 the sector passed from ministry of Agriculture to Ministry of Environment by returning back in 2013) and changing of staff, the administrative structure has been subject of arbitrary organisations without reflecting the needs of the sector.
- The lack of intra and inter-institutional cooperation among the bodies involved has affected the adopting of the control measures on illegal and unregulated fishing practices.
- Policy measures have simply aimed to relieve the sector from fiscal burden.

Overall, policies in the sector have focused primarily on technical aspects and so far paid almost no attention to livelihoods and to individuals working in the sector. This results in a lack of human and socio-economic data and analyses and prevents more comprehensive, systemic and people-oriented approaches pursued by EU policy recommendations. For example, the role and engagement of women in the sector is not yet been addressed, in turn limiting their potential for an effective contribution to the growth of the sector.

A general weakness with previous sector-specific assistance has been that it has not always taken sufficiently into account the horizontal public administration reform (PAR) agenda. Following the Commission's enhanced approach to PAR in the enlargement policy and the commitment of Albania to meet the Principles of Public Administration, the future sector-specific assistance will need to ensure that *acquis* alignment and policy development will be done in an inclusive and evidence-based manner. This is a key to ensuring

implementation and enforcement of new policies and legislation. Legislative development, where relevant, will also need to ensure compliance with the new Code of Administrative Procedures rather than propose special administrative procedures, as they risk undermining transparency, predictability and legal certainty in decision-making. Furthermore, where activities support establishment of new administrative structures such as agencies, special attention will need to be paid to establishing appropriate accountability and reporting lines between the new structures and responsible parent institutions. Finally, for the sake of sustainability, any training, capacity-building and human resources development activities in the sector will need to be coordinated with the institution that is centrally responsible for human resources management and professional development of civil servants.

The future financial assistance should be based on a more strategic and holistic approach regarding the development of the sector, including the incorporation of environmental, sustainability and gender equality concerns. Furthermore, improved data, research and analysis increasingly needs to nourish the development of policy responses. Effective implementation in pursuit of such an approach also requires the endorsement of the strategy by the government and the relevant external stakeholders and setting up of the appropriate administrative structure and procedures and financial resources that can guarantee an improving of the overall performance of the sector.

2. INTERVENTION LOGIC

LOGICAL FRAMEWORK MATRIX

OVERALL OBJECTIVE	OBJECTIVELY VERIFIABLE INDICATORS (*)	SOURCES OF VERIFICATION	
To increase the contribution of fishery sector to the economic development of Albania by improving management and protection of fishery resources in line with the EU Common Fishery Policy	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Share of fishery sector in GDP Number of overfished species 	INSTAT data General Fisheries Commission for the Mediterranean data	
SPECIFIC OBJECTIVE	OBJECTIVELY VERIFIABLE INDICATORS (*)	SOURCES OF VERIFICATION	ASSUMPTIONS
1– To develop the capacity of the fishery administration to design, implement, enforce and monitor the relevant policy measures and regulations 2– To improve the sustainability of the exploitation of the fishery resources and the performance of the marine fisheries	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Existence of fishery statistics on catch weight over estimated biomass of stock and on catch per unit of effort Economic performance expressed as net profit/total earnings 	MARDWA report MARDWA report (survey based)	Government is willing to carry out institutional and administrative changes in the fishery sector. Government creates the appropriate environment to encourage investments in the sector
RESULTS	OBJECTIVELY VERIFIABLE INDICATORS (*)	SOURCES OF VERIFICATION	ASSUMPTIONS
Result 1.1 – <i>The fisheries' strategic documents and legislation are aligned with the budgetary plan and government priorities, they are implemented and monitored through performance indicators;</i>	Number of legislations related to EU Common Fishery Policy aligned with the acquis with EU assistance	Official Gazette, EC Annual Report	Government allocates the necessary budget and means to sustain the structures dealing with enforcement of laws in the sector,
Result 1.2 - <i>A sufficiently staffed fishery administration disposes of the appropriate systems and capacity to implement and monitor the policy measures as drawn in the strategic documents.</i>	Existence of monitoring capacity based on reliable catch statistics and stock assessment	Technical assistance reports	Government is committed to reform the fishery sector
Result 1.3 – <i>The capacity of inspection services to combat illegal, unreported and unregulated fishing is improved in coordination with other involved agencies</i>	Number of actions taken by inspection service	Annual reports of the fishery inspection service (ref to warnings, fines, revocations of licence, confiscations of vessels/gear/fish catch etc)	A clear legal and administrative framework is in place to ensure full coordination among bodies dealing with inspections
Result 2: Result 2.1 – <i>The exploitation of the fishery resources is more sustainable</i>	Number of staff in the Ministry of Agriculture able to design adequate fishery management plans and determine the fishing effort.	MARDWA report Technical assistance report Technical assistance report	Laws and regulations are properly enforced, Public has access to information and duly informed

<p>Result 2.2- <i>The public awareness of fishery stakeholders including fishermen and their organisations, fishing community, local government, Civil Society Organisations and schools on the protection of natural resources is increased</i></p> <p>Result 2.3- <i>The economic performance of marine fishing fleet is improved</i></p>	<p>Number of awareness raising activities in the area of marine environment protection Percentage of vessels benefitting from grant scheme</p>		<p>Government is willing to support and facilitate the investments in the sector</p> <p>The Vessel Monitoring System set up under the IPA 2008 programme is fully functional.</p>
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DESCRIPTION OF ACTIVITIES

Indicative activities related to result 1.1 "The fisheries' strategic documents and legislation are aligned with the budgetary plan and government priorities, they are implemented and monitored through performance indicators":

- Activity 1.1.1 - Revise the existing legislation and make the necessary updating in line with recent developments of the EU CFP in an inclusive and evidence-based manner

The purpose of this activity is to develop the plan for the consolidation the existing fishery legislation following a legal gap analysis including the transposition of more recent EU legislation including common organisation of the markets, producer organisations, Common Fishery Policy, fishery statistics, conservation of fish stocks etc. The activity shall be associated with the improvement of capacities of fishery administration to keep the legislation regularly updated with the EU legislation following impact assessment.

- Activity 1.1.2 - Develop a properly assessed and budgeted medium-term action plan of the fishery sector which is widely consulted and aligned with the strategic priorities.

The fishery administration should prioritise the actions foreseen in the sector strategy to resources allocated in the Medium Term Budget Plan of the government. This activity will be coordinated with the Ministry of Finance, the ministry of European Integration and the PM Office which is leading the Inter-sector Policy management group (IPMG).

- Activity 1.1.3- Prepare the plan on the Allocated Zones for Aquaculture (AZA) based on the relevant guidelines and methodologies.

At present, there is no such plan and use of waters for aquaculture purposes is based on the old law of fishery and aquaculture of 1995. The new law on aquaculture is expected to be approved during 2016. The establishment of AZAs will consider the:

- *Resolution of the General Fisheries Commission for Mediterranean GFCM/36/2012/1 on guidelines on Allocated Zones for Aquaculture and*
- *COM (2013) 229: Communication from the Commission on "Strategic Guidelines for the sustainable development of EU aquaculture".*

In accordance with these guidelines, AZAs shall be established through participatory approach in line with Integrated Coastal Zone Management Plans and comprise specific areas dedicated to aquaculture activities whose identification shall be based on the best social, economic and environmental information available in order to prevent conflicts among different users.

Indicative activities related to result 1.2 "A sufficiently staffed fishery administration disposes of the appropriate systems and capacity to implement and monitor the policy measures as drawn in the strategic documents.":

- Activity 1.2.1 - Define in coordination with the Department of Public Administration the number, functions, responsibilities, reporting and communication tasks of the staff in the fishery administration,

Assigning of public functions in the fishery administration should be preceded by a detailed workload analysis to indicate the appropriate number of staff necessary to ensure the reaching of the objectives as foreseen in the sector strategy and prioritised in line with the MTBP.

- Activity 1.2.2 – Pursuant to DCM No. 465/2012 “Gender Mainstreaming in the Medium-Term Budget Programme” extend GRB already undertaken by MARDWA to the Fisheries sector. Set up the capacity to collect socio economic data including sex-disaggregated statistics where individuals are concerned and carry out economic analysis in fishery sector.

In reality, women are not directly employed in fishing activities but mostly in the processing industry. In the context of setting up the capacity for the collection of socio-economic data, the

gender subject will be considered especially to assess the status of fishermen women and their role and contribution in the welfare of the family.

Such capacity does not exist at the moment. There is an agriculture statistics office in the Ministry of Agriculture trained in socio-economic surveys in agriculture and rural development. The activity assumes that specific assistance in the case of fisheries shall be provided to this office rather than establishing a new capacity.

- Activity 1.2.3 – Draw up the needs on scientific data to be collected and carry out stock assessment exercises based on a clear plan and budget,

The Decision of Council Of Ministers of Albania No 301 of 10 April 2013 "On the establishment of the rules for the collection, management and use of data in the fisheries sector and support for scientific advice and national strategy of fisheries" was based on the Council Regulation No 199/2008/EC.

Article 1 of the DCM refers to establishing the framework for the collection and management of biological, technical, environmental and socio-economic data in the framework of a multiannual plan of fisheries. Nevertheless, the collection of information has suffered from a lack of planning and especially financial resources. The activity will help the beneficiary prepare realistic budget in line with priorities and MTBP.

- Activity 1.2.4 – Carry out training to relevant staff to provide reliable catch statistics used in the preparation of management plans,

Preparation of management plans has suffered a lack of reliable data on catch due to shortage of inspectors (and sometimes unqualified) unable to ensure a 24/7 coverage of landings from marine fleet or missing capacity to undertake regular surveys as in the case of small coastal and inland fisheries. The activity assumes training of these staff with data recording and reporting.

- Activity 1.2.5 – Update the statistics on the fishing fleet to assist the design of necessary policies for the control of fishing effort.

The fishing fleet register is based on the Regulation 26/2004/EC. The Decision of Council Of Ministers of Albania No 407 of 8 May 2013 "On the establishment of a control regime to ensure the respecting of the policy rules in the management of fisheries" indicates the information to be contained in the vessel book.

To ensure a sustainable harvest, it is necessary to manage the control of fishing effort by either adopting a closed number of vessels or establishing specific rules in the use of specific gear. Updating of national legislation with Council Regulation No 1380/2013 (data on gross tonnage and power of engines) or Commission Implementing Regulation (codes for fishing gear) might be required.

- Activity 1.2.6 – Assess the current databases and information systems, propose necessary modifications and provide training to staff,

During the previous assistance under by IPA 2008 programme (Jan 2009 – Dec 2012), several databases have been designed (i.e. Catch Information Database, Catch Validation Database and Fisheries Inspectors Information and Support System) and staff trained. Nevertheless, due to political changes in the government and transfer during 2013 of fishery sector from the Ministry of Environment to the Ministry of Agriculture, capacities have almost been lost. Therefore, the training of inspectors on the working tools to be done following the staffing of administration in line with PAR reform.

- Activity 1.2.7 – Prepare reliable management plans in line with stock assessment data.

Accurate catch statistics and especially assessment of stock are necessary prerequisites for the preparation of solid management plans. The staff shall be updated on methodologies for the preparation of the plans and increase the quality following the improvement of sector statistics.

Indicative activities related to result 1.3 " The capacity of inspection services to combat illegal, unreported and unregulated fishing is improved in coordination with other involved agencies":

- Activity 1.3.1 – Carry out a functional analysis on institutions involved directly or indirectly in the enforcing of legislation in the sector and propose the necessary legal and operational arrangements (including appropriate accountability and reporting lines between them) regarding coordination of action with reference to IUU,

The fishery law of 2012 indicates the institutions which the fishery inspection service has to cooperate such as State Police, Tax and Customs administration, Municipality Police, Coast Guard, Port Authority, Interinstitutional Maritime Operational Centre and National Food Authority. Nevertheless, there is a vacuum in the operational procedures including appropriate accountability of each institution and reporting lines between them to ensure the enforcement of regulations. Therefore, besides the assessment of the effectiveness of the current cooperation in deterring IUU fishing, the preparation of the operational procedures will be considered.

- Activity 1.3.2 – Provide training to fishery inspectors and administrators (fishery administration staff) with regard to inspection tasks, communication with other involved institutions and reporting,

During the previous assistance under the IPA 2008 programme (Jan 2009 – Dec 2012), fishery administration was provided with a Practical Field Guide on Monitoring, Surveillance and Control system in fisheries and also a Field Guide for inspectors on daily routine management tasks. Nevertheless, due to high turnover of staff in the sector, intensive training including new operational procedures will be required.

- Activity 1.3.3 – Assess the overall needs and provide the necessary equipment required for the inspection body to carry out its tasks.

The fishery inspection service lack the minimal equipment to carry out their tasks limiting their mobility, capacity to control especially the small fishing on the coast and lakes that is subject to illegal practices and report.

- Activity 1.3.4 – Foresee specific instruments to support capacities of the inspection body (twinning, exchange of knowledge, networking, etc.)

Result 2 relates to a more sustainable exploitation of the fishery resources including the improving of economic performance of fishing fleet and a wider involvement of the public with regard the protection of the marine resources.

Indicative activities related to result 2.1: " The exploitation of the fishery resources is more sustainable":

Activity 2.1.1 – Assess the environmental impact of the fishery sector

The exercise will refer to a general assessment of the sector impact over environment with regard to:

- *Biodiversity protection and stock replenishment in relation to actions aimed at limiting the fishing effort and in particular bottom trawling,*
- *Pollution from wastewater emptied from commercial fishing vessels and leakage of fuel of water and gas emissions as referred to also in the International Convention for the Prevention of Pollution from Ships (MARPOL),*

Activity 2.1.2 – Assess investment needs related to improving the sustainability of fishery sector including production, marketing and processing of fish,

A prefeasibility study including impact assessment will precede any prioritisation of investments in the sector. The assessment will measure:

- *Economic impact of investments on economic and financial performance of fishing fleet as measured by related indicators,*
- *Economic impact on activities linked with fisheries such as the processing industry and tourism,*

- *Socio-economic impact on employment and income of households living mostly on fishing.*

Activity 2.1.3 – Carry out an analysis of the existing marketing practices of fishery products and provide recommendations on the establishment of a marketing information system.

There is neither a wholesale fish market in the country nor market information on product prices from catch, import or aquaculture. The main marketing routes are:

- *Large fishing vessels → wholesalers or processing industry → retailers*
- *Small boats → middlemen or restaurants → retailers*

An economic and financial analysis will be carried out to assess not only the costs of building a fish market but also benefits to fishermen and consumers.

Activity 2.1.4 – Carry out an assessment on general education of the fishing community and specific knowledge on economic management and marketing.

Beside serving as a source of information on the knowledge of sector entrepreneurs regarding the management of their business, the assessment precedes the activities related to result 2.2.

Indicative activities related to result 2.2: "The public awareness of fishery stakeholders including fishermen and their organisations, fishing community, local government, Civil Society Organisations and schools on the protection of natural resources is increased:"

Activity 2.2.1 – Conduct training seminars with the fishing community, including fishermen and their spouses and partners regarding the fishery legislation in force and specific regulations from other fields affecting the development of the sector (environment, tourism, territory planning, fiscal and tax policy, etc.)

Based on specific surveys to be carried under activity 2.1.4, tailored trainings will address relevant regulations in the sector.

Activity 2.2.2 – Prepare and deliver events to the wider public regarding the need to protect the marine wealth not simply in terms of biodiversity but also as a source of economic welfare.

Events are expected to increase the understanding by wider public of issues surrounding the fishery sector and their responsiveness toward protection of marine environment. Written and e-media tools will be used.

Indicative activities related to result 2.3: "The economic performance of marine fishing fleet is improved":

Activity 2.3.1 – Assess the investment climate in the sector, draft the necessary financing instruments and prepare the application guidelines for the support to the sector,

With exception of some fiscal exemptions on fuel, fisheries in Albania do not benefit from the support of EU programmes such as IPARD for agriculture and rural development. The purpose of this activity is to establish a grant support instrument for the fisheries referring to provisions of the Regulation (EU) 508/2014 to help the sector make more significant investments aiming to improve the economic and environmental performance of the fleet (e.g. engines, navigation system, cold storage, gears etc.)

Activity 2.3.2 – Establish the institutional set up for the management of support and implement the scheme.

Identify the beneficiary structures to deal with the processing, approval, implementation, control and payment of the financial support related to successful applications.

Activity 2.3.3 – Draw out a fishing port development plan for a pilot area.

Improving the performance of the fishing fleet will not be enough without the upgrading of physical infrastructure such as the fishing port, vessels repair yard and fish market etc. The purpose of the activity is to select one of the fishing ports and prepare a pre-feasibility study including a draft layout and environmental impact assessment. Such a plan will help the government identify for the necessary financial support for the implementation of identified infrastructure.

The preparation of detailed design will start once the government has agreed on the development plan and committed to facilitate all the administrative procedures.

RISKS

- The strategy of the fishery sector need to be endorsed by the government.

The strategy was prepared with the assistance of the IPA 2012 programme. Following endorsement, the document needs to be turned into a relevant mid-term action plan and harmonised with the Mid-Term Budget Programme 2016-2018.

- Government allocates the appropriate budget to cover the operational costs of the sector and other forms of support.

The necessary budget to be planned under the Mid-Term Budget Programme 2016-2018 should consider the operational costs of the public administration but also any support as foreseen under various policy instruments e.g. fuel subsidies. The action shall provide assistance to administration when preparing the annual budget and MTBP.

- A reorganised fishery administration having sufficient and professional staff to cover the implementation and monitoring of the strategy is in place.

The presence of professional and motivated staff is crucial for the implementation of the strategy and especially for designing appropriate policy measures. The strategy document has provided advice on the organisation of the fishery services. Additional consultations can take place with EC services related to the organisational structure of fishery services. Assistance shall be provided for the training of staff under the condition that their recruitment is merit based following the PAR reform.

- Inter-institutional cooperation among bodies involved such as Fishery Inspection, Inter-institutional Maritime Operational Centre, Coast Guard, State Police is ensured.

The cooperation and coordination among these bodies is necessary to ensure better use of resources, higher mobility of the service and better enforcing of law. Assistance for the assessment of regulatory framework (see activity 1.3.1) related to coordination and division of tasks among involved agencies including financial needs will be given.

CONDITIONS FOR IMPLEMENTATION

There are two main conditions to be fulfilled while the IPA 2016 assistance is provided that will contribute to the efficient implementation of the action:

- The Government has endorsed the new fishery strategy prepared under the IPA 2012 programme.
- The Government is committed to allocate necessary financial resources and establish appropriate administrative structures in the sector respecting merit-based recruitment and career development and building a professional public service.

Failure to comply with the requirements set out above may lead to a recovery of funds under this programme and/or the re-allocation of future funding.

In general terms, the relevant activities under this action will need to contribute to the horizontal PAR agenda and support Albania meeting the relevant Principles of Public Administration. Specifically within expected results 1.2 and 1.3, this action will advocate inclusive and evidence based policy and legislative development in the fishery sector. Legislative development will also ensure, when applicable, compliance with the new Code of Administrative Procedures, and will avoid promoting special administrative procedures, which risk undermining transparency, predictability and legal certainty in decision-making. Special attention will be paid to establishing appropriate accountability and reporting lines between any proposed new administrative structures and the existing parent institutions (ministries) in order to avoid further fragmentation of administration in this sector. Finally, for the sake of sustainability, training, capacity building and human resources management activities under this action will need to be coordinated with the central institution responsible for coordination of human resources and professional development.

3. IMPLEMENTATION ARRANGEMENTS

ROLES AND RESPONSIBILITIES

The beneficiary of the Action will be the Ministry of Agriculture, Rural Development and Water Administration (fishery administrative structure) in coordination with local level sector departments, other agencies such as the Inter-institutional Operational Maritime Centre (IMOC) responsible for the satellite based monitoring of vessels, Coast Guard (moving of vessels) and State Police (coastal and lakes fishing), and stakeholders in the sector (e.g. fishermen organisations).

Other national bodies to be involved in working groups or Steering committee include the Ministry of Environment (marine biodiversity, water pollution), the Ministry of Finance (operational budget), the Ministry of Economy (trade and policies) and the Ministry on Innovation and Public Administration (to ensure harmonisation of legal solutions with the general administrative procedures and accountability lines, to strengthen the policy planning and monitoring system, etc.). In addition, civil action groups can be included (awareness).

IMPLEMENTATION METHOD(S) AND TYPE(S) OF FINANCING

Direct management by the EU Delegation

Procurement (Pilot fishing port development plan and detailed design; relevant result: improving the economic performance of the marine fishing fleet):

The global budgetary envelope reserved for procurement is EUR 300,000. This part of the action will be performed through one service contract for preparation of a pilot fishing port development plan and detailed design. Indicative time frame for launching the procurement procedure: as from Q2 2017.

The realisation of the pilot fishing port (detailed design, infrastructure and related services) could be included in a local development action to be identified under IPA 2017 and later.

Grant – Call for proposal (Support to the fishery administration, supply of equipment, and sub-granting scheme):

One call for proposal will be launched under direct management by the EU Delegation in order to select a competent Member State body (or consortium of Member State bodies) in the fields related to this action, to be directly responsible for the preparation and management of the action with their partners, if any, not acting as an intermediary.

The implementation modality (grant with a Member State body) has been selected as it may generate several advantages to the sector, especially for the awareness raising and for the specific support to the capacities of the inspection body. In fact, the MS body or consortium may engage and ensure services from relevant fishery departments of which the institutional and administrative experience can be better transferred to Albanian counterparts. As the grants may involve a substantial number of sub-contracts with beneficiaries, during the performance of its tasks, the MS body or consortium shall apply its own procedures and systems.

The essential eligibility criterion is to be a Member State body (or consortium of Member State bodies). The essential selection criteria is operational capacity of the applicant, as well as relevant experience in the sector and past experience in the country and the region. The award criteria are relevance, effectiveness, feasibility, sustainability and cost-effectiveness of the action.

The maximum possible rate of EU co-financing for the grant is 71 %⁴ of the eligible cost of the action.

Implementation of the indicative activities under this component includes a sub-granting scheme for

⁴ The total contribution under this grant will be EUR 4.8 million. The EU will contribute EUR 3.4 million, out of which EUR 1.4 million for the sub-granting scheme (see details below). The sub-grantees will contribute at least another EUR 1.4 million to this sub-granting scheme. The maximum rate of EU co-financing for the grant will therefore be EUR 3.4 million out of EUR 4.8 million, i.e. 71%.

restructuring the fishing fleet. For individual investment projects funded under this scheme the sub-grantees are expected to contribute at least 50%.

The indicative amount of the call is EUR 3,400,000, of which the indicative maximum EU allocation foreseen for the sub-granting scheme is EUR 1,400,000.

The indicative date for launch of the call for proposals is Q2 2017.

4. Performance measurement

METHODOLOGY FOR MONITORING (AND EVALUATION)

The fishery administration has limited capacity and resources for the follow up of the monitoring & control as well as surveillance activities. This is mainly due to a lack of funds, scarce human resources and poor management capacities. The sustainable management of fishing waters in Albania should be improved and towards this end, the monitoring and surveillance of the water areas through more efficient inspections must be further strengthened. There is a lack of technical capacities in fishery administration to undertake any economic analysis of the sector and produce the necessary basis for fisheries political, legislative and management decision-making. Gender data and analyses are missing, and there are limited capacities to address livelihood as well as gender equality issues in policy dialogue, planning, decision-making, implementation and monitoring. The sector has received little attention and support by the governments resulting into very limited operational budget to cover research, planning and inspection. There is limited research and monitoring capacity resulting into insufficient knowledge on stocks.

This action supports the capacities of the fishery administration to ensure a better identification of the monitoring, surveillance and research responsibilities in the sector, and to build up the required capacities to better develop the monitoring function (see in particular activities within expected results 1.2, 1.3 and 2.1).

The European Commission may carry out a mid-term, a final or an ex-post evaluation for this Action or its components via independent consultants, through a joint mission or via an implementing partner. In case a mid-term or final evaluation is not foreseen, the European Commission may, during implementation, decide to undertake such an evaluation for duly justified reasons either on its own decision or on the initiative of the partner. The evaluations will be carried out as prescribed by the DG NEAR guidelines for evaluations. In addition, the Action might be subject to external monitoring in line with the European Commission rules and procedures set in the Financing Agreement.

INDICATOR MEASUREMENT

Indicator	Baseline (value + year)	Target 2020	Final Target (year)	Source of information
Share of fishery sector in GDP Number of overfished species	0.31% (2014) 2	0.38% 0		INSTAT data, Fishery strategy (2014-2020) General Fisheries Commission for the Mediterranean data
Existence of fishery statistics on catch weight over estimated biomass of stock and on catch per unit of effort Economic performance expressed as net profit/total earnings	No 0.30 (2012)	Yes 0.324	Yes 0.35	MARDWA report MARDWA report (survey based)
Number of legislations related to EU Common Fishery Policy aligned with the acquis with EU assistance	0(2016)	2		Official Gazette, EC Annual Report
Existence of monitoring capacity based on reliable catch statistics and stock assessment	No	Yes	Yes	Technical assistance reports MARDWA report
Number of actions taken by inspection service	71 (2015)	140		Annual reports of the fishery inspection service (warnings, fines, revocations of licence, confiscations of vessels/gear/fish catch etc)
Number of staff in the Ministry of Agriculture able to carry out analysis and create statistics on economic and financial assessment of the sector	1	5	N/A	MARDWA report
Number of awareness raising activities in the area of marine environment protection	0	5		Technical assistance report
Percentage of vessels benefitting from grant scheme	0	50%		Technical assistance report

5. SECTOR APPROACH ASSESSMENT

A new National Fisheries Strategy was prepared covering the period 2015-2020 with support of the IPA 2012 programme.

The national fisheries and aquaculture strategy recommended that the high-level objectives for the sector should align with the EU objectives and priorities specified in Article 2 of the Common Fisheries Policy (CFP) Regulation, which will also be reflected in the EMFF legislation:

- Ensure that fishing and aquaculture activities are environmentally sustainable in the long-term and are managed in a way that is consistent with the objectives of achieving economic, social and employment benefits, and of contributing to the availability of food supplies.
- Apply the precautionary approach to fisheries management, and aim to ensure that exploitation of living marine biological resources restores and maintains populations of harvested species above levels, which can produce the maximum sustainable yield.
- Implement the ecosystem-based approach to fisheries management so as to ensure that negative impacts of fishing activities on the marine ecosystem are minimised, and shall endeavour to ensure that aquaculture and fisheries activities avoid the degradation of the marine environment.
- Contribute to the collection of scientific data.

The high-level objectives should comply with the provisions of the Law ‘On Fisheries’ namely:

- Ensuring a rational and responsible exploitation of marine and inland waters biological resources in the Republic of Albania,
- Determining the rules of management and co-management in the fishery sector by involving fishing communities in decision making,
- Establishing conservation measures that guarantee the tutelage of marine and inland waters biological resources,
- Ensuring sustainable development of the fishery sector, as well as improving social and economic conditions for producers,
- Encouraging and supporting of scientific and technological research and data collection on fishery,
- Ensuring proper operation and management of fishing ports and centres,
- Developing and providing a structural policy, with the aim to restructure the sector and achieve a sustainable balance between actual resources and their exploitation, strengthen the competitiveness and development of economically feasible fishing entities, the revitalization of areas which depend on fishing, as well as improve market supply and increase the value of production,
- Determining the appropriate measures and regulations for control, inspection and enforcement of fisheries policy in compliance with European policy in this regard,
- Establishing of a control system for fisheries and standardized and coordinated inspection procedures at sea, on land and throughout the market chain.

6. CROSS-CUTTING ISSUES

GENDER MAINSTREAMING

The conclusion of the study regarding the role of women in fisheries prepared by DG Fish in 2002 shows that the characteristics of women’s involvement in the fisheries sector seem to be similar the world over, in spite of wide cultural, social, political and economic differences having as key aspects:

- An greater involvement of women in processing and marketing rather than fishing per se,

- A greater primary production role in aquaculture or in the harvesting of littoral organisms than in fishing,
- An important support role, which is generally informal, unrecognised and under-rewarded,
- An increasing role in administration and public sector activities, especially research and resource management.

This action is expected to have some impact on increasing the employment of women in the processing (increasing of harvesting of pelagic fish for processing), marketing (fish markets) and administrative issues either in private sector or public.

Support to the sector will reflect the need to make visible and respond to the unrecognised contribution of women, including largely inappropriate working conditions in the aquaculture and processing sub-sectors of fishery. In accordance with Directive 86/613/EEC, measures will be supported towards reducing informal employment and particularly women's/spouses unpaid contribution to the sector, to ensure social security, social benefit, and maternity leave for women as workers in the sector of fishery.

Recognition of women's contribution to family fishing enterprises and the sector will be increased at the level of implementing legalisation granting women the opportunity to represent their family enterprise and community on representative bodies but also giving them access to social security and other social benefits, compliant with Regulation no 508/2014 of the European Parliament and of the Council on the European Maritime and Fisheries Fund" OJ L., 149/1 20 May 2014. Towards this end, general gender awareness of managers, national decision-makers, national and local authorities and institutions operating in the fisheries sector will be raised.

Data gaps, including the limited availability of sex-disaggregated and gender data, will be closed by strengthening capacities for the collection, analysis and interpretation of sex-disaggregated data, in line with the Technical and Economic Committee for Fisheries (STECF) and the Data Collection Framework (DCF), and the National Set of Harmonized Gender Indicators (HGI), adopted through Ministerial Order no. 1220, dated May 27, 2010. The implementation of this DCM should take into consideration, EUROSTAT regulations, ISARD commitments specifying all monitoring and evaluation indicators referring to individuals to be gender disaggregated; Albanian Gender Equality legislation Law No.9970, date 24.07.2008, on "Gender Equality in Society", Article 13, para d) and Article 14, para 3. Gender statistics are key for feeding into informed policy making and include data on employment in the three sub-sectors, taking into account the wives and partners who do not receive remuneration but who significantly contribute to family fisheries enterprises or shellfish farming operations.

Research feeding into evidence based policy making will be strengthened, including by identifying particular gender issues, and by showing the strengths and weaknesses, the risks and opportunities of the sector. New perspectives will be created for diversification and sustainable employment in the fisheries sector for both women and men.

EQUAL OPPORTUNITIES

Policies in the fisheries sector will be developed in accordance with the European strategy for equality between women and men 2020 on fisheries; the EU Parliament Directive 2010/41/UE on the application of the principle of equal treatment between men and women engaged in an activity in a self-employed capacity; and the European Maritime Fisheries Fund 2014-2020, which promotes gender equality within its regulation for the provision of financial support to projects for women (EMFF).

Special attention will be paid to professionalising women engaging in the sector through enabling access to relevant training including on skills to manage, diversify and expand family enterprise, and access to financial products and support programmes (European Parliament and the Council of the European Union, 2013, point 31).

During the implementation of the action, equal opportunities will be guaranteed. Human resources, strategic plans and policies must reflect contemporary working practices that take into account equal opportunities issues such as participation of people with disabilities etc.

MINORITIES AND VULNERABLE GROUPS

Reduction of fish stock, increase of fuel prices and urbanisation of coastal areas are all considered as factors increasing the economic and social vulnerability of fishing communities. Adoption of long-term fishery management plans with proactive involvement of the fishing community will constitute a sound basis for a responsible and sustainable fishing sector contributing to a stable income to families where fishing provides most of the revenues.

Interventions will take into account the policies in place to promote social inclusion of those groups at higher risk of marginalisation. The fishery sector has the potentials to contribute to the integration of vulnerable groups, particularly in terms of increased employment opportunities but also in engaging them in promotion of environmental actions (i.e. Roma collectors). Synergies will be sought in order to favour integration of vulnerable groups but in any case, interventions will be in no circumstances cause of further marginalization.

ENGAGEMENT WITH CIVIL SOCIETY (AND IF RELEVANT OTHER NON-STATE STAKEHOLDERS)

In doing so, involvement of the civil society will be continuously ensured, in line with the recent approach taken by Albania regarding participation of civil society in policy making and the definition of sector strategies. The recently established National Council for European Integration, where CSOs are duly represented, should be involved in further consultation as appropriate. Following the Law No 146/2014 of 30.10.2014 "On information and public consultation" and Law No 119/2015 "On the establishment and functioning of the National Council for Civil Society", the National Council for Civil Society, when established, will be another relevant forum for dialogue between governmental authorities and CSOs also in definition of investment priorities and implementation. In the area of fisheries, the strategy in place has been consulted with the interest groups involved.

ENVIRONMENT AND CLIMATE CHANGE (AND IF RELEVANT DISASTER RESILIENCE)

In the Mediterranean Sea, climate change is expecting to increase salinity and temperature which leads to stratification, hinders mixing with deep water and causes reduced replenishment of nutrients. This specific vulnerability should be taken into account in the actions by promoting sustainable aquaculture.

Although the fleet is relatively small, the adoption of specific measures may have a positive impact in the reduction of energy use in form of fossil fuels and therefore of greenhouse gas emissions.

The Mediterranean Sea is heavily overfished. The data show that 96% of the fish stock or more of bottom-living fish are overfished and for the middle-water stocks like sardine and anchovy the figure is 71% or more.

If the trend continues, many species will suffer a reduced ability to reproduce. Reduction of stock is often associated with the fishing of sexually immature fish that had not yet reproduced implying that the sea is emptied by younger fish generation. Reduced replenishment will eventually affect the number of fish available for human consumption.

The Action will aim to establish the administrative capacity while encouraging the civil society to contribute to the elimination of unreported, unregulated and illegal fishing activities harmful to the marine environment in terms of environmental biodiversity and economic potentials. Measures will aim to limit the exploiting of juveniles, reduce bottom trawling, adopt advanced management plans, and strengthening compliance, control, and enforcement that will contribute to protection of ecosystem diversity and fisheries sustainability.

At a certain extent, as part of the improving of sector physical assets, the Action will regard also issues of gas emissions related to the fishing fleet.

Climate action relevant budget allocation is EUR 2.5 million.

7. SUSTAINABILITY

The sustainability of the IPA II assistance should be achieved through:

- The government commits to inclusive and evidence based policy and legislative development, and allocates – on the basis of realistic impact assessments and cost calculations – in the

Medium Term Budgetary Plan and annual budgets the necessary administrative and operational resources needed for implementation and enforcement of sector policy.

- Institution and capacity building in this sector are aligned with the more overarching reforms of public administration and public financial management.
- Pro-active consultation government – fishing community to assess the impact of national policy measures on the sector and increase the awareness of both sides on the problems of the sector and its needs,
- Increased education and awareness of fishing community and local coastal populations on responsible fishing practices and role of specific policy measures to ensure sustainable fishing of resources.

8. COMMUNICATION AND VISIBILITY

Communication and visibility will be given high importance during the implementation of the Action. The implementation of the communication activities shall be funded from the amounts allocated to the Action.

All necessary measures will be taken to publicise the fact that the Action has received funding from the EU in line with the Communication and Visibility Manual for EU External Actions. Additional Visibility Guidelines developed by the European Commission (DG NEAR) will have to be followed.

Visibility and communication actions shall demonstrate how the intervention contributes to the agreed programme objectives and the accession process. Actions shall be aimed at strengthening general public awareness and support of interventions financed and the objectives pursued. The actions shall aim at highlighting to the relevant target audiences the added value and impact of the EU's interventions and will promote transparency and accountability on the use of funds.

In particular, expected result 2.2 covers indicative activities such as training seminars with the fishing community, including fishermen and their spouses and partners regarding the fishery legislation in force and specific regulations from other fields affecting the development of the sector (environment, tourism, territory planning, fiscal and tax policy, etc.). Also, the action includes the preparation and delivery of events aimed to the wider public regarding the need to protect the marine wealth not simply in terms of biodiversity but also as a source of economic welfare. These events are expected to increase the understanding by wider public of issues surrounding the fishery sector and their responsiveness toward protection of marine environment. Written and e-media tools will be used.