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PROJECT „ANGLING ALONG THE DANUBE: DANUBE FISHING ROUTES“

ROBG-348

BENEFICIARY: IDEIN DEVELOPMENT FOUNDATION

PARTNER: ASSOCIATION FOR SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT SLATINA

**DEVELOPMENT OF A JOINT STRATEGY FOR AWARENES RAISING OF SOCIAL AND ECONOMIC BENEFITS OF TOURISM, BASED ON RECREATIONAL FISHING IN THE CROSS-BORDER REGION ROMANIA-BULGARIA**

2019



Asociația pentru Dezvoltare  
Durabilă Slatina



ANGLING ALONG THE  
D A N U B E  
FISHING ROUTES

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## I. INTRODUCTION

This strategy is a part of the implementation of the project „Angling along the Danube: Danube fishing routes“, ROBG-348, supported under the Program Interreg V-A Romania-Bulgaria. It is created as a result of a contract, concluded on 26.06.2019, between the project Beneficiary “Idein Development Foundation” and the service provider “Europroject consulting” Ltd.

The Beneficiary “Idein Development Foundation” (Bulgaria) implements the project „Angling along the Danube: Danube fishing routes“ (AA Danube) with the partner organization Association for sustainable development Slatina (Romania).

Project duration is 18 months, the total project budget is 421 888,16 EUR.

The project aim is to improve the sustainable use of natural heritage and resources through development of a joint tourism products based on recreational fishing. What does it mean? First of all, it addresses a joint strategy designed to raise awareness of the social and economic benefits of recreational fishing tourism; as well as development and promotion of two new tourist products, based on natural recourses.

Besides, the project includes also an interactive GIS-based platform and an app “Danube fishing routes” about the most popular fishing spots in the cross-border region.

Both partner organizations have planned also an annual fest “Danube recreational fishing”, as well as an information campaign in Romania and Bulgaria among anglers, willing to have fun and to obtain knowledge about the tourist potential of the regions of recreational fishing.

It is expected that the project will attract more people to take part in activities, based on recreational tourism, and to enjoy free time in nature.

One of the projects aims is also to raise public awareness and commitment toward conservation and restoration of the water resources in Danube region.

Interreg V-A Romania-Bulgaria is a program financed by the European Regional Development Fund. It aims at development of the cross-border area in a modern and sustainable way through supporting joint projects - financed 85% by ERDF, 13% by the state budgets of Romania and Bulgaria and 2% by the beneficiaries and their partners.



## II. ANALYSIS OF EU REGULATION AND NATIONAL LEGISLATIONS ON RECREATIONAL FISHING

### II.1 EU Regulation

The European legislation in the fishery sector lays down the rules applicable to Common Fisheries Policy (CFP). The main focus is on the commercial fishing but there are also rules which could refer to the recreational fishing as an integral part of the ecosystem.

With the Regulation (EU) No 508/2014 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 15 May 2014 was established the European Maritime and Fisheries Fund (EMFF). The scope of the EMFF is to support for the CFP. Recreational fishing should be promoted through NGOs and local action groups. The EMFF provides support for investments contributing to the diversification of the fishermen's incomes through complementary activities, including fishing tourism, restaurants, environmental services related to fishing and fishing training.

*Figure1 Table - EU Regulation*

Document	Relevant content
<p><b>Regulation (EU) No 508/2014</b> of the European Parliament and of the Council of 15 May 2014 on the European Maritime and Fisheries Fund</p> <p>Publisher of the document: The European Parliament and the Council of the European Union</p>	<p>Title IV. Programming. Chapter I. Programming for measures financed under shared management</p> <p>Article 17</p> <p>Preparation of operational programmes</p> <p>1. Each Member State shall draw up a single operational programme to implement the Union priorities set out in the Europe 2020 strategy and to the implementation of Common Fisheries Policy (CFP), which are to be co-financed by the EMFF.</p> <p>Chapter III. Sustainable development of fisheries and aquaculture areas. Section 1. Scope and objectives</p>

<p>Source of information:</p> <p><a href="https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/HTML/?uri=CELEX:32014R0508&amp;from=BG">https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/HTML/?uri=CELEX:32014R0508&amp;from=BG</a></p>	<p>Article 58</p> <p>Scope</p> <p>The EMFF shall support the sustainable development of fisheries and aquaculture areas following a community-led local development approach<sup>1</sup> as set out in Article 32 of Regulation (EU) No 1303/2013 (may be supported by the ERDF, ESF or EMFF).</p> <p>Community-led local development strategies shall maximise the participation of fishery and aquaculture sectors in the sustainable development of coastal and inland fisheries and aquaculture areas. Strategies may range from those which focus on fisheries to broader strategies directed at the diversification of fisheries areas.</p> <p>According to art.61, for the purposes of the EMFF, the local action groups referred to in Article 32(2)(b) of Regulation (EU) No 1303/2013 shall be designated as Fisheries local action groups (FLAGs).</p> <p>Art.61. 3. The FLAGs shall:</p> <p>broadly reflect the main focus of their strategy and the socioeconomic composition of the area through a balanced representation of the main stakeholders, including private sector, public sector and civil society;</p> <p>ensure a significant representation of the fisheries and/or aquaculture sectors.</p> <p>Article 63. Implementation of community-led local development strategies</p>
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<sup>1</sup> community-led local development strategy means a coherent set of operations the purpose of which is to meet local objectives and needs, and which contributes to achieving the Union strategy for smart, sustainable and inclusive growth, and which is designed and implemented by a local action group

	<p>1. Support for the implementation of community-led local development strategies may be granted for the following objectives:</p> <p>(a) adding value, creating jobs, attracting young people and promoting innovation at all stages of the supply chain of fishery and aquaculture products;</p> <p>(b) supporting diversification inside or outside commercial fisheries, lifelong learning and job creation in fisheries and aquaculture areas;</p> <p>(c) enhancing and capitalizing on the environmental assets of the fisheries and aquaculture areas, including operations to mitigate climate change;</p> <p>(d) promoting social well-being and cultural heritage in fisheries and aquaculture areas, including fisheries, aquaculture and maritime cultural heritage;</p> <p>(e) strengthening the role of fisheries communities in local development and the governance of local fisheries resources and maritime activities.</p>
<p><b>Regulation (EU) No 1303/2013</b> of the European Parliament and of The Council of 17 December 2013 laying down common provisions on the European Regional Development Fund, the European Social Fund, the Cohesion Fund, the European Agricultural Fund for Rural Development and the European Maritime and Fisheries Fund and laying down general provisions on</p>	<p>Part two, Title III, Programming, Chapter II refers to Community-led local development.</p> <p>Article 32</p> <p>Community-led local development</p> <p>2. Community-led local development shall be:</p> <p>focused on specific subregional areas;</p> <p>led by local action groups composed of representatives of public and private local socio-economic interests, in which, at the decision-making level neither public authorities, as defined in accordance with national rules, nor any single interest group represents more than 49 % of the voting rights;</p> <p>carried out through integrated and multi-sectoral area-based local development strategies;</p>

<p>the European Regional Development Fund, the European Social Fund, the Cohesion Fund and the European Maritime and Fisheries Fund</p>	<p>designed taking into consideration local needs and potential, and shall include innovative features in the local context, networking and, where appropriate, cooperation.</p>
<p>Publisher of the document: The European Parliament and the Council of the European Union</p>	<p>According to art.34 the local action groups shall design and implement the community-led local development strategies. Member States shall define the respective roles of the local action group and the authorities responsible for the implementation of the relevant programmes, concerning all implementation tasks relating to the community-led local development strategy.</p>
<p>Source of information: <a href="https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN">https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN</a></p>	<p>Article 35</p> <p>1. Support from the ESI Funds concerned for community-led local development shall cover:</p> <p>(a) the costs of preparatory support consisting of capacity building, training and networking with a view to preparing and implementing a community-led local development strategy.</p> <p>Such costs may include one or more of the following elements:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>training actions for local stakeholders;</li> <li>studies of the area concerned;</li> <li>costs related to the design of the community-led local development strategy, including consultancy costs and costs for actions related to consultations of stakeholders for the purposes of preparing the strategy;</li> <li>administrative costs (operating and personnel costs) of an organisation that applies for preparatory support during the preparation phase;</li> <li>support for small pilot projects.</li> </ul> <p>Part four refers to the General provisions applicable to the Funds and the EMFF concerning management and control</p>



	systems, financial management, reporting and financial corrections.
<p><b>Regulation (EU) No 1380/2013</b> of the European Parliament and of the Council of 11 December 2013 on the Common Fisheries Policy</p> <p>Publisher: The European Parliament and the Council of the European Union</p> <p>Source of information: <a href="https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/HTML/?uri=CELEX:32013R1380&amp;from=bg">https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/HTML/?uri=CELEX:32013R1380&amp;from=bg</a></p>	<p>The CFP shall 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.</p> <p>In the introduction is underlined that the recreational fisheries can have a significant impact on fish resources and Member States should, therefore, ensure that they are conducted in a manner that is compatible with the objectives of the CFP.</p> <p>The CFP should ensure that fishing and aquaculture activities contribute to long-term environmental, economic, and social sustainability.</p>

The EU regulation lays down the framework which every Member State has to express in concrete form in the national laws. In regard to the recreational fishing in the Danube River, it would apply the community-led local development approach. The community-led local development strategies should be developed and implemented in the area where the population shall be not less than 10 000 and not more than 150 000 inhabitants.

## II.2 Bulgarian National Legislation

The Fisheries and Aquaculture Act regulates the relations, concerning the ownership, organization, management, usage and preservation of the fish resources in

the waters of the Republic of Bulgaria, the trade with fish and other water organisms. The management, observation and control of the fishery, aquacultures and trade with fish and other aquatic organisms is carried out by the Executive Agency of Fisheries and Aquaculture (EAFA) at the Minister of Agriculture and Foods.

According to the Fisheries and Aquaculture Act "recreational fishing" is placing of permitted devices and means in the water for catching of fish and other water organisms, carried out by individuals for entertainment or with sport-competition character, organized according to relevant rules. Amateur fishing (recreational fishing) is practiced by natural persons, who hold license for recreational fishing which is personal and it cannot be conceded to third persons.

The contents below refer especially to the recreational fishing in the Bulgarian part of Danube River and the lakes of the region.

*Figure 2 Table - Bulgarian Legislation*

Document	Relevant Content
<p><b>Fisheries and Aquaculture Act</b></p> <p>Publisher: National Assembly of the Republic of Bulgaria</p> <p>Source of information: <a href="http://iara.government.bg">http://iara.government.bg</a></p>	<p>Chapter two. Management of Fishery and Aquacultures</p> <p>Art. 11. (1) The persons, exercising recreational fishing, can unite on the basis of their common interests in territorial fishing unions, registered under the conditions and by the order of the Non-Profit Legal Entities Act.</p> <p>The territorial fishing unions can unite on voluntary principle in regional associations and national association, registered under the conditions and by the order of the Non-Profit Legal Entities Act National fishing association is the one uniting more than half of the fishing associations in the country. The National fishing association shall represent the fishers and carry out activities in connection with the training, increase of the fishing culture of its members, promotion of the fishing sport, cooperation for preservation of the ecosystems and enrichment of the fish reserves. The associations cannot participate in commercial companies.</p> <p>Chapter three. Section I. Terms and procedure for fishing</p>

According to Art. 15a. The Minister of Agriculture and Foods shall assign to the territorial fishing unions the management of the fish resources in the rivers, the old river-beds - state property, determined only for recreational fishing. The municipal councils can assign the management of the fish resources in water sites - municipal property, for recreational fishing to the territorial fishing unions for carrying out activity of public interest.

#### Chapter three. Section III. Recreational fishing

The way and the conditions for different groups of age to have license and to carry out recreational fishing are defined from Art.22 to Art.24.

It is necessary to fill in declaration for license in order to prove that the person is acquainted with the law for recreational fishing. License for recreational fishing shall be issued for a term of one week, one month, six months and one year. For the issuing and the re-certifying of the license for recreational fishing fee<sup>2</sup> shall be collected. The persons who disseminate licenses for amateur fishing shall transfer to EAFA 80 percent of the value of the license under conditions they are members of an association.

The caught fish and the other aquatic organisms cannot be subject to purchase and sale.

#### Chapter four. Section II. Measures and activities for preserving of the fish resources

The Minister of Agriculture and Foods shall, in co-ordination with the Minister of Environment and Waters, determine temporary bans<sup>3</sup> for commercial and recreational fishing in water sites or separate zones from them for preservation of the populations of fish and other water organisms. In cases of unusual environmental conditions and other circumstances threatening

<sup>2</sup> Appendix 1 Fee rate for the issuing and the re-certifying of the license for recreational fishing according to the Fisheries and Aquaculture Act, 09.08.2008

<sup>3</sup> The written orders for bans of fish in the Bulgarian part of Danube river could be found in the web site of EAFA

the fishing resources and their habitats, the Executive Director of EAFA shall impose a temporary ban for fishing for the water site concerned.

According to Art.32, in the Bulgarian part of Danube river shall be prohibited the catching of fish and other water organisms during the period of their reproduction (appendix No 1 of Fisheries and Aquaculture Act).

Art. 34. The amateur fishing shall be prohibited in the rivers when the quantity of water in them is below the minimum admissible flow, determined according guidelines of the Minister of Environment and Waters.

The prohibition shall be imposed with an order of the executive director of EAFA.

#### Chapter seven. Control

The control over the use and the preserving of the fish resources shall be exercised by EAFA. The control shall be exercised by fishing supervisors, incl. territorial and regional fishing unions. The executive director of EAFA shall every year determine a list of the fishing supervisors.

#### Chapter eight. Administrative Punitive Provisions

In this chapter are defined the punishments and the fines concerning also the recreational fishing:

Who implements recreational fishing without license for recreational fishing, shall be punished with fine from 100 to 400 levs.

Who carries out amateur fishing in violation of the requirements of art. 24, para 1 and 2 (concerning fishing devices), shall be punished with fine from 100 to 400 levs.

Art. 66. (1) Who catches and keeps fish in quantity, exceeding the determined, in violation of art. 24, para 3, shall be punished with fine from 50 to 200 levs, if he is not subject to graver penalty.



	<p>(2) Who sells or buys fish, shall be punished with fine from 300 to 600 levs, if he is not subject to graver penalty.</p> <p>(3) Who carries out recreational fishing during the night-time, shall be punished with fine from 400 to 650 levs.</p> <p>(4) Who carries out recreational fishing of quoted types of fish shall be punished with fine from 300 to 600 levs if he is not subject to graver penalty.</p> <p>(5) Who carries out amateur fishing in water site in which the management of the fish resources is assigned by the order of art. 15a without license and member card of the association shall be punished with fine from 100 to 300 levs if he is not subject to graver penalty.</p> <p>Art. 67. Who carries out recreational fishing out of the water sites and zones for recreational fishing, shall be punished with fine from 100 to 500 levs.</p>
<p><b>Biological Diversity Act</b></p> <p>last amended, SG No98/27.11. 2018</p> <p>Publisher:</p> <p>National Assembly of the Republic of Bulgaria</p> <p>Source of information:</p> <p><a href="https://www.moew.government.bg/static/media/ups/tiny/filebase/Nature/Legislation/Zakoni/B">https://www.moew.government.bg/static/media/ups/tiny/filebase/Nature/Legislation/Zakoni/B</a></p>	<p>Chapter one General dispositions</p> <p>Article 1 (1) This Act regulates the relations among the State, the municipalities, and the juristic and natural persons in respect of the conservation and sustainable use of biological diversity in the Republic of Bulgaria.</p> <p>(2) "Biological diversity" means the variety of all living organisms in all forms of their natural organization, the natural communities and habitats thereof, of the ecosystems and the processes occurring therein.</p> <p>(3) Biological diversity is an integral part of national wealth, and the conservation thereof is a priority and obligation of central-government and municipal authorities and citizens.</p> <p>Chapter two National ecological network</p> <p>Section I General Dispositions</p> <p>Article 3 (1) The State shall develop a National Ecological Network which shall comprehend:</p>

<p>iodiversityAct_Rev2 018.pdf</p>	<p>1. (supplemented, SG No. 94/2007) special areas of conservation part of the European Ecological Network NATURA 2000, which may incorporate protected areas;</p> <p>2. protected areas outside special areas of conservation;</p> <p>Section II Special Areas of Conservation</p> <p>Article 5 The special areas of conservation referred to in Item 1 of Article 3 (1) herein shall be intended for maintenance or restoration, at a favourable conservation status, of the natural habitats therein incorporated, as well as of the species within their natural range.</p> <p>The section describes the natural habitat types in danger of disappearance, as well as endangered species of animals and plants.</p> <p>Section III Designation and Modification of Special Areas of Conservation</p> <p>Article 18 (Supplemented, SG No. 94/2007) The Ministry of Environment and Water and the regional inspectorates of environment and water shall keep public registers in respect of the designated special areas of conservation and the modifications thereof</p>
<p><b>Ordinance No 8/28.01.2006</b></p> <p>conditions and procedures for issuance and distribution of recreational fishing tickets</p> <p>Publisher: Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Forestry</p>	<p>The Ordinance stipulates conditions and procedures for issuance and distribution of recreational fishing tickets. Tickets are issued by the Executive Agency of Fisheries and Aquaculture (EAFA) and distributed by its regional units, state forestry, state game breeding stations and fishermen's associations (article 11 of Fisheries and Aquaculture Act). EAFA launch and keep a register of issued tickets for recreational fishing.</p>

<p>Source of information:</p> <p><a href="http://iara.government.bg">http://iara.government.bg</a></p>	
<p><b>Ordinance No54/28.04.2006</b></p> <p>concerning registers under article 16 of Fisheries and Aquaculture Act</p> <p>Publisher: Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Forestry</p> <p>Source of information:</p> <p><a href="http://iara.government.bg">http://iara.government.bg</a></p>	<p>Section II Content of the register of recreational fishing permits issued</p> <p>Art. 4. (1) The following data shall be entered in the register of issued tickets for recreational fishing:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. a unique registration identification code;</li> <li>2. name, personal identification number, ID number (identity card, passport), permanent address and e-mail of the person to whom the recreational fishing permit was issued;</li> <li>3. number and date of issue of the recreational fishing permit;</li> <li>4. the authority that issued the recreational fishing permit.</li> </ol> <p>2) Where a free recreational fishing permit has been issued to a person under the age of 14, the following data shall also be entered in the register:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. the name, PIN, address and e-mail of the legal representative of the person;</li> <li>2. the number and date of issue of the document certifying the data under item 1.</li> </ol> <p>(3) (New, SG No. 82/2010, effective 19.10.2010) In the cases where a free amateur fishing permit for a disabled person has been issued, the number and date of issue shall be entered in the register of the document certifying this circumstance.</p> <p>(4) (amend. - SG 82/10, in force from 19.10.2010) In cases where a ticket for recreational fishing has been issued to a person, who is a member of an association under Art. 11 of Fisheries and Aquaculture Act, the number of a valid membership card of the association and the name of the association shall be entered in the register.</p>

<p><b>Decree No161/4.07.2016 of Council of Ministers</b></p> <p>on the coordination between the Bulgarian operational programs and FLAGs in applying the community-led local development approach for during 2014-2020</p> <p>last amended SG 54/29.06. 2018</p> <p>Publisher: Council of Ministers</p> <p>Source of information:</p> <p><a href="https://www.eufunds.bg/sites/default/files/uploads/eip/docs/2018-12/POSTANOVLENIE_161_na_MS_ot_407_2016_g.pdf">https://www.eufunds.bg/sites/default/files/uploads/eip/docs/2018-12/POSTANOVLENIE_161_na_MS_ot_407_2016_g.pdf</a></p>	<p>The Decree defines the terms and conditions for coordination between the managing authorities of the Rural Development Program, Operational Program "Human Resources Development", Operational Program "Environment", Operational Program "Innovation and Competitiveness", "The Intelligent Growth Science and Education" Operational Program and the Maritime and Fisheries Program and local action groups (LAGs) and local fisheries initiative groups (FLAGs) in relation to the implementation of the Community-led Local Development approach for the period 2014-2020.</p> <p>Art. 2. (1) Community-led local development approach aims at:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. to promote social inclusion and poverty reduction;</li> <li>2. to develop an integrated approach to the environment by preserving and protecting the environment and promoting resource efficiency, including risk prevention and management activities and benefit from the cultural heritage potential;</li> <li>3. focus on innovation by promoting its implementation;</li> <li>4. to promote sustainable and quality employment and support for labor mobility;</li> <li>5. enhance the competitiveness of local economies and the ability to create local businesses, including through diversification, alternative activities and sustainable aquaculture production;</li> <li>6. to improve education quality and the population skills.</li> </ol> <p>According to Article 4 the community-led local development approach applies to rural and fisheries areas, the fisheries areas being defined according to the selection criteria for potential fisheries regions through the CLLD approach set out in Annex 2.</p> <p>Art. 5. (1) For one territory, only one strategy under the CLLD approach shall be approved, supported by more than one fund,</p>
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	<p>making it mandatory for the inclusion of measures financed by the EAFRD.</p> <p>(2) One LAG or one FLAG shall be approved for one territory for which a strategy under CLLD approach is being prepared and implemented, supported by more than one fund and involving funding from both the EAFRD and the EMFF.</p> <p>(3) Establishment and approval of LAGs and FLAGs and approval of more than one CLLD strategy in one territory shall be allowed, where:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. there is no contribution of EMFF in the LAGs' strategy under CLLD approach;</li> <li>2. the FLAGs' strategy under CLLD approach is supported only by EMFF, and</li> <li>3. duplicate financing of the same activities is not allowed.</li> </ol> <p>Article 9 describes the maximum amount of the total public contribution to the financial plan of a CLLD strategy according to the population size where the LAG/FLAG is established.</p>
<p><b>Penal code</b></p> <p>last amended SG No16/ 22.02.2019</p> <p>Source of information: <a href="https://lex.bg/laws/ldoc/1589654529">https://lex.bg/laws/ldoc/1589654529</a></p>	<p>Art. 238. (Am. - SG, No. 28 from 1982, effective from 01.07.1982, amended - SG, No. 89 from 1986, amended - SG, No. 86 from 1991), amended, SG No. 55/2018) (1) Whoever hunts, catches fish and/or other aquatic organisms through the use of explosive, poisonous or stunning substances shall be punished by imprisonment of up to one year and a fine of ten thousand to fifteen thousand levs or by probation.</p> <p>(2) Whoever catches, catches fish and/or other aquatic organisms:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. with technical devices and equipment for catching of electric current without a valid permit;</li> <li>2. with fishnets in sites other than the Black Sea, the Danube River and the sites for which the person is registered under Art. 25 of the Fisheries and Aquaculture Act and there are two or</li> </ol>

	<p>more penal decrees for administrative violations under the Fisheries and Aquaculture Act;</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>3. in prohibited places or in low water;</li> <li>4. in non-industrial waters during the breeding season of the fish;</li> <li>5. of species prohibited for catching,</li> </ol> <p>shall be punished by imprisonment of up to six months and a fine of five thousand to ten thousand levs or by probation.</p> <p>(3) For a crime under para. 1 and 2 the punishment shall be imprisonment of one to three years and a fine of fifteen thousand to twenty thousand levs, when:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. has been committed by two or more persons who have agreed in advance for its implementation;</li> <li>2. was made in cooperation with an official of the Executive Agency for Fisheries and Aquaculture who has made use of his official position;</li> <li>3. has been repeated;</li> <li>4. the object of the crime is of a large size.</li> </ol> <p>(4) The fish and other aquatic organisms caught, as well as the instruments and means by which the crime was committed shall be forfeited to the benefit of the State.</p>
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### II.3 Bulgarian Strategic and Planning Documents

#### Maritime and Fisheries Programme 2014-2020

Source of information: <https://www.mzh.government.bg/en/policies-and-programs/funding-programs/maritime-and-fisheries-programme/>

The strategy of **Maritime and Fisheries Programme 2014-2020** supports the implementation of the main goals and priorities of the EU for the period 2014-2020 and

the principles of Common Fishery Policy aimed at viability, competitiveness and environmental sustainability in the fisheries and aquaculture sectors and promoting social cohesion and employment in fisheries-dependent communities. Thus it supports the objectives of the “Europe 2020” strategy for smart (developing of an economy based on knowledge and innovation), sustainable (promoting a greener and more competitive economy with more efficient use of resources) and inclusive growth (fostering a high level of employment, economic, social and territorial cohesion).

The recreational fishing is rarely mentioned in the document, in the context of tourist activities, aiming at increasing of fishermen’s incomes.

### **River Basin Management Plan (RBMP) in Danube district 2016-2021 - Decision No 1110/29.12.2016 of Council of Ministers**

Publisher: Basin directorate of Danube River Basin District pursuant to Article 155(1), (para 2) of the Water Act (WA) and Article 13 of the Water Framework Directive (WFD, Directive 2000/60/EC) which has been transposed into the Bulgarian Water Act.

Source of information:

[http://www.bd-dunav.org/uploads/content/files/upravlenie-na-vodite/PURB-2016-2021-final/Summary\\_RBMP\\_DR\\_29122016.pdf](http://www.bd-dunav.org/uploads/content/files/upravlenie-na-vodite/PURB-2016-2021-final/Summary_RBMP_DR_29122016.pdf)

The main objective of the RBMP is to optimize water management through an integrated approach at the basin level, sustainable use of water resources and achieving good status for all waters.

The RBMP 2016-2021 identifies 190 protection zones - protected areas (national parks, nature parks, reserves, maintained reserves, natural landmarks and protected areas) related to the conservation of water-dependent species and habitats. The measures planned in the water protection zones according to Art. 119a, para 1, item 5 of the Water Act (National Ecological Network Natura 2000 Protected Areas) shall be applied according to the current borders of NEN Natura 2000 Protected Areas, according to the published updated information on the website of the Protected Areas Information System of the National Ecological Network Natura 2000 , incl. ordinances to declare protected zones.

## Zoning Bulgaria for Tourism Purposes Concept

Publisher: Ministry of Tourism

Source of information:

<http://www.tourism.government.bg/bg/kategorii/strategicheski-dokumenti/koncepciya-za-turistichesko-rayonirane-na-bulgariya>

The Concept is compiled according to the Tourism Act in order to serve as a marketing tool for regional destination, as well as for basis of launching of destination management organization.

The document stipulates 9 tourist regions<sup>4</sup>, covering the whole country, with their principal cities:

1. Danube River Region - Ruse
2. Stara Planina Region - Veliko Tarnovo
3. Sofia Region - Sofia
4. Trakia Region - Plovdiv
5. Valley of Roses Region - Kazanlak
6. Rila-Pirin Region - Blagoevgrad
7. Rodopi Region - Smolyan
8. Varna Region (Northern Black Sea) - Varna
9. Burgas Region (Southern Black Sea) - Burgas

*Figure 3 Map - tourist regions in Bulgaria*

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<http://www.tourism.government.bg/sites/tourism.government.bg/files/uploads/raionirane/koncepciya.pdf>



For each tourist region the Concept formulates basic and expanded specialization. The basic specialization is a combination of two types of tourism which specifies the region's uniqueness. The expanded specialization includes both basic specializations plus up to four complementary types of tourism. The proposed specialization is not officially regulated, it is not obligatory, i.e. it does not limit the regions and constituent municipalities to develop tourism in one way or another. Its main purpose is to highlight those types of tourism that make the area as a whole most recognizable in the tourism market.

For the Danube River Region, the Concept proposed a combination of culture and cruise tourism as a basic specialization and the following complementary types of tourism: culture, cruise, adventure and eco-tourism, urban entertainment and shopping, wine and culinary, pilgrim's tourism.

Recreational tourism is not mentioned in the document; however, following the classification of the tourism types, it is clear that it could be included under the eco-tourism specialization, as well as eco-rural tourism.

### Local fishery regions' strategies

In the Bulgarian part of the Danube River Basin there is only one registered fishermen's association - FLAG "Glavitza-Tutrakan-Slivo pole", operating in the region with 49 settlements and about 34 000 inhabitants.

FLAG's strategy (November 2017) gives limited information concerning the recreational fishing. For the first 9 months of 2017 there are 986 tickets issued in the FLAG's region. In comparison - for the same period EAFA issued 195 287 ticket for the whole country.

The strategy stresses on the fact that the anglers are not responsible for maintaining the spot where there are practicing their hobby, neither to stocking up. Official data on anglers' catch is not available. They are allowed to catch fish almost without any limitation (except in the forbidden breeding season); they are not committed to the local environment - that is why it is most probably that recreational fishing has contributed to the reduction of fishery resources in the Danube in recent years.

According to the analysis on the main problems (such as reduction of fish stocks, pollution and waste in the river) the strategy drew some important conclusions: it is strongly encouraged to form fishermen's associations to represent fishermen, to disseminate environmental knowledge, to organize and promote fishing, and to provide services for cleaning the Danube.

Like most of all fisheries groups in Europe, the FLAG "Glavitza-Tutrakan-Slivo Pole" identifies tourism is an essential element of its strategic approach to local development. The strategic document states that the available resources should be used for the development of various alternative forms of tourism - fishing, ecological, sport, cultural tourism, as well as for the creation of combined tourist products.

The FLAG's project is on the reserve list (no funds available) of the call for proposals BG14MFOP001-4-002 „Strategies about communities-led local development” under the Maritime and Fisheries Program 2014 - 2020.

## II.4 Romanian National Legislation

Law 317/2009, approving governmental ordinance №23/2008, regulates the protection, conservation, management and exploitation of living aquatic resources,



aquaculture activities, processing and marketing of fishery and aquaculture products in the Republic of Romania. The same document assigns the National Agency for fishing and aquaculture (ANPA) to be the entity which defines and implements the policy towards protection and management of living aquatic resources in marine and continental waters. The Agency is a principal public institution financed entirely from the state budget, which is subordinated to the Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development.

The Agency's main goal is to compile a national strategy and respective regulations in the field of fisheries, aquaculture, the organization of the market for fishery products, and the control over their application and compliance.

*Figure 4 Table - Romanian legislation*

Document	Relevant Content
<p>Law no. 317/2009 for the approval of the Government Emergency Ordinance no. 23/2008 on fisheries and aquaculture</p> <p>Emitent: The Romanian parliament</p> <p>Published in the SG, in force since October 24, 2009</p>	<p>CHAPTER III</p> <p>Protection, conservation and exploitation of aquatic resources</p> <p>Section 5 Amateur / Sport Fishing in the Sea and Continental Waters</p> <p>Article 23. - (1) Recreational / sport fishing means the fishing carried out with the rod or the rod, for recreation / performance purposes, based on a nominal permit issued by the National Agency for Fisheries and Aquaculture and issued by the associations of sport fishermen.</p> <p>(2) Within 90 days from the date of entry into force of the law approving the present emergency ordinance, by order of the Minister of Agriculture, Forests and Rural Development shall establish the conditions for practicing recreational/sport fishing, the regulation of practice of recreational/sport fishing, as well as the models of sports fishing permits, at the proposal of the National Agency for Fisheries and Aquaculture, after consulting with the representatives of the associations of sport fishermen legally established, at national level.</p> <p>(3) Recreational/sport fishing may be practiced also in the fishing facilities and in the accumulation lakes for which</p>

aquaculture licenses have been issued, under the conditions and on the basis of the rules established by the license holder.

(4) The recreational/sport fishing permit is valid both for the areas granted by the association of which it is a member and for the areas granted by other associations, based on reciprocity.

(5) The recreational/sport fishing is practiced within each association according to its own regulation established in this respect.

Art. 24. - In order to ensure the protection and conservation of living aquatic resources and to avoid conflicts of interest between commercial fishing and sport fishing, the conditions for practicing recreational/sport fishing in natural fish habitats are established as follows:

a) in the running and standing waters of the mountain area, only with a single line with a maximum of two hooks or with a rod;

b) in the waters of the hilly area and the plains, throughout the Danube and on its arms, in the Danube Delta, with a maximum of 4 rows or 4 rods with two hooks each;

c) in the territorial waters of the Black Sea, with a maximum of two rows, two rods or a goat, with 10 hooks each;

d) fishing for salmonids in mountain waters is allowed only with artificial baits;

e) in the waters of the hilly area and on the Danube, on the Danube Delta, in the Danube Delta and in the marine waters, a sport fisherman may catch up to 5 kg of fish/day or only a single fish, if his weight exceeds 5 kg;

f) in the salmonid mountain waters, a maximum of 10 pieces/specimens/day can be retained by a fisherman, in total, of the species: indigenous trout, rainbow trout, fountain, lip and whitefish.

Art. 25. - (1) The associations of sport fishermen, legal persons not constituted legal profit, as well as their





representatives at national level, constituted on the principle of free association, will be taken into account by the Ministry of Agriculture, Forests and Rural Development and by the Ministry of Environment, as representatives of civil society, in order to establish joint action programs and projects for the conservation and protection of living aquatic resources.

(2) The associations of sport fishermen may establish as a rule the practice of recreational/sport fishing with the release of catches, within their area of competence.

## CHAPTER IX

### Responsibilities and sanctions

Art. 58. - The following facts constitute a contravention and are sanctioned with a fine from 300 lei to 600 lei:

a) recreational/sport fishing of any species of fish and other living aquatic life, carried out without permission in the natural fish habitats;

b) failure to present the permit, license or authorization when requested by the authorized persons to ascertain the contraventions/offenses;

c) violation of the conditions stipulated in the permit, authorization and/or license;

d) recreational/sport fishing of living aquatic resources under the legal size.

Art. 59. - The following acts constitute contraventions and are sanctioned with a fine from 600 lei to 1,000 lei and with the arrest or suspension for a period of 90 days of the permit or authorization, as the case may be:

f) recreational/sport fishing in natural fish habitats, by any means during the prohibition period and in the protection areas.

Art. 62 - The following acts constitute contraventions and are sanctioned with a fine from 1,800 lei to 4,000 lei and with



	<p>the detention and suspension for a period of 90 days of the permit, authorization or license, as the case may be:</p> <p>b) refusal to allow access to authorized personnel for the control and inspection of ships/boats, motor vehicles, aquaculture units, processing and/or marketing units, as well as in the perimeter of aquatic basins exploited by recreational/sport or commercial fishing.</p> <p>Art. 64. - The following facts constitute contraventions and are sanctioned with a fine from 6,000 lei to 10,000 lei and the prohibition of the right to fish for a period between 1 and 3 years</p> <p>a) not holding the license/authorization of commercial fishing, recreational/sport fishing or processing, as the case may be;</p> <p>b) fishing by any means of the breeders, during the prohibition period, and the destruction of the embryos of fish in the areas of natural reproduction;</p> <p>c) unauthorized fishing of sturgeons.</p>
<p><b>Order no. 342 of May 28, 2008</b></p> <p>Emitent: Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development</p> <p>Published in SG no. 410 of June 2, 2008</p>	<p>ART.1 The minimum dimensions, in centimetres, of the living aquatic resources in the public domain of the state are approved, which can be captured from the aquatic environment, provided in the annex which forms an integral part of this order.</p> <p>ANNEX - The minimum dimensions, in centimeters, of the living aquatic resources in the public domain of the state, which can be captured from the aquatic environment</p>

<p><b>Order no. 342 of May 28, 2008</b></p> <p>Emitent: Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development</p> <p>Published in SG no. 410 of June 2, 2008</p>	<p>ART.1 The minimum dimensions, in centimetres, of the living aquatic resources in the public domain of the state are approved, which can be captured from the aquatic environment, provided in the annex which forms an integral part of this order.</p> <p>ANNEX - The minimum dimensions, in centimeters, of the living aquatic resources in the public domain of the state, which can be captured from the aquatic environment</p>
<p><b>Order 54/76/2019</b></p> <p>Emitent: Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development, Nr. 54 of January 15, 2019</p> <p>Ministry of the environment, no. 76 of January 31, 2019</p> <p>Published in SG no. 85 of February 4, 2019</p>	<p>Art. 1 (4) Fishing for commercial and recreational / sporting purposes of any species of fish, crustaceans, molluscs and other living aquatic life in the Danube River in the area bordering the Republic of Bulgaria, for a period of 45 days, is prohibited in April 15-May 30 inclusive.</p>

## II.5 Romanian Strategic and Planning Documents

### National Master Plan for Tourism of Romania 2007 - 2026

Source of information:

[http://old.unibuc.ro/prof/dobre\\_r\\_r/docs/res/2014marMaster\\_Plan\\_Tourism.pdf](http://old.unibuc.ro/prof/dobre_r_r/docs/res/2014marMaster_Plan_Tourism.pdf)

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Like Bulgaria Romania is gifted with a huge natural and cultural potential for tourism - however, it is still not adopted and promoted in a sufficient degree. The tourism sector in Romania holds a significant smaller share in the national economy - according to data provided by World Travel and Tourism Council (WTTC, 2014) direct revenue from the sector is 1,6% of GDP, and total revenue - 5,1% of GDP. In comparison: in Bulgaria the respective shares are 3,7% and 13,3%<sup>5</sup>.

Currently Romania has not developed officially approved regions for the purposes of tourism marketing. In its publicity materials the Ministry of regional development and tourism promotes the historical regions of the country, which are relatively clear detached.

The National Master Plan for Tourism 2007 - 2026 defines 6 areas with potential for tourism development, which do not cover the whole country. These areas are identified as priorities for tourism development based on available tourism resources and attractions, accessibility analysis and the infrastructure. They are named clusters; their limits are not outlined and they are not compatible with the administrative regions.

Each of them is identified with their leading types of tourism:

- 1) Bucharest - cultural tourism, MICE<sup>6</sup> and attractions;
- 2) Transilvania - cultural, natural, health, ski and adventure tourism;
- 3) Black Sea Cost - recreational, cultural and health tourism, sea cruises;
- 4) Bukovina - cultural, eco, wellness, ski and adventure tourism;
- 5) Maramuresh - cultural, natural, ski and adventure tourism;

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<sup>5</sup> Data published in “Analysis of tourism regions in other countries”, issued by Ministry of Tourism, Bulgaria, 2015

<sup>6</sup> Meetings, incentives, conferences and exhibitions

## 6) Danube Delta - natural tourism, river cruises, attractions.

*Figure 5 Map - clusters for tourism development in Romania*

*From the National Master Plan for Tourism<sup>7</sup>*

The analysis part of the National Master Plan for Tourism summarizes in a table the activities and attractions, provided in national parks and reserves (wildlife sanctuary) - The Danube Delta is pointed out for its recreational fishing potential.

The document concludes that although Romania does not claim to be a significant sport fishing destination, the General Association of Hunters and Fishermen AGVPS has identified 645 sport fishing spots in the country. The main types of fish are carp and trout.

<sup>7</sup> [http://old.unibuc.ro/prof/dobre\\_r\\_r/docs/res/2014marMaster\\_Plan\\_Tourism.pdf](http://old.unibuc.ro/prof/dobre_r_r/docs/res/2014marMaster_Plan_Tourism.pdf)

Angling is especially popular in the Danube Delta. Each year the biosphere reserve is visited by at least 1000 foreign anglers. Visitors need permits to fish in Romania, which are free of charge and easy to be obtained through a web platform (details below).

### Local fishery strategies

Public activity in the implementation of the community-led local development approach in the Romanian part of the cross-border region Romania - Bulgaria is superior to public activity in the Bulgarian part. In Romanian regions along Danube six FLAGs are registered (for comparison - one group is registered in the Bulgarian part, which is not currently implementing a local strategy).

*Figure 6 List - FLAGs in the Romanian regions along Danube*

FLAG	Administrative districts and municipalities within the scope of the FLAG
Asociația Grup Local de Pescuit Dunărea Călărășeană	District Calarasi: Chirnogi, Oltenița, Ulmeni, Spanțov, Chiselet, Mânăstirea, Dorobanțu, Ulmu, Vlad Țepeș, Independența, Ciocănești, Grădiștea, Cuza - Vodă, Modelu, Roseți, Dichiseni, Unirea, Jegălia, Borcea, Călărăși (partially)
Asociația Grupul Local Pescăresc Dunărea de Sud-Vest	District Mehedinti: Vrata, Gîrla Mare, Pristol, Gruia, Gogoșu, Burila Mare, Devesel, Hinova
Asociația Grupul de Acțiune Locală pentru Pescuit Dunărea de Sud	District Teleorman: Bujoru, Crângu, Dracea, Fântânele, Izvoarele, Lisa, Năsturelu, Pietroșani, Seaca, Suhaia, Traian, Vișoara, Zimnicea
Asociația Grupul Local Prietenii Pescarilor Olteni	District Olt: Corabia, Băbiciu, Cilieni, Deveselu, Gîrcov, Giuvărăști, Gostavățu, Grojdibodu, Gura Padinii, Ianca, Izbiceni, Orlea, Rusănești, Scărișoara, Tia Mare;  District Teleorman: Islaz

Asociația Grup Local Pescăresc Dunărea Dolj	District Dolj: Băilești, Moțăței, Cetate, Maglavit, Calafat, Ciuperceii Noi, Poiana Mare, Piscu Vechi, Ghidici, Rast, Negoj, Catane, Bistreț, Cârna, Maceșu de Jos, Gighera
Asociația Giurgiu Tradiția Pescuitului Dunărean	District Giurgiu: Giurgiu, Baneasa, Călugăreni, Daia, Gostinu, Izvoarele, Malu, Mihai Bravu, Oinacu, Putineiu, Răsuceni, Schitu, Singureni, Slobozia, Stănești, Stoenеști

Each FLAG carries on its business mainly through a local strategy for development, financed by EU funds to support local stakeholders' projects in predefined priority areas according to the needs of the region. For example, FLAG "Dunărea Călărășeană", launched in September 2011, set the priority areas as follow: improving living conditions in the fisheries region by improving working conditions; better awareness of EU funding; promotion of partnership between members; improving fisheries and tourism related infrastructure; preserving the environment and biodiversity, making the area more attractive and maintaining fish diversity in the Danube and lakes; providing alternative employment for fishermen and their families. With a budget of 3.5 mln EUR, provided by the European Fishery Fund, the FLAG has supported 31 local projects.

### III. BEST PRACTICES IN EU

#### III.1 Ebro Delta, Spain

Designated a Natural Park in 1986, the Ebro Delta (350 km<sup>2</sup>) is an area of vast and virtually wild sandy beaches, lagoons, rice fields, gardens and orchards - a cultural landscape with a strong identity. Rice is grown over a large part of the area, while fishing and aquaculture are two other important local activities. The mass of nutrients brought to the delta by the waters of the Ebro River, and the coming together of the river and sea waters, facilitates the reproduction of freshwater fish such as eel, carp, barbell, catfish and perch, while saltwater fish such as sea bass, sea bream and various species of mullet and flatfish also help to sustain a very active coastal fishing industry. The low intensity tourism that predominates in the delta of the Ebro River draws increasingly on aspects of the fisheries sector.

The Tourist Office is at Sant Carles de La Rapita (pop. 15 000 and a leading fishing port in Catalonia). The town welcomes more than 400 000 visitors a year, especially from Spain, France, the UK and, in recent years, also from Russia. With the help of the municipality, The Tourist Office has succeeded over the past four or five years in bringing together all the tourism operators, and together they have managed to agree on a genuine tourism policy in which fisheries have a major role to play. There are three strands to the local policy: Alfacs Bay, with the 'Station nautique' label; gastronomy with the 'Sabores de Espaca' label; leisure boating and other water-based activities such as kite surfing. There are 4 fishing companies, around 20 restaurants, 20 hotels and 30 tour agencies, shops and travel agencies operating in the region.

For the Russians, who always come in groups, The Tourist Office has developed an 'Artisan fishing tour' - tourists take a day trip by boat all around the bay; several stopping off places are scheduled along the way, where they can sample fish and seafood. Another very successful activity is traditional 'paupa' fishing, which consists of fishing by hand for sea bass and sea bream trapped in a large net that the fishermen lay out a few hours beforehand in the shallow waters just off the coast.



*Figure 7 Picture - tourist fishing in a large net just off the coast*



*Picture from FARNET Magazine 09/2013*

### III.2 Pesca-tourism in Sardinia

Many FLAGs have been keen to capitalise on the potential of pesca-tourism to promote their local fisheries products and attract visitors to discover their area's fishing heritage. However, pesca-tourism often faces strong legal and administrative barriers, and in many countries, it is not permitted (see the table at the end of this chapter).

Pesca-tourism means the practice of taking paying clients on board of a working fishing boat to observe the work of professional fishermen and discover, and enjoy, the marine or freshwater environment.

Sardinia is among the leading regions in Europe when it comes to pesca-tourism and related activities. The fishermen's cooperative of Tortoli, for example, brings together 40 fishermen who fish in the Tortoli lagoon, as well as in the Mediterranean Sea with 15 boats. What started in Tortoli with 11 fishermen barbecuing fish for tourists, was formalised in 2003 with the establishment of a restaurant run by the cooperative, for which it received a grant of € 77 000 (43% of the total cost) from the FIGG. This restaurant, La Peschiera, now serves 20 000 visitors a year. Another 10 000 people are attracted each year by other activities, which have since been initiated: leisure fishing on the lagoon, guided tours and interactive didactic demonstrations of the cooperative's

fishing methods. Today in this region the fishing cooperative and its lagoon are among the key attractions.

*Figure 8 Picture - tourists on board of an operating boat*



*Pictures FARNET Magazine 09/2013*

Pesca-tourism as an element of economic activity, combining tourism and professional fishery, is treated in a different way by the EU member states' legislations. Some of them entirely reject the practice of taking paying clients on board of a working fishing boat, the others introduced strict safety measures; others do not impose restrictions. The table below summarizes several examples of a comprehensive survey of 21 EU Member States since 2013.

*Figure 9 Table - current state of pesca-tourism in some EU members*

Member state	Regulation regarding pesca-tourism
Belgium	It is not permitted to take tourists on board active fishing boats. If fishing boats are decommissioned, they can be converted and used for tourism.
Bulgaria	No specific legal texts dealing with pesca-tourism exist.
Estonia	Pesca-tourism is permitted, but for safety reasons, a limit on the number of people per vessel has to be respected. The regulation also depends on the type of licence held by the boat captain.

Spain	It is currently only possible to take tourists aboard professional fishing boats with special authorisation from Spain's shipping department. Catalonia became the first region in Spain to develop a legal text laying down the conditions under which fishing boats can take tourists on board.
France	French legislation was modified in March 2012 to allow fishing boats, excluding trawlers, to take tourists on board under some security conditions to respect when practising pesca-tourism.
Italy	Two Ministerial Decrees of the Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry are in place laying down the conditions for practicing pesca-tourism in Italy. In addition, a number of Italian regions have also developed more specific legislation to regulate pesca-tourism.
Romania	No specific legal texts dealing with pesca-tourism exist.
Poland	It is not permitted to take tourists on board active fishing boats. Fishermen can take tourists on board when they are not fishing and in such a case only recreational fishing is permitted on condition that the fishing boat is adapted to such activities. Recreational fishing is permitted at any time of the year but it requires prior notification to the fisheries inspection services and cannot be combined with commercial fishing.

*Data provided by the European Fisheries Fund, 2013<sup>8</sup>*

### III. 3 At Fishing Harbour in Devon, UK

Ensuring that fishing ports are clean, attractive and welcoming is an inexpensive way of promoting the area and generating visitor interest in the local fisheries sector. The Ilfracombe Fish Trail in Devon, UK, was set up around the local harbour with eight interpretation boards forming part of a walking trail, and offering information about Ilfracombe's maritime heritage, local recreational fishing and commercial fishing.

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<sup>8</sup> Source of information - Farnet Magazine No 9 , Autumn-Winter 2013, page 28

Additionally, two different leaflets, one aimed at adults and the other at children, were also developed. The leaflets can be downloaded from the website or picked up at the local aquarium or at the Ilfracombe tourist information centre.

*Figure 10 Picture - information boards at the fishing port*



Picture <https://www.visitilfracombe.co.uk/item/ilfracombe-fish-trail/>

## IV. JOINT STRATEGY

According to the understanding of the two partners in the project “„Angling along the Danube: Danube fishing routes“ (ROBG-348), this strategy is a basis for awareness raising concerning the social and economic benefits of recreational fishing in the cross-border Bulgarian-Romanian region.

Being a communication strategy, it addresses different stakeholders in different levels - state legislative and executive institutions, as well as regional authorities, local authorities, businesses and citizen’s associations.

These are the strategy’s core principles:

*transparency* - institutions activities are visible for all stakeholders;

*partnership* - activities, действия, undertaken in one of the countries, must be aimed at impact on the whole region and thus, they must involve the stakeholders from the other country to execution and control;

*equality* - strategy’s measures refer to the public and private bodies from both countries;

*open character* - the strategy will be changed and amended according to the development needs of the cross-border regions.

### IV.1 Goal

**Raising the awareness of stakeholders in the cross-border region Romania - Bulgaria concerning social and economic benefits of recreational fishing tourism.**

The main goal derives from the Priority Area 03 of the Danube Region Strategy “To promote culture and tourism, people to people contacts”, coordinated by Bulgaria (Ministry of Tourism) and Romania (Ministry of regional development, public administration and European funds). The document is compatible with the targets of the new plan for Danube Region Strategy’s implementation about sustainable tourism

through preservation of nature and culture heritage - thus, they are formulated here below<sup>9</sup>:

Target 1. Promote the Danube Region as an important European tourist destination and further developing and strengthening the Danube brand throughout the Danube Region;

Target 2. Support the implementation of a harmonised monitoring system, dedicated to sustainable tourism and nature/culture heritage, able to provide comparable statistical data in the Danube River region;

Target 3. Promote Danube River as transnational cultural and natural routes;

Target 4. Promote innovative forms of tourism and culture by small and medium-sized enterprises and public-private partnerships;

Target 5. Develop sustainable tourism forms, incl. green tourist products and solutions for sustainable mobility in Danube River region;

Target 6. Promote skilled workforce, education and skills development in tourism and culture to ensure sustainable jobs in the region;

Target 7. Create a 'Blue Book' on Danube cultural identity;

Target 8. Ensure sustainable conservation and up-to-date interpretation of cultural heritage and natural values.

The main goal derives also from the analysis of the legislative and strategic documents concerning tourism development, nature preservation and biodiversity in both countries.

And last but not least, the main goal derives from the contemporary understanding for tourism as an engine labour market development and economic growth. This idea was first formulated in 2012 during G20 summit in Mexico, when the states committed with measures facilitating tourist traveling - afterward, it is included in a number of international and national strategic documents.

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<sup>9</sup> The consultation process on the revision of the plan under Priority Area 3 for the next 10 years has not been completed at the time of drafting this strategy, therefore changes in the formulation of targets may occur.

The World Tourism Organization UNWTO<sup>10</sup> on its website announces that „tourism is able to play significant role in providing people with sustainable solutions for the planet, prosperity and peace. Tourism as an economic sector is on the third place by export income (2015), it generates 10% of the world’s GDP, 30% of world trade of services, one in every 10 jobs. Tourism has potential to contribute, directly or indirectly, to all 17 UN development goals”.

## IV.2 Specific objectives

This strategy sets three specific objectives for the medium-term period by 2024.

### Specific objective 1 Promotion of recreational fishing tourism in the cross-border area Romania-Bulgaria

The analysis in the previous sections of the joint strategy shows that legislation and strategic documents in both Bulgaria and Romania do not pay sufficient attention to recreational fisheries - on one hand, as an alternative form of tourism, as an approach to disease and stress prevention, or an element of environmental preservation and biodiversity; on the other hand, as a tool for economic recovery through alternative employment and making the hobby a source of livelihood. However, as it is displayed in the reports of both national fishermen’s organizations, many people from both countries share a common passion to fishery as a form of leisure time in nature.

Despite its preserved nature, despite its potential for combination with other tourist forms (cultural, rural) the cross-border region Romania-Bulgaria is faintly promoted as a fishing tourism destination. Thanks to many efforts recently (a part of them under the Interreg V-A Romania-Bulgaria Program) the cross-border region has become popular with its cultural heritage, incl. as a Danube limes of Rome Empire, as well as a segment of the certified trans-European cultural rout “Rome emperors and Danube wine”. Nevertheless, the recreational fishing tourism remains out of interest.

The natural resources for recreational fishing on the Danube River, lakes and dams in the cross-border area are not unknown to external visitors and local residents, but its promotion is far less than other tourist forms. The regions along the Danube River are not recognized as tourist destination even by locals - especially in comparison to the

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<sup>10</sup> <http://www2.unwto.org/>

rural tourism in Rodopy mountain (Bulgaria) or pilgrimage tourism in Iasi region (Romania).

It is also true for the mutual knowledge - of Bulgarian tourists for the Romanian regions and of Romanian tourists for the Bulgarian regions. Today every tourist from Bulgaria and Romania can easily obtain information about a monastery, museum or a fortress in the neighboring country, even in their native language - however, at the same time it is very hard to be informed about spots, infrastructure and regulation towards recreational fishing in the neighboring count.

And since mutual knowledge has not been achieved, it can be even less expected to position the region as a destination for recreational fishing tourism in the minds of potential visitors from other countries.

### **Specific objective 2 Building ecologically and socially responsible behavior in recreational fishing tourism**

This specific objective derives from the fact that both countries didn't build policies, effective enough to encourage responsible behavior of anglers or businesses providing services for recreational fishing tourism.

The specific objective 2 represents an important aspect of the tourism quality - considered not only as a products' quality, but also as an overall behavior of informed responsibility to nature and society by tourists and businesses.

The quality is placed on the first place in the EC Communication "Europe, the world's No 1 tourist destination – a new political framework for tourism in Europe"<sup>11</sup>. Tourism in EU faces many challenges: growing competitiveness of other destinations - by itself, it requires higher products' quality; demographic changes, leading to increased number of elderly tourists - which reflects on specific tourist products demand of high quality.

In all EU strategic documents, as well as in the above-mentioned national documents concerning tourism development in Romania and Bulgaria, the tourist products' quality is considered from the sustainable development prospective, which requires commitment to protection of air, water and soil, having in mind all the time the

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<sup>11</sup> COM(2010) 352 final



negative impact of human activities on climate changes and due to excessive consumption of water and energy.

### Specific objective 3 Cross-border partnership

One of the EC goals to impose Europe as a leading tourist destination foresees diversification of the tourist product and quality improvement of tourist services. It comprises improvement of relations among small and medium enterprises, among public authorities and private entities, as well as promotion of tourism potential, considering different groups' needs (for instance, disabled people or elder people).

In this context, the cross-border partnerships turn to be key element for an recognizable regional brand not limited by states' borders.

To some large extent those partnerships are determined by the inter-governmental cooperation - yet, they can be successfully initiated by local authorities, business associations or educational organizations.

### IV.3 Stakeholders

The institutions, organizations or associations, listed below, could be directly or indirectly concerned by the joint strategy implementation:

- ministries of tourism in both countries;
- national fisheries agencies - Executive Agency of Fisheries and Aquaculture Eafa (Bulgaria) and National Agency of Fisheries and Aquaculture ANPA (Romania);
- regional departments of the national fisheries agencies;
- regional authorities - public administration of oblast (Bulgaria) and judetul (Romania);
- local authorities - municipalities;
- national members organizations - Hunting and fishing associations in Bulgaria and Romania
- businesses in the cross-border region Romania-Bulgaria;

- business-support organizations and other NGOs, working for regional development;
- educational organizations in the cross-border area Romania-Bulgaria.

Each stakeholder could have its own attitude (positive, negative, neutral) toward the joint strategy topic; they have also different powers for positive/negative impact, different mechanism to reach change or to save status quo and different tools to influence and control the other stakeholders. It means that for each stakeholder different channels for information, communication and lobbying should be applied - they are described for each measure below.

## IV.4 Measures

### IV.4.1 Measures for Specific objective 1

For the achievement of Specific Objective 1 "Promotion of recreational fishing tourism in the cross-border area Romania-Bulgaria", the following measures are identified:

#### 1.1 Update of regulations and strategic documents

The measure includes discussions regarding changes in legislation and updating national and regional strategic development documents (on territorial or sectorial basis), connected directly to recreational tourism development as an alternative tourist form with economic, social and health benefits.

What could be discussed in Bulgaria and Romania is if it is reasonable to introduce legislation concerning pesca-tourism as an element of economic development, combining tourism and professional fishery activities. It has been already done in some EU members, whereas in Bulgaria and Romania there is no regulation texts.

Discussion can be open in Bulgaria whether to eliminate the fees for recreational fishing, as it has been done in Romania. Elimination of fees would be one step towards recognition of recreational fishing's role - on one hand, as a source of economic benefit, on the other hand, as a prevention and treatment of post-traumatic stress.

The measure also stipulates that fishing tourism as an opportunity for economic benefits from the unique features of the region to be recognized by national strategic

documents for tourism development or local authorities' plans. The changes like these could be introduced in the future Romanian strategic document about the tourist regions or in the actions plan of the Management authority of the Danube tourist region in Bulgaria.

This measure is feasible by national public authorities, municipalities, regional authorities with consultancy from NGOs, working for regional development as well as business-support organizations.

Communication channels: correspondence, meetings.

## 1.2 Digital resources for recreational fishing

The analysis of the various information sources demonstrates a shortage of data concerning fishing spots in the cross-border area (incl. Danube River, infusing rivers, lacs, dams), as well as other relevant information in favor of the recreational fisheries.

One of the main activities of the project „Angling along the Danube: Danube fishing routes“, ROBG-348, aiming to achieve its goals, is an interactive GIS platform and the app „Danube fishing routes“, which includes the most popular angling spots in the cross-border area Romania-Bulgaria. The results of an in-depth study throughout the area are used to carry out this activity. Mapping has been done on a cross-border basis, including information from both the Romanian and Bulgarian parts of the region.

Although the project activity provides currently missing information to large extent, it shouldn't remain the only approach to the information provision of the angling tourism in the cross-border region. That is why this measure comprises the variety of efforts of different institutions, incl. project partners, to create diverse digital resources for the recreational fishing, as well as to keep the information updated.

First of all, it means to ensure variety of data concerning fishing tourism - legislation, road infrastructure, accessibility, places of accommodation and catering, protected zones and their regulations, shops, information centers.

The measure stipulates also providing information that allows combining the recreational fishing tourism with other types of tourism in line with the regional specialization - what needed are data about festivals, cultural and sport events near the fishing spots. Wherever possible, the potential for combining recreational fishing with cultural, wine, culinary, rural types of tourism should be demonstrated.

Last but not least, the institutions committed to information provision should publish it at least on three languages (Bulgarian, Romanian, and English), or even more which is in line with the need for common tourism marketing in the cross-border region to third countries inside or outside the EU.

The fishermen themselves should be invited to take part in this measure; they could constantly provide the platforms (sites) with updated information and to evaluate the tourist infrastructure, roads, etc. Using this approach some 4 years ago a non-formal rating of the best angling spots around Ruse was executed: Brashlen, Lesopark Lipnik's dam, Riahovo village, Marten and Lom and Iantra Rivers.

The measure is feasible by research entities, state fisheries agencies, supported by local authorities, national fishermen associations or other association.

Communication channels: correspondence, meetings, social networks.

### **1.3 Awareness raising campaigns about tourist potential of the cross-border region**

The measure stipulates activities on the national and international levels. In fact, the measure is a constantly run public relations campaign issuing messages both to local residents and the residents of the neighboring country. Joint promotion of the recreational fishing along the Danube River and other spots of the cross-border area is an element of the current efforts to create a regional tourist brand. What is necessary is a coordination between Bulgarian institutions (for instance, the above-mentioned Management authority of the Danube tourist region) and the respective Romanian bodies.

The campaigns should apply variety of channels in order to reach different social groups: publications, television advertising, social networks, conferences and other forums.

The measure includes also specially-designed campaigns for youth with messages tailored for their age and lifestyle. Planned and executed in an unconventional way (for instance, Bulgarian-Romanian fishing and culinary tournament for students), they can turn themselves into tourist attractions. Some examples, although sporadic, could be found now in the regions Silistra - Calarasi and Tutrakan - Oltenita, and also during the Bulgarian-Romanian annual tournament "The Blue Danube" near Marten town.

Tourism along the Danube River, incl. fishing tourism, can be a part of a wider eco-educational campaign for young people. One example: the campaign „Let's Get

Green<sup>12</sup> in Romanian regions along the Danube River which involved over 43 200 students, 7 100 parents and 17 000 volunteers.

The measure is feasible through between public and private institutions and educational organizations.

Communication channels: social networks, public forums.

#### 1.4 Development of specific routes for recreational fishing tourism

Currently, there is no tourist agencies offering routes especially designed for recreational fishermen. The measure is proposed at filling this market niche.

The specific is in the integrated tourist routes, combining places to visit both in Bulgaria and Romania in the framework of the same trip. The route could be for complex tourism, which unite the recreational angling with visits in cultural and historical sites, festivals, hiking routs in nature spots, shopping in urban centers, etc. Variations for friends or family groups could be offered.

Since there are protected zones close to Danube, some measures for sustainable mobility could be foreseen - for example, “last mile” type of activities organize group mobility for people and equipment to the fishing site, thus, reducing use of cars and decreasing environment pollution.

The measure couldn't be executed without mapping results being on hand, since they provide information for fishing sites, places for accommodation and catering, itineraries, etc.

In order to implement the measure, local authorities and business support organizations need to pay special attention to travel agencies, for which advertising events (trips) should be organized periodically. Their roles is not only to serve as information channels to tourists, but also to provide local stakeholders with feedback about: tourism trends, changing tourists' preferences, modern requirements for tourism products, influential forms of promotion, good practices in other countries, etc.

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<sup>12</sup> „Study and analysis of Romania's experience in standards, programs and tools for involving schools in ecological education“, supported under ERASMUS program

The measure is feasible by tourist institutions, the owners of accommodation and catering places, tour agencies, supported by local authorities and business support organizations. Media need to be involved as well.

Communication channels: meetings, public events, traditional media, social networks.

### 1.5 Support to business activities related to recreational fishing

Business activities related to recreational fishing mean: places for accommodation (hotels, camping, guest houses), catering places, shops for angling stuff, other shops, fish farms, boats' owners. It is necessary to provide integrated fishing tourism services that go beyond the usual accommodation and catering services: specially adapted places along the river (dam, lake) with piers and picnic equipment, experienced guides fishermen with their own boats, practical training for beginners, fishing equipment for rent or for purchase, cleaning and cooking of caught fish, etc.

According to some researchers<sup>13</sup> the recreational fishing could be two sub-types: pesca-tourism and ichthyotourism. The first of them (above-mentioned in the analysis part this strategy) includes following activities: trips on the working boat, observation and participation in professional fishing, fish preparing on the board, familiarization with biodiversity. Special regulation is needed for pesca-tourism practicing; such regulation is not available neither in Bulgaria, nor in Romania.

The second sub-type is been practiced mainly ashore through the traditional infrastructure of docks, huts, shelters.

Regardless which one is the sub-type its promotion will influence positively on the typical and auxiliary tourist businesses: transport, commerce, publicity, insurance, household services, clothing and equipment, etc. Unlike the "mass tourism" the businesses in the alternative tourism are mostly local, i.e. the main benefits remain for local communities.

Generally speaking, this measure refers to business activities based on local natural resources and rational use of ecosystems.

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<sup>13</sup> "Promoting sustainable development through fisheries-related tourism experience ", S. Meneghello & E. Mingotto, 2016, International Centre of Studies on Tourism Economics, Ca' Foscari University of Venice, Italy

The measure reflects the understanding that the recreational fishing tourism has economic benefits for cross-border region's residents, since it requires provision of more services and opens more opportunities for complementary and main employment and ultimately leads to better life quality. The measure derives from the conclusion made in the course of the analysis that there are few accommodation and recreation sites in the cross-border area, specifically designed for recreational fishing, and they are not advertised enough.

According to a detailed research of world practices<sup>14</sup> “compare to other forms of tourism fishing and hunting bring financial benefits... (clients) prefer fewer facilities... Clients are generally satisfied from their experience which may incorporate special hardships, inconveniences, and even danger, as advertisements clearly demonstrate”.

The recreational angling could be combined with other tourist forms - rural, eco-tourism, etc. Therefore the measure includes also activities that could guarantee complex tourism - boat trips to islands, guides on eco trails and more. A good example in this regard is seen in a holiday complex in the village of Tsar Simeonovo (Vidin), which provides many recreational fishing services, walks to the Bliznatsite Islands protected area and provides information on pilgrimage tourism to Calafat, Romania.

Business activities supports is been executed by:

- information and consultancy about business planning, finance, accountancy, staff recruitment, etc.
- facilitating information exchange and cooperation with neighboring country companies
- marketing services - market research support, promotion and advertisement, incl. in the neighboring country
- other services - information about grants, consultancy provided by micro-credit bodies in Bulgaria and Romania concerning small business launching and running.

The measure is feasible by business support organizations with local authorities.

Communication channels: B2B meetings and forums, correspondence.

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<sup>14</sup> „Wildlife tourism impacts, management and planning”, Chapter 4. Hunting and fishing tourism, Johannes Bauer and Alexander Herr, Cooperative Research Centre for Sustainable Tourism, <http://www.crctourism.com.au>

#### IV.4.2 Measures for Specific objective 2

To achieve Specific objective “Building ecologically and socially responsible behavior in recreational fishing tourism” following measures have been identified:

##### 2.1 Environment responsibility campaigns

The conclusion some strategic documents of FLAGs both in Bulgaria and Romania have reached is that anglers’ lack of environmental responsibility turns to be one of the challenges to the fisheries regions’ sustainable development and it raises the issue of their rights and obligations. The permission document allows an angler to fish all year round (except for forbidden periods) and it didn’t require any responsibility to take care about the fishing spot - cleaning, stocking or something else.

The measure foresees periodical campaigns among recreational fishermen on their commitment towards the eco systems. The measure includes also special activities for businesses in the tourism sector - conferences, forums, discussions, consultations, etc.; so that they realize their active role for biodiversity and fisheries’ traditions preservation.

Under the same measure a guide for environment responsibility could be developed; it could be disseminated by hotels and tour agencies working for the recreational fishing tourism.

The measure includes also activities for children and youth aiming at their ecological awareness and their involvement to the healthy life style - lectures, competitions, audio-visual materials, etc.; incl. through “peer to peer” approaches.

The appropriate communication channels are media, social networks, e-mail, applied in a combination. First of all, the measure foresees to use the social networks’ huge potential through anglers’ groups launching - they will aim at ecological formation via information spread and recommendations how to protect eco systems from irresponsible human activities.

It is necessary to disseminate information about protected areas, endangered animal and plant species, environment’s changes due to human behavior, etc.

The measure envisages also awareness raising about provisions of the nature parks (reserves, protected areas) management plans and namely those close to the Danube River:



- in Bulgaria - nature park “Persina”, nature park “Rusenski Lom”, reserve “Srebarna”, protected areas “Kalimok Brashlen”, “Durankulak lake”, “Shabla lake”;
- in Romania - nature park “Comana”, biosphere reserve “Danube Delta” (although the latter is not in the framework of the cross-border area, it is mentioned here, because it attracts the anglers’ interest being a unique natural zone)

The most effective approach would be the joint cross-border campaign along the Danube River: information on where and what fish are caught in different seasons, information on protected areas, recommendations on environmentally responsible fishing, recommendations on prevention of river regions pollution, recommendations on fire risks prevention, etc.

Generally, the measure is designed to show that economic benefits from the recreational fishing tourism could be compatible with environmental protection and sustainable regional development.

The measure is feasible by nature protection organizations, supported by the executive fisheries agencies in Bulgaria and Romania.

Communication channels: traditional media, social networks, forums.

## 2.2 Foster civic engagement

This measure is about launching local non-governmental organizations of recreational fishermen. The association will serve their members’ interests by providing them with fishing tourism information - fishing sites, recommendations and tips, tourist information and more. At the same time the NGOs’ activities will aim at public benefit - participation in advisory boards to local authorities, dissemination of information on environmental responsibility, support for educational activities with children and young people (practical fishing lessons, scout camps, etc.), participation in initiatives for analysis and evaluation of tourism potential, etc.

Local association would facilitate the state institutions and nature protection organizations efforts to carry on environmental responsibility campaigns. They could contribute to information harvesting during the process of assessing impact of human behavior on nature - for instance, by gathering information on anglers’ catches. Currently, there is a shortage of real approaches how to measure anglers’ catches both

in Bulgaria and Romania despite existing regulations in both countries requiring anglers to notify the national agencies about their catches.

Working associations could ensure better civic participation in local development - for example, by lobbying before local authorities to introduce recreational fishing tourism topic in the local strategic plans.

Last but not least, working associations could facilitate the cross-border contacts between recreational fishermen, involving them in joint initiatives such as tournaments, festivals, eco activities and more.

Communication channels: correspondence, meetings.

#### IV.4.3 Measures for Specific objective 3

To achieve Specific objective 3 “Cross-border partnership” following measures have been identified:

##### 3.1 Public bodies’ partnership

This measure is in line with the conclusion made in the analysis part that the recreational fishermen on one side of the cross-border area are not familiar with the fishing regulations in the neighboring country.

This implies barriers to:

- businesses run by tour agencies and other entities in the cross-border area (hotels, restaurants), that would benefit from the fishing tourism development;
- integrated cross-border tourism (places to visit in both countries within the same trip);
- joint efforts for protection of eco systems around the Danube River being endangered by harmful impact of the irresponsible human behavior.

First of all, the measure requires cooperation between both state fisheries agencies aiming at information exchange. It is necessary legislative documents, related to recreational fishing, to be translated into the language of the neighboring country and into English.

In order to stimulate the cross-border tourism, the rules for obtaining a permit for recreational fishing from a foreign resident should be explicitly defined and made available online in English. What is more, the regional departments of the state fisheries agencies should provide information in the language of the neighboring country. In order to protect eco systems it is recommended information packages, containing tips for environmentally responsible behavior, to be compiled and translated into the language of the neighboring country - they could be distributed among anglers together with fishing permits.

The measure includes also local public bodies' activities since they are interested in development of the local tourism being a tool for sustainable economic progress, employment and against depopulation. Local public bodies are empowered to define alternative tourism measures (incl. for recreational fishing stimulation), to exchange information and to implement partner projects with similar authorities from the neighboring country.

The measure is feasible by state fisheries agencies in Bulgaria and Romania, as well as the public authorities on the regional and local levels.

Communication channels: correspondence, meetings.

### 3.2 Business and civic organizations' partnership

The measure stipulates joint initiatives of Bulgarian and Romanian business-supporting organizations, eco associations or other non-governmental entities (incl. those of recreational fishermen), that would exchange information regarding:

- legal requirements or other regulations (for example, seasonal fishing bans)
- cross-border tourism stimulation - where how to obtain fishing permits; places of accommodation and catering; road situation; festivals;
- recreational fishing's environmental responsibility - how to protect nature clean.

The measure foresees also joint projects for children and youth aiming at healthy life style, competitions and festivals, eco-responsibility campaigns, etc.

The measure provides joint promotion of the recreational fishing tourism in the cross-border area before other countries through joint publicity of the integrated tourist routes, joint participation in tourist events, etc. The partnership across Danube could facilitate the access to foreign tour agencies working especially for hunting and fishing tourism.

The measure is feasible by civic and business organizations, as well as educational institutions in the cross-border area Romania-Bulgaria.

Communication channels: traditional media, social networks, meetings, correspondence.



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## IV.4.4 Goal, objectives and measures - summary

Figure 11 Table - summary of goal, objectives and measures

GOAL. Raising awareness of stakeholders in the cross-border region Romania-Bulgaria concerning social and economic benefits of recreational fishing tourism		
<i>Specific objective 1 Promotion of recreational fishing tourism in the cross-border area Romania-Bulgaria</i>	<i>Specific objective 2 Building ecologically and socially responsible behavior in recreational fishing tourism</i>	<i>Specific objective 3 Cross-border partnership</i>
<b>Measures</b>		
1.1 Update of regulations and strategic documents 1.2 Digital resources for recreational fishing 1.3 Awareness raising campaigns about tourist potential of the cross-border region	2.1 Environment responsibility campaigns 2.2 Foster civic engagement	3.1 Public bodies' partnership 3.2 Business and civic organizations' partnership

1.4 Development of specific routes for recreational fishing tourism  1.5 Support to business activities related to recreational fishing		
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## V. ACTION PLAN. MONITORING AND EVALUATION

This strategy addresses different public and private entities, related to the recreational fishing tourism, operating in the cross-border region Romania - Bulgaria, which poses many challenges to the action plan and the monitoring and evaluation mechanisms.

The fact that the strategy concerns many different stakeholders in both countries makes the monitoring system complicated and it excludes the option to be executed in a centralized manner by one institution. Therefore, it is more applicable the monitoring and evaluation activities to be implemented on stages:

- stage 1 - project duration;
- stage 2 - measures implementation.

During the stage 1 both project partners, each in its country, is committed to carry out the monitoring and evaluation activities as follow:

- making contacts with state fisheries and aquaculture agencies and/or their regional divisions through meetings or correspondence;
- making contacts with regional and/or local authorities through meetings or correspondence;
- making the strategy announced through other channels - partners' websites or social networks profiles, during public events or press conferences.

Conclusions, made during the first stage, regarding stakeholders' reactions, their readiness for changes in line with the strategy, their comments, alterations and amendments (if any) will be included on the project final report.

In the second stage, each stakeholder, empowered and committed to one or more measures implementation, introduces its own system of indicators and monitoring and evaluation instruments. The table below summarizes the action plan and its tools, expected results and deadline with monitoring and evaluation indicators.

Figure 12 Table - action plan and monitoring indicators

Measure	Implementation tools	Expected results	Deadline	Monitoring indicators
<b>Specific objective 1 Promotion of recreational fishing tourism in the cross-border area Romania-Bulgaria</b>				
1.1 Update of regulations and strategic documents	Legislative initiative State bodies' regulations	Improved conditions for recreational fishing	2021	Number of discussions  Number of documents amended
1.2 Digital resources for recreational fishing	Information gathering Analysis Evaluation Platforms, websites, blogs, profiles	Improved access to information  Conditions for other measure insured	2021	Number of digital resources  Number of fishing sites included in resources  Number of hotels, restaurants, shops, culture and sport events, etc.



Measure	Implementation tools	Expected results	Deadline	Monitoring indicators
1.3 Awareness raising campaigns about tourist potential of the cross-border region	Information gathering Media coverage Social networks Conferences and other forums Activities for youth	Improved recognition of the cross-border area as a tourist destination	2024	Number of discussions or other forums Number of participants in campaigns Number of media articles Number of postings in social networks Number of groups' members Number of activities for youth Number of young participants
1.4 Development of specific routes for recreational fishing tourism	Information gathering Business quotes Advertisement	More tourists attracted to the cross-border region	2020	Number of new routes

Measure	Implementation tools	Expected results	Deadline	Monitoring indicators
	Promotion			Increased number or percentage of nights spent in the cross-border region
1.5 Support to business activities related to recreational fishing	Business consultations Exchange of information Networking Promotion Micro-credits	Improved business environment and skills  Improved life quality in the region	2024	Number of consultations  Number and value of micro-credits  Measurable parameters of advertising campaigns depending on the channels used
<b>Specific objective 2 Building ecologically and socially responsible behavior in recreational fishing tourism</b>				
2.1 Environment responsibility campaigns	Conferences and other forums  Media coverage	Better understanding for personal	2024	Number of campaigns  Number of conferences and forums

Measure	Implementation tools	Expected results	Deadline	Monitoring indicators
	Consultations Lectures Youth activities	environmental responsibility  Sustainable eco formation ensured		Number of media articles  Number and topics of lectures, number of participants  Number and topics of youth activities, number of participants
2.2 Foster civic engagement	Associations Networking	Ensured conditions for civic engagement	2024	Number of anglers' associations launched  Number and kind of civic activities implemented  Number of changes due to civic initiatives
<b>Specific objective 3 Cross-border partnership</b>				
3.1 Public bodies' partnership	Information gathering and exchange	Awareness raised about the recreational fishing	2020	Information type

Measure	Implementation tools	Expected results	Deadline	Monitoring indicators
	Experience sharing	in the neighboring country		Number of joint meetings Number of changes due to partner initiatives
3.2 Business and civic organizations' partnership	Information gathering and exchange	Awareness raised about the recreational fishing in the neighboring country	2024	Information type Number of joint meetings Number of joint initiatives



## VI. ANNEXES

### Annex 1. Bulgaria - fees for practicing recreational fishing

#### 1.1 Fees collected under the Fisheries and Aquaculture Act - Decree 133/2006, as amended by Decree 171/2014

Section II Fees for the issue and re-certification of recreational fishing permits

Art. 10. A fee shall be levied for the issue and re-certification of a personal recreational fishing permits as follows:

1.	weekly	4 lv
2.	monthly	8 lv
3.	6 months	15 lv
4.	annual	25 lv

Art. 11. (amend. - SG 50/08 - in force from 30.05.2008) A fee of 2 BGN shall be collected for issuing a duplicate ticket for recreational fishing.

#### 1.2 Fisheries and Aquaculture Act

Art. 22. (1) (Amended, SG No. 55/2018) Recreational fishing shall be carried out by natural persons who hold a valid ticket for recreational fishing.

...

(5) (amend. - SG 94/05, in force from 01.01.2006, previous para 3 - SG 55/2018) For the issue and re-certification of the ticket for recreational fishing a fee shall be collected according to Art. 17a, para. 4.

Art. 23. (2) (suppl. - SG 94/05, in force from 01.01.2006, amend. - SG 36/08) Children up to 14 years old and disabled people may engage in recreational fishing with a free fishing permit at recreational fishing sites, such as:

children up to 14 years old are issued a recreational fishing permit valid until the age is over;

disabled persons up to 65 old are issued a recreational fishing permit for the duration of the document certifying the disability;

persons who are permanently disabled are issued an unlimited recreational fishing permit.

(3) (amend. - SG 94/05, in force from 01.01.2006, supplement - SG, issue 59 from 2012, amended - SG, issue 55 of 2018) Persons over 60 years of age for women and 65 years for men, as well as persons from 14 to 18 years of age can practice recreational fishing for a fee of 50% of the fee under Art. 22, para. 5.

## **Annex 2. Bulgaria - a list of selection criteria for potential fisheries groups under community lead development**

(Annex No. 1 to Article 4, Paragraph 2 of Decree 161 / 4.07.2016)

The territorial location of the fisheries areas is along the Black Sea coast, the Danube River and the inland, which are characterized by a high concentration of activities related to the fisheries and aquaculture sectors, measurable by:

1. Degree of dependence of local residents on the fisheries and aquaculture sectors, measured by:

(a) the number of active fishing vessels, including small-scale coastal fishing, 40 vessels, or

(b) the number of employees in the aquaculture sector - 25 FTE (full-time employment equivalent units), or

c) number of fishing vessels along the Danube - 40 vessels.

2. The area covered by fisheries areas must cover at least 400 km<sup>2</sup> in order to provide adequate financial, administrative and technical capacity to support the bottom-up approach.

3. The population of fisheries areas must cover regions with 10,000 - 150,000 inhabitants, which offers sufficient critical mass in terms of human and economic resources.

### **Annex 3. Romania - recreational fishing permits**

#### **3.1 Order 252, published in Official Journal No 270 of 09.04.2019**

On recreational fishing permits in the Black Sea, the Danube River and other reservoirs issued by ANPA Agenția Națională pentru Pescuit și Acvacultură.

Article 3. (1) The fishing permit for recreation shall be issued annually using computer software, online.

(2) Fishermen are obliged to report annually to the ANPA on the situation of catches made through recreational fisheries.

(3) Reporting to the ANPA of catches made by recreational fisheries shall be made by drawing up a catch sheet, an integral part of the recreational fishing permit, completed and transmitted by 28 February of the current year for the previous year.

#### **Additional clarifications<sup>15</sup>**

In order to obtain valid fishing permits in the Black Sea, the Danube River and other natural fish habitats, the stakeholders have direct access to the website [www.anpa.ro](http://www.anpa.ro). In the specially designated section of the website of the National Aquaculture Fisheries Agency, after selecting the desired permit type and entering the required data (name, personal number, ID card address), the applicant receives an automatically generated recreational fishing permit in printable format and a

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<sup>15</sup> <https://www.info-delta.ro/anpa-online-eliberare-permise-pescuit/>

mobile phone displayable. The permit has a unique number and a QR code for validation.

To facilitate recreational fishermen, ANPA has also published a practical guide explaining with text and graphic the application steps for a free fishing permit.

### 3.2 Recreational fishing in the Danube Delta Biosphere Reserve

In the Danube Delta Biosphere Reserve, recreational/sport fishing in natural fish habitats is been practiced only on the basis of a fishing permit issued by the ARBDD Biosphere Reserve Administration. The recreational/sport fishing permit is issued without taxes and fees. Publishing can be done through machines, at information centers in Chilia Veche, Sulina, Crisan or through the online application of ARBDD.

The recreational/sport fishing zones in the Danube Delta Biosphere Reserve are 31 in number, according to Ordinance No. 511, published in SD 511 of 19 July 2011.

Sturgeon fishing is prohibited, and accidentally caught specimens of this species are necessarily discarded in the water.

Recreational fishermen must comply with the following provisions:

- hold a fishing permit issued by the administration of the reserve ARBDD and hold a permit as a tourist;
- maintain the fishing area clean;
- comply with legislation on the development of recreational/sport fisheries and environmental legislation, as well as the provisions on protected natural areas;
- submit the documents requested by the authorized inspection bodies;
- comply with prohibition periods;
- a maximum of 4 rods with two hooks each are allowed along the Danube and Delta;
- one fisherman may catch up to 5 kg of fish per day or only one fish in the course of the Danube and Delta, if its weight exceeds 5 kg;



- the minimum sizes for the fisheries that can be caught are set out in Ordinance 342 of 28 May 2008, published in SG No 4810 of 2 June 2008.

Project “Angling Along the Danube: Danube fishing routes“, № ROBG-348

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