

Linking fisheries and tourism



Following the recent seminar on, “Marketing the Local Catch”, the FARNET Support Unit is now preparing for the next transnational event, “Linking Fisheries with the Tourism Economy”, which will take place from the 22-24 of October 2013 in Sardinia (Italy).

Designed to help the many FLAGs across Europe that would like to develop the potential of fisheries related tourism, the seminar will guide participants through the process of supporting a tourist product, from involving the fisheries sector, to placing products on the market. The seminar will include a mix of activities, including the presentation of good practices, exchanges in small groups, and a field visit, which will capitalise on Italy’s experience of pesca-tourism and “itti-tourism”. FLAG board members from the fisheries sector are especially encouraged to attend.

First meeting of UK FLAG network



Whitehaven on the North West coast of England was the setting for the first networking meeting of UK FLAGs, which took place on the 30 May. FLAGs from England, Northern Ireland, Scotland and Wales met together with the managing authorities, the European Commission and FARNET representatives to scope out what they wanted from a network and how it would operate. As a starting point, participants shared information on projects funded in their respective areas. This included: an education project on

how to ‘Get into Commercial Fishing’ in Cornwall; a new seafood restaurant in Aberdeenshire; training and tourism projects in the Scottish Borders; a health trainer for fishermen in Holderness; and a seafood and festivals project in North Devon. There was also a visit to a local education project and presentations on local seafood branding and pontoon development projects. The meeting also provided an opportunity for FLAGs to provide input to the UK needs analysis on the EMFF. The next meeting of the network will be held in Scotland later in 2013.

Cooperation between northern FLAGs



Two of Europe’s most northerly FLAGs, [Tornedalen & Haparanda Archipelago](#) (Sweden) and [Gulf of Bothnia](#) (Finland), undertook a study visit to the [Northern and Eastern Lapland FLAG](#) area, Finland, from the 15-17 April. The visit was hosted by the local FLAG and the Lokka Fishermen’s Cooperative and provided an opportunity for the visitors to learn about the cooperative and its activities, including the sale of fish products in the south of the country. They also learned about the employment benefits, with around half of

local families making their living from fishing. Northern and Eastern Lapland is an inland FLAG area, and in addition to establishing a successful cooperative, local fishermen have also developed some new and innovative fishing gear and fish products, and new methods for fishing under ice, which were also demonstrated. [More details...](#)

The future of Axis 4 in Spain



Over 50 participants attended a seminar in Madrid on the 6-7 May to discuss the “Present and future of Axis 4 in Spain”. FLAG representatives of Spain’s coastal regions, the national managing authority and the European Commission discussed the results of the programme to date and how best to ensure that community-led local development is effective in Spain’s fisheries areas in the future. The first day focused on the sharing of results from the current period and the setting of objectives for the next period, while day two looked at more technical issues and, in particular, how to improve efficiency and effectiveness in the programme going forward. Andres Hermida, Director-General of Fisheries in Spain, drew two

main conclusions from the event: the importance of reducing eligibility uncertainty for FLAGs, and the need to re-launch the national FLAG network. [More details...](#)

Project selection underway in Romania



At the end of May, John Grieve and Simona Pascariu from the FARNET Support Unit undertook a mission to support Axis 4 activities in Romania. The mission involved two main components, a FLAG workshop and visits to two FLAGs. Currently all [14 Romanian FLAGs](#) are in the process of implementing their Axis 4 strategies. To date, 11 FLAGs have launched calls for projects and the other three were due to follow in June 2013. The workshop focused on supporting this process and on building FLAG capacity and skills in project selection. The mission then continued with visits to the Dobrogea South and [Calarasi County](#) FLAGs. This included visits to a number of projects, including: a new, fisherman-owned seafood restaurant,

an innovative fish farm focusing on the production of sturgeon for caviar, a large carp farm, and the [INNOGATE 21](#) project, which is promoting cooperation across the Romanian – Bulgarian border.

Croatia prepares for CLLD in the fisheries sector

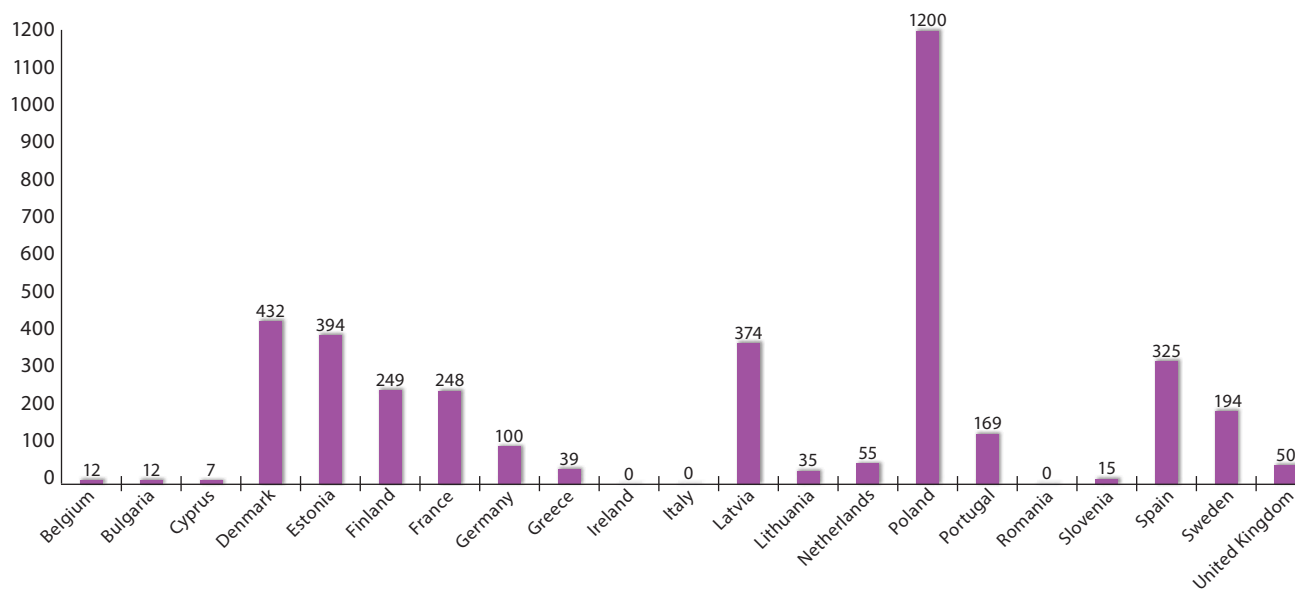


The results of a project to explore the potential for FLAGs on the Croatian coastline were published in May. The project, which ran from November 2011 to January 2013, was supported by the United Nations Development Programme, the Dutch Ministry for Foreign Affairs and the Fisheries Directorate of the Croatian Ministry of Agriculture. The main recommendations arising from the project were that the Fisheries Directorate should prepare a plan to support the development of FLAGs in Croatia; that a pilot project should be established to start the process of FLAG development; and that Croatia should implement CLLD under the EMFF and facilitate the establishment of FLAGs for all relevant areas. [More details...](#)

State of play: 3 873 projects and counting!

By July 2013, the 303 FLAG now active across 21 Member States had supported an estimated 3 873 projects¹.

3 873 Axis 4 projects



■ Number of projects

Forthcoming events and activities

7-10 October 2013	OPEN DAYS – 11th European Week of Regions and Cities	Brussels (B)
23-25 October 2013	FARNET Seminar: Linking fisheries and the tourism economy	Sardinia (IT)

Other news

A strategy for Aquaculture in Europe



At the end of April, the European Commission published strategic guidelines to promote sustainable aquaculture in Europe. The EU aquaculture sector is considered to have significant growth potential and could alleviate pressure on overexploited wild stocks. The Guidelines will help to coordinate efforts across the EU, providing a series of voluntary steps that Member States, the Commission and stakeholders can take to promote an industry that is sustainable and provides consumers with healthy, high-quality seafood. [More details...](#)

¹ This figure is based on information provided voluntarily by managing authorities up to July 2013.

Atlantic action plan launched



The Marine Institute in Ireland hosted a high-level conference on May 24, which included the formal launch of an Action Plan to revitalise the marine and maritime economy of Europe's Atlantic Ocean Area. A follow-on from the Atlantic Strategy adopted in 2011, the plan sets out how the EU's five Atlantic Member States will work together with the Commission to help create sustainable growth in coastal regions and drive forward the potential of the 'blue economy'. [More details...](#)

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