

FLAG Cooperation in Germany

Introduction

FLAG cooperation in Germany is mainly viewed as a transversal tool to strengthen the impact of other areas of FLAG work. It is included in the German EMFF Operational Programme (OP) but, in these early stages of the 2014-2020 period, cooperation is yet to become an operational priority.

In terms of thematic priorities and actions, these depend on the context in each FLAG area and on the local development strategy developed in response. The scope for cooperation actions will, of course, be determined by the budget available for implementing the FLAG strategy, bearing in mind that most FLAG budgets are particularly low in Germany.

In its OP, Germany was modest in its ambitions regarding the number of cooperation projects foreseen. In fact, a target of just 10 cooperation projects for the whole programming period was set for its 29 FLAGs.

Given the limited resources (including staff resources) of most FLAGs, **cooperation among neighbouring FLAGs** is expected to be the most common form of cooperation in Germany, although a number of FLAGs have expressed an interest in transnational cooperation too.

Number of FLAGs in MS: 29

Organising Cooperation

- Cooperation is the responsibility for each FLAG. The FLAG budget does not differentiate between budget for local projects and for cooperation projects.
- In most cases, cooperation projects can be presented to the FLAG at any time and, if selected, are submitted to the regional authority (Länder) for approval.

Possible Partners

- Cooperation projects in Germany can be led by the FLAGs themselves, as well as by other relevant organisations from the FLAG areas on behalf of the FLAG, such as fisheries organisations, local authorities or NGOs.
- German FLAGs can cooperate with partners in Germany, the EU or outside the EU.
- German FLAGs can cooperate with partners from CLLD groups funded by all European Structural and Investment Funds and/or with non-EU funded CLLD-type public-private partnerships.

Eligibility and Financing Rules

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- Cooperation projects are subject to the same financing and eligibility rules as any other FLAG project.
- No specific rules are expected to be introduced at national level for FLAG cooperation.

For any further information or assistance for cooperation in Germany...

The National Network has not yet been set up