

Technical Cooperation and Exchange Meeting for the renewal of the Madeira Black Scabbardfish fishing fleet in Reykjavík, Iceland.

From 2 to 5 of September, a meeting will be held in Reykjavík (Iceland), in which Regional Directorate of Fisheries will participate, together with other partners in a bilateral initiative, with the aim of bringing together fisheries experts.

Through the Agreement on the European Economic Area (EEA), Iceland, Liechtenstein and Norway are partners in the internal market with the Member States of the European Union. In order to promote a continuous and balanced strengthening of economic and trade relations, the parties to the EEA Agreement have established a multiannual financial mechanism known as the EEA Grants.

EEA Grants aim to reduce social and economic disparities in Europe and to strengthen bilateral relations between these three countries and the beneficiary countries. For the 2014-2021 period, a total contribution of € 2.8 billion has been agreed for 15 beneficiary countries. Portugal will benefit from an amount of 102.7 million euros.

The Regional Agency for the Development of Research, Technology and Innovation – ARDITI, a private, non-profit association with the aim of promoting collaboration among the scientific community and the business community in the Autonomous Region of Madeira, is the promoter of a bilateral initiative. The initiative is funded through the European Economic Area Financial Mechanism 2014-2021 - EEA Grants Portugal - which aims at cooperation between the following partners:

- Mustad Autoline, the most successful Norwegian company providing automated longline systems for fishing worldwide;
- Trefjar Ltd an Icelandic shipyard known for the construction of technologically advanced small fishing vessels;
- Regional Fisheries Directorate of Madeira Autonomous Government;
- Fishmetrics, a start-up of the Autonomous Region of the Azores, which developed an algorithm to identify the different fish species and their sizes, using image capture 3D and artificial intelligence;
- Flutuantodisseia Lda, a SME recently awarded in 500 Largest Companies initiative, taken place in the Madeira Autonomous Region.

The initiative entitled “Technical Cooperation and Exchange Meeting in Reykjavík (Iceland)” will bring together a group of fisheries experts from the Autonomous Region of Madeira with Icelandic and Norwegian partners linked to the fisheries sector. Ricardo Gomes and João Delgado (Regional Fisheries Directorate), Rui Caldeira (ARDITI) and Artur Baptista (FLUTUANTODISSEIA, LDA.) will be part of the meeting, along with César Silva (FISHMETRICS LDA), Lasse Rindahl and Öle Bjerk (MUSTAD AUTOLINE AS) and Hogni Bergthorsson (TREFJAR LTD).

Iceland
Liechtenstein
Norway grants

The aim of this initiative is to automate a TREFJAR vessel for deep-sea fishing using partner MUSTAD AUTOLINE. At the same time, providing such a vessel with the ability to transmit real-time information on the black scabbardfish fishing metier, inherent competences of the promoter ARDITI and the partner FISHMETRICS.

This initiative will culminate in an application for the EEA Grants Blue Growth Program to finance an SME in the Autonomous Region of Madeira with the aim of introducing innovation in black scabbardfish fishing. As well as providing the company with technologically advanced services and processes in the treatment of fishery products.

The cooperation between the partners involved in the new application for the Blue Growth Program, will also enable a pilot fishing vessel to test a range of technological innovations associated with traceability and control of fishing effort.

The developing of this new fishing vessel, will enable the Regional Fisheries Directorate to promote and encourage the modernization of the black scabbardfish fishing fleet, in the Autonomous Region of Madeira. In addition, the significant increase in the efficiency and effectiveness of the biological and fisheries information collection and transmission capacity will lead to a significant increase in the quality of the Region's data collection, which is obligatory under the European system of scientific advice for the sustainable management of the resources exploited by the fishing activity.

