

# Code of conduct

## Acceptance of the common goal

The overall aim of the Project is to work together with fishers, authorities, researchers, NGOs and other relevant stakeholders to minimise – and, where possible, eliminate – incidental bycatch of priority Endangered, Threatened and Protected (ETP) marine species in the North-East Atlantic, Baltic and Mediterranean regions, to meet the requirements of relevant EU Directives and Regulations (e.g. Habitats Directive, Technical Measures Regulation) by optimising, developing and evaluating mitigation methods and support tools / processes, and working to ensure their long-term implementation.

## Key values

In order to ensure the Safe Working Environment for all Parties within the Consortium and their collaborators (including collaborators who are not Parties to the Consortium Agreement) working jointly on the Common Goal as described above, Parties within the Consortium subscribe to and adhere to the following key values:

- To facilitate joint work between fishers, authorities, researchers, NGOs and other relevant stakeholders aiming to minimise – and, where possible, eliminate – incidental bycatch of priority Endangered, Threatened and Protected (ETP) marine species.
- To have an open mind towards possible solutions.
- To work on solutions that are both effective and sustainable, suitable for use by fishers and, ideally applicable for multiple gear types, regions and species.
- To strive for cooperation and co-creation between the fishers, authorities, researchers, NGOs and other relevant stakeholders from early on (RRI principles<sup>1</sup>). In doing this, mutual trust, respect and understanding of different perspectives are essential.
- To respect the perspectives of all Parties, recognising that these perspectives might be different and even contradictory.

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<sup>1</sup> Responsible Research and Innovation (RRI) implies that societal actors (researchers, citizens, policy makers, business, third sector organisations, etc.) work together during the whole research and innovation process in order to better align both the process and its outcomes with the values, needs and expectations of society.

<https://ec.europa.eu/programmes/horizon2020/en/h2020-section/responsible-research-innovation>

- To build upon existing work to avoid repetition, while remaining sensitive to possible limitations of earlier approaches.
- To report on what works but also on what does not work and, in both cases, to try to understand why.
- To generate a safe working environment, for co-production of knowledge, data sharing, testing and assessing tools and measures.
- To ensure that reports and other communication materials are tailored for, and will reach, their intended audience.
- To communicate in good faith about the Project and Parties, translating to:
  - Act honestly, openly, and without hidden motives.
  - Familiarise yourself with other Parties' perspectives, raise potential issues in a fair and timely way and contact each other in advance on relevant issues affecting Parties.
  - Not engage in negative media campaigning against any Parties, on issues related to the Project and specific pilot project as stipulated in the Grant Agreement.
- To abide by the overarching Stakeholder Engagement and Communication Strategy that will be developed within the Project.