

FLAG Cooperation in Slovenia

Introduction

FLAG cooperation in Slovenia is mandatory and all FLAGs had to foresee it in their strategies. In the period 2007-2013 there was only one FLAG in Slovenia, covering the coastal area, but in 2014-2020 there are also three new FLAGs in inland areas.

The coastal FLAG is primarily interested in **diversifying the economic activity**, linking fisheries to other sectors (especially **tourism**), creating **linkages between producers** and **adding value to shellfish**. It is looking for cooperation partners in coastal areas, mainly in the Mediterranean Sea basin.

The inland FLAGs are primarily interested in **aquaculture, heritage, adding value** and promotion of aquaculture products; they are looking for partners mainly from countries where there is already experience in aquaculture development.

Cooperation projects can contribute to any of the 5 objectives of Article 63 of the EMFF Regulation (adding value to fisheries products; diversification; environment activities; social wellbeing and cultural heritage; and increasing the role of fisheries communities in local governance).

Number of FLAGs in Slovenia: 4

Organising Cooperation

- FLAGs can initiate cooperation projects in the same way as any other project
- The Paying Agency (Agency for Agricultural Markets and Rural Development) will check the eligibility of cooperation projects following a similar procedure as with other projects; this should normally take around 2 months.

Possible Partners

- Only FLAGs can implement cooperation projects
- Slovenian FLAGs can cooperate with partners in Slovenia, in the EU or in countries outside the EU.
- They can cooperate with partners from CLLD groups funded by all ESI Funds and/or with non-Eu funded CLLD-type public-private partnerships.

Eligibility and Financing Rules

- There is no limit as to the percentage of the FLAG budget that can be used for cooperation projects but **a given cooperation project cannot receive more than €100 000**.
- The maximum co-financing rate is 85%, so the beneficiaries have to contribute at least 15%.

For any further information or assistance for cooperation in Slovenia

Those wishing to undertake cooperation with a Slovenian FLAG can contact Dr Bety Breznik from the Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Food: Bety.Breznik@gov.si