



The LabMAF project is organizing a

Symposium on

**The future of small-scale fishery markets in the
Mediterranean: social, environmental, economic
and governance aspects**

and to that end it publishes this

Call for abstracts

Context and objectives

The LabMAF project is exploring the ways, in which to give value to the products by small-scale and artisanal fishers. Ultimately, it aims to contribute towards a healthy, productive and resilient Mediterranean Sea that is better known and valued, in accordance with the vision of the [BlueMed Initiative](#).

Small-scale and artisanal fisheries stand at crossroads in many parts of the world, and their situation in the Mediterranean is no exception. For decades they have represented an important element of coastal communities engaging in low-impact fishing activities, providing local supplies of fresh fish on a daily basis and forming an integral part of the cultural and social heritage. Although small-scale fisheries are known to exhibit high resilience and adaptability to economic and environmental fluctuations, recent literature shows that sharp declines in fish stocks and concomitant socio-economic repercussions are risking the multiple contributions provided by these fisheries.

With new specific focus on small-scale fisheries both at the global level through the [Sustainable Development Goals](#) (2015) and the [Voluntary Guidelines for Securing Sustainable Small-Scale Fisheries in the Context of Food Security and Poverty Eradication](#) (2014), as well as at the Mediterranean level through the [Regional Plan of Action](#) (2018), the future looks brighter for the Mediterranean coastal communities. However, this phase requires new knowledge on what and how challenges are to be addressed, as well as the opportunities that could be developed to accelerating the desirable outcomes for sustainable small-scale fisheries, for instance through the role of markets, bottom-up approaches and innovative policies.

Through this symposium, researchers, scientists, policy-makers, managers, practitioners and fishers will come together to share and co-produce such necessary knowledge. This symposium will aim to critically examine the relevance of the international discourses and targets to the Mediterranean.

Symposium date and location

6-7 October 2020, Piran/Izola, Slovenia (postponed from 7-8 May 2020)

In case of difficulties with international travel and organization of gatherings, related to the resurgence of cases of COVID-19, the Symposium will take place in an online format.

Format and scope of the symposium

The symposium will be held over 1,5 days and the selected participants will be invited to present and/or discuss papers. It is anticipated that the symposium panel sessions will cover conceptual, empirical and foresight aspects relating to the sustainability of small-scale fisheries (SSF) markets and sustainable production and consumption of small-scale fishery products. The key, but not the only, themes are:

- Supply chains and markets of SSF
- Alien species and the opportunities for new markets
- Governance challenges related to SSF markets
- Role of women in the sector and markets
- The public perception of SSF and their products, communication and awareness raising
- Artisanal and small-scale aquafarms, especially in relation to small-scale fisheries
- The disruption to markets caused by the COVID-19 pandemic

Abstracts are welcome to go beyond these themes, if they have a direct relevance to them.

Participants

The participants to the Symposium will include scholars and practitioners with expertise or experience in any relevant field. The discussions will be open to the interested public, such as postgraduate students and researchers, from nearby institutions. Lunch and dinner will be provided for all the participants during the duration of the event.

In addition, up to of 10 selected participants **will be funded** for their return travel and 2-night accommodation.

Publication of symposium proceedings

It is anticipated that the symposium output will be published either as a journal special issue or an edited book collection. All the funded participants are expected to submit a paper of no more than 6000 words for publication by the end of August, with the view to having the publication published in early 2021.

Abstract submission

All interested participants are requested to submit a **200-400 words abstract** and a **short biography** to the event organisers by **Tuesday 30 June 2020**. Please state if you need financial support to travel to the symposium. All the participants will be informed of the selection in early July.

Contact

For any queries and for submission of an abstract, please contact the event organisers: Dr Jerneja Penca, Euro-Mediterranean University, Email: jerneja.penca@emuni.si, and Dr Alicia Said, IFREMER, Email: alicia.said@ifremer.fr

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