

## CATCHING THE POTENTIAL PROJECT 2023

### **September 21<sup>st</sup> of 2023, Catching the Potential organized a policy event about international sustainable fisheries training at the European Parliament.**

Within the project Catching the Potential 10 consortium members in 9 EU member states have worked together to develop a sustainable fisheries training standard for fishers in the EU: Belgium – Europêche, France - CEFCM, Germany – BBZ am NOK, Greece - Enaleia, Ireland – BIM, Latvia – Novikontas, Netherlands – PFA and ProSea, Portugal (Azores) – DRP, and Spain – CETMAR.

The project established a sustainable fisheries training network that consists of all consortium partners and other European and international organisations involved in (sustainable) fisheries training, including fishing academies, NGOs, and training institutes. Two seminars were organised to facilitate the exchange of knowledge and experiences.

The project conducted fourteen pilot trainings in seven countries to test the training for fishers in a variety of situations and circumstances that occur in the current EU fishing industry. From this an EU standard on sustainable fisheries training for all fishers was written.

2023 is the year of skills, this is the moment to address the importance of new skills and knowledge needed for maritime professionals in a changing Blue Economy. The job of fishing is different than ten years ago. Fishing professionals now need knowledge and skills on people, planet, and profit to be sustainable entrepreneurs and provide a healthy important food source for current and next generations. With



this resolution the partners of the CTP project share the importance of sustainable fisheries training for all fishers.

**The resolution, agreed to by all delegates, reads as follows:**

## RESOLUTION

The Catching the Potential consortium members CEFCM, CETMAR, Enaleia, BBZ am NOK, DRP, Novikontas, BIM, PFA, Europêche and ProSea shared experiences within a network of fisher's educators, conducted pilot trainings in seven EU member states and developed an international standard for sustainable fisheries training for fishers.

The CTP consortium members are:

1. Recognising that fisheries is part of the Blue Economy that favours sustainable use of ocean resources for economic growth, improved livelihoods and jobs, while preserving the health of the marine and coastal ecosystem, and
2. Recognising that sustainable development of the fishing industry strives for a balance between social (People), environmental (Planet) and economic (Profit) aspects of fishing (the 3xP concept), and
3. Recognising that sustainable fishing is not only an issue requiring action at political and governance level, but also in daily practice on board fishing vessels, and



4. Noting the absence of an adopted minimum standard at the European level for the training of fishers in general and for sustainable fisheries in particular, and
5. Noting that the project partners in the project Catching the Potential (CTP) developed a standard for sustainable fisheries training that addresses the Triple P concept (People, Planet and Profit), and
6. Mindful that the CTP standard takes into account that in the draft revised IMO STCW-F Convention more attention is given to various issues that are part of sustainable fishing, and
7. Noting that the CTP standard is composed with experiences with sustainable fisheries training in nine EU member states, and
8. Recognizing that the Common Fisheries Policy applies to many more EU member states than the nine included in the project, and
9. Noting that many of these EU member states have not implemented sustainable fisheries training for fishers, and
10. Recognizing that, while the Catching the Potential project has been instrumental in the development of sustainable fisheries training for fishers, keeping the network of fisher's educators together and implementation of the standard in EU member states will require additional projects and funding.



## **Invites the European Commission**

To transpose the IMO STCW-F into an EU-directive, and

Adopt a minimum standard for sustainable fisheries training for all fishers, taking into account the difference in rank on board and the related responsibilities, and

Fund additional projects to roll out the developed standard for sustainable fisheries training in all EU member states in which sea fisheries are conducted.

## **Invites the European Parliament**

To call on the Commission to transpose the revised IMO International Convention on Standards of Training, Certification and Watchkeeping for Fishing Vessel Personnel (STCW-F) into an EU directive.

## **Invites the UN specialised agency International Maritime Organization**

To develop a model course for sustainable fisheries training as included in the revised IMO STCW-F.

## **Invites members to the IMO**

To ratify and implement the STCW-F in national legislation.



## **Invites the UN specialised agency Food and Agriculture Organization**

To recognize the standard on sustainable fisheries training as developed by the project consortium Catching the Potential as the standard for sustainable fisheries training; and

Initiate the development of educational materials aimed at small-scale fisheries, and

Include the training in their initiated global programme to help the millions of people whose livelihoods depend on fisheries.

## **Invites the EU Sectoral Social Dialogue Committee for Sea Fisheries**

To start a dialogue with the European Commission on the adoption of a minimum standard on sustainable fisheries training; and

To promote the developed standard for sustainable fisheries training in the industry.

