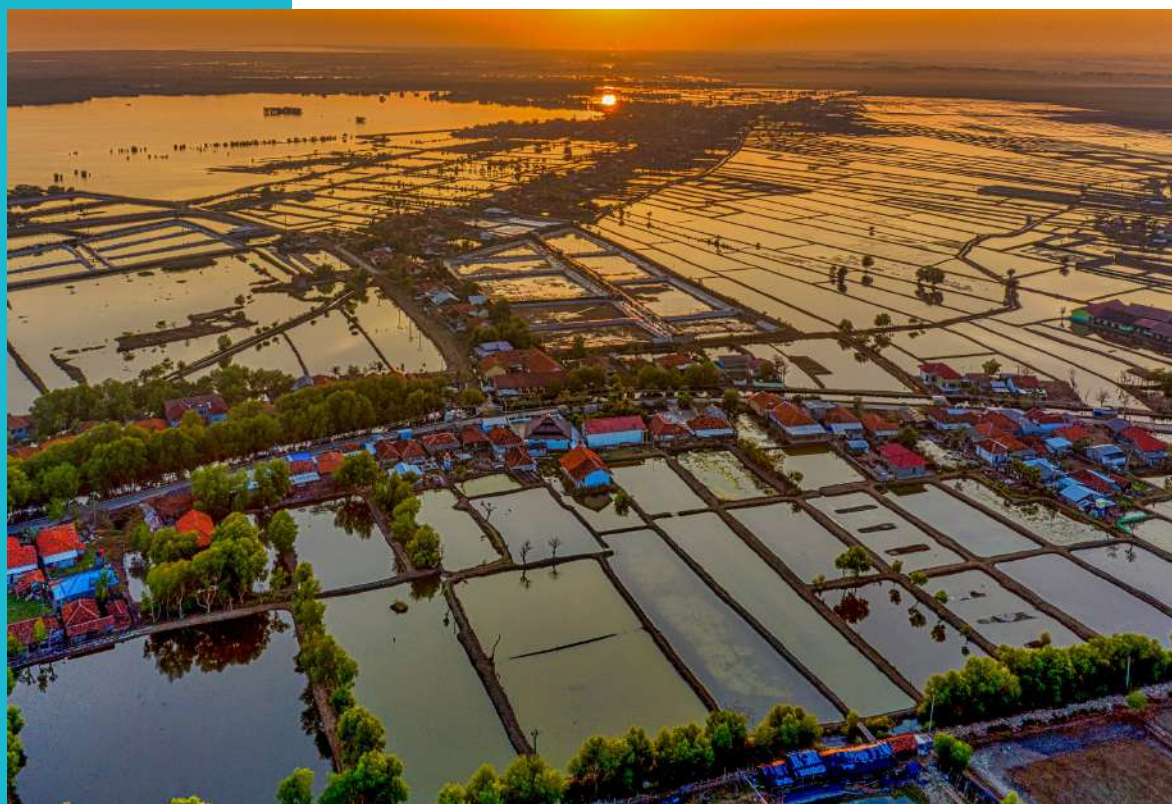


# POLICY BRIEF 10

EXTRA-SMEs  
Interreg Europe



European Union  
European Regional  
Development Fund



## Assessing administrative barriers

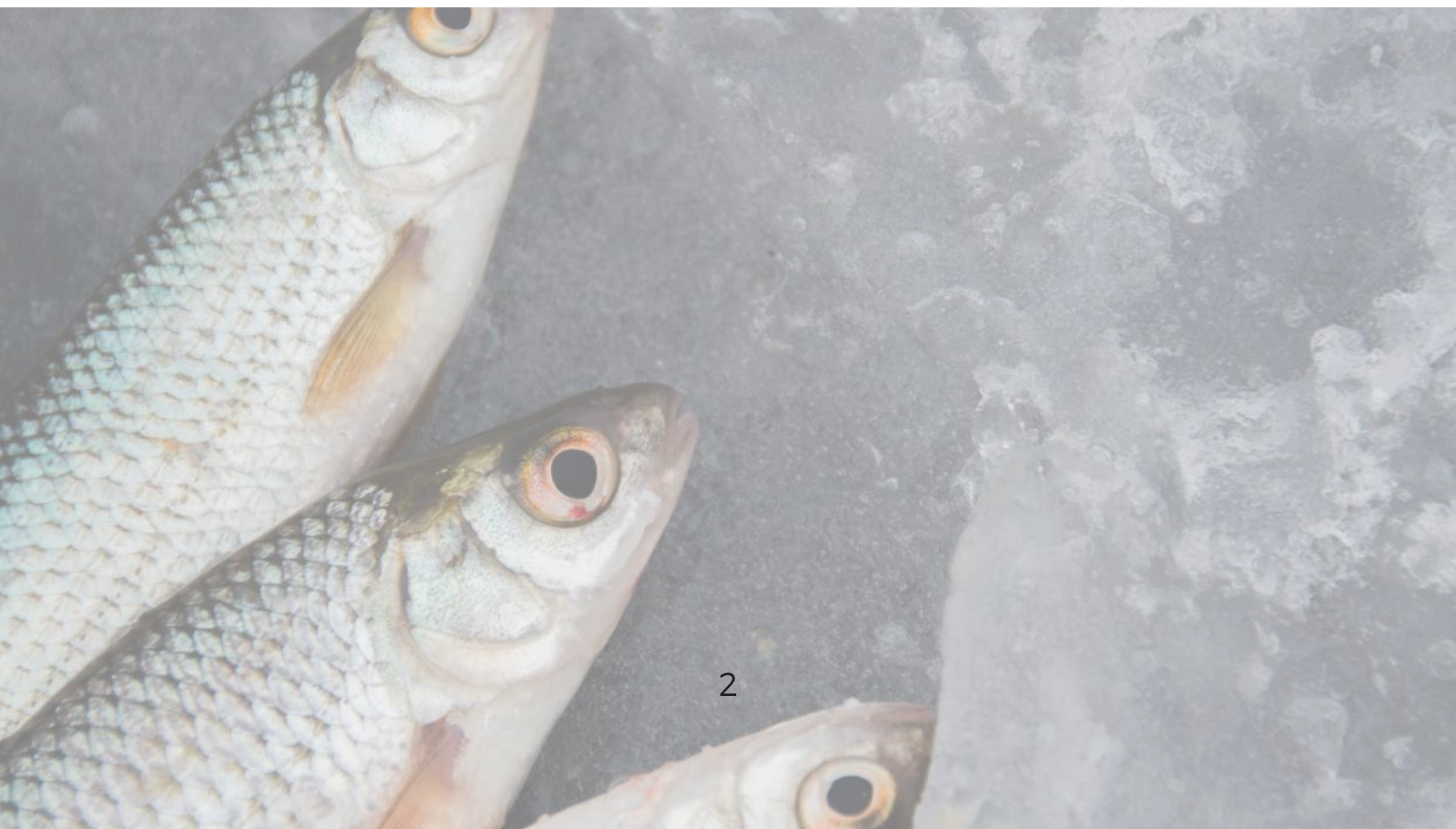
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# THE EXTRA-SMES PROJECT

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

To that end, the project assists 8 relevant public authorities and businesses in the aquaculture value chain from 7 countries to join forces and exchange experiences on how aquaculture SMEs could:

- Simplify administrative procedures.
- Expand their access to new markets.
- Innovate by producing value-added products and solutions.
- Up-skill their personnel.
- Resolve conflicts of interest together with stakeholders.







# POLICY BRIEF OVERVIEW

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This policy brief summarises the results of the EXTRA-SMEs interregional workshop on the skills and expertise required by public administrations' staff. The workshop, conducted by ADR-BI in September 2021, focused on:

- The up-skilling required on behalf of public sector workers as well as the particular initiatives needed specifically for promoting aquaculture;
- Support mechanisms are required to be set up on behalf of public authorities to facilitate administrative simplification regarding product certifications.

During the workshop, partners identified and assessed the administrative barriers present in aquaculture and the required skills and expertise of public administration staff to alleviate these barriers. Furthermore, the attendees discussed about the difficulties in some administrative procedures, mainly regarding the high time delays in granting aquaculture licenses, in assessing funds, and the big volume of documents needed for granting a license.

# ADMINISTRATIVE BARRIERS



The attendees expressed their hope that the 2021-2027 Programming Period will better respond to the real needs of aquaculture farmers. The key issues of the aquaculture sector in terms of administration, as identified during the workshop, are:

- Unregulated issues of certification of breeding products.
- Bureaucracy in granting certifications.
- The lack of common legislation on environmental permits.
- The lack of political will to further develop the industry.
- Complicated and time-consuming licensing procedures.

The attendees agreed that there is a need to identify opportunities for improving procedures and simplifying them in order to reduce the administrative burden on aquaculture farmers, in particular for SMEs. It is also necessary to identify the needs of the labour market and expand the skills of personnel in the blue economy and define the importance of academic training to the development of the skills and competencies needed in aquaculture.

# KEY RECOMMENDATIONS

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- Improve the management skills and competencies of public authorities' personnel for more efficient authorization and licensing procedures, especially for staff responsible for monitoring, controlling, and supervising fisheries activities.
- Initiate training programs to assist public sector workers in enhancing their ability to communicate and interact with others (e.g. SME owners).
- Support the development of training courses for fishermen, and aquaculture producers, to reduce the shortage of highly skilled staff in fisheries and aquaculture, raising awareness on aquaculture careers for a sustainable blue economy.
- Foster regional research in aquaculture to identify innovative solutions and the transfer of know-how, to improve data-informed decision-making in public policies related to aquaculture.
- Petition the improvement of the national & EU legislation on fisheries and aquaculture in aspects pertaining to freshwater aquaculture.
- Simplify the procedures for granting aquaculture licenses, reducing the waiting time and the necessary documents to obtain the license and other necessary authorizations, also simplifying the procedures in accessing funds.

## PROJECT PARTNERS



**Region of Peloponnese  
(EL)**



**Liguria Region (IT)**



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



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



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



**University of Patras (EL)**



**Western Development  
Commission (IE)**



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



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

## About Us

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

## Contact Us

Project email: [extrasmes2018@gmail.com](mailto:extrasmes2018@gmail.com)  
Web: [www.interregeurope.eu/extra-smes/](http://www.interregeurope.eu/extra-smes/)

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