FLAG Factsheet: Ría de Vigo – A Guarda

Grupo de Acción Local del Sector Pesquero Ría de Vigo – A Guarda
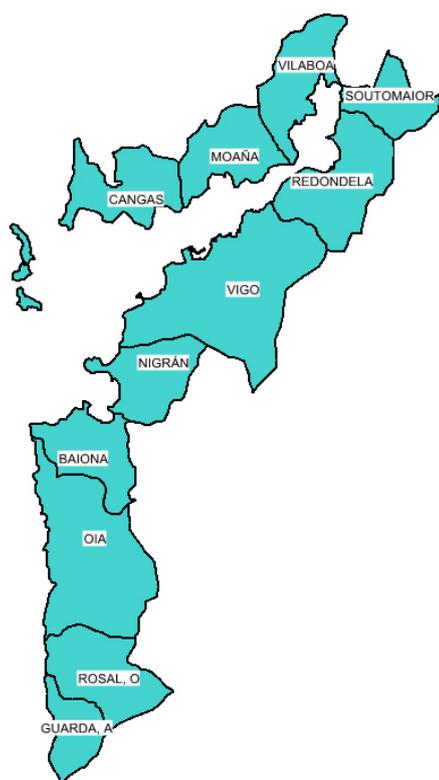
Country: Spain

Region: Galicia

Area: Ría de Vigo – A Guarda

Code: ES201

Operational: 2007-2013 and 2014-2020 programming period

AREA

Description of the area and its main challenges

The FLAG area covers 11 municipalities in the south of Galicia and is bordered by Portugal to the south. It includes Vigo (particularly the fishing community of Vigo), the biggest city in Galicia and the **largest fishing harbor in Spain**. There are **12 other ports** in the area mainly in the north. Ten of these have **auctions** and four have **marinas**. In these northern areas, fishing is still an important activity, whereas to the south, **shellfish activities**, processing and canning are more prominent.

The region's economy is largely based on **fishing and canning**, the **maritime industry** and the car industry, all of which are still suffering from the economic crisis. Most of this economic activity is concentrated around Vigo which also attracts most of the local population. This results in areas with a very high population density (up to 500 inhabitants/km²), and areas with only 36 to 140 inhabitants/km².

Off the coast of Vigo, the iconic **Cies Islands, part of the Natura2000 network**, are an important landmark for the region.

An important challenge is the **insufficient communication and cooperation** between different organisations active in the area. Bringing together a variety of stakeholders within the fisheries sector could help to boost its competitiveness and subsequently tackle the **shortage of quality jobs** needed to provide the population with a good standard of life.

The area's **cultural heritage and natural resources are mostly underutilised** and could be linked with other economic activities such as fisheries and tourism**.**

To counter the **strong pressure from urban development** and the **intensive use of marine resources**, more efforts are needed to **protect the coastal environment** and implement an integrated approach to improving the quality of life.

Population: 145 558

Population Density [Inhabitants/ km²]: 358

Surface area [/km²]: 514

Coastal, inland and/or island: Coastal

There are nine protected areas, covering more than 4% of the area. This includes: a national park (Islas Atlánticas), six Special Areas of Conservation (Cabo Udra, Ensenada de San Simón, Islas Cíes, Islas Estelas, A Ramallosa, Baixo Miño, Islas Atlánticas) and two Special Protection Areas (Esteiro do Miño, Islas Cíes).

Total employment in fisheries: 4 812

1. **Fishing**: *2 538*
2. **Aquaculture**: 494
3. **Processing**: 1 780

Women employment in fisheries: 541 shellfish gatherers - No other data available.

STRATEGY

Short summary of the FLAG strategy

To improve the competitiveness of the fisheries sector, the FLAG will embrace initiatives that **add value to fisheries products** and **foster innovation at all stages of the value chain**. Projects

that facilitate the **vertical integration** of businesses and tackle the **current value drain** will also be supported.

The FLAG will promote **cooperation within the fisheries sector** with a view to *creating jobs and attracting young people* into the sector.

In order to *diversify and strengthen the fisheries sector,* **links with the touristic sector** will be encouraged. In general, the FLAG will support operations that **stimulate cross-sectorial dialogue or structures** and support better **integration of the fisheries sector within its region**. The aim is to *broaden the local economy in fisheries areas*, e.g. looking for opportunities in **blue growth and the maritime sectors.** The FLAG also wants to strengthen the identity of the area by linking **cultural, natural** and fisheries assets.

To guarantee a *sustainable (long term) future* for the fisheries sector, as well as for the region, **sharing knowledge on the efficient use of marine resources**, **combating climate change** and promoting the transition to a **low carbon society** are also priorities.

Importance of the following objectives for your strategy

Objective	Priority (1 is low, 5 is very high)	% of the budget allocated to them in the strategy
Adding value, creating jobs, and promoting innovation along the fisheries chain	5	40%
Supporting diversification	4	25%
Enhancing and capitalising on the environmental assets	3	10%
Promoting social well being and cultural heritage	2	10%
Strengthening the role of fisheries communities in local development	1	10%

Project examples and ideas

- Support for professionals who are interested in creating businesses related to the sea (e.g. incubators);

- Training for hotel and restaurant staff on improving the quality of their service (providing information on fisheries products, heritage sites, etc);

- Monitoring and improving water quality in river/coastal areas.

Calls for projects

Every year there will be a call for project proposals with a deadline of 1 March. If the budget of this call is not exhausted, a second call will be organised, with a deadline of 1 September (except in 2020, when there will be no second call, in order to ensure the programme is closed on time).

Calls are published here: http://www.accioncosteira.es/?q=gl/taxonomy/term/21

Thematic expertise and cooperation

- Experience with the cooperation project, "Mar Galaica" www.margalaica.net/en/, which involved all Galician FLAGs in jointly promoting maritime tourism in the region.
- The FLAG has hosted FLAGs among others from France, UK, Latvia, the Danube Delta (Romania), Alentejo (Portugal), Primosko-Sozopol-Tsarevo (Bulgaria), and Fuerteventura, in order to promote Axis 4 projects. Meetings with local fishermen were also arranged.

- The FLAG visited projects in Brittany, the Ebro Delta, Northwest Cadiz and Tenerife.

Type of cooperation projects foreseen

The FLAG is interested in continuing to cooperate with the other Galician FLAGs in promoting tourism in the area, as well as in setting up gastronomic campaigns related to seafood.

The FLAG is also interested in exchanging experience with all other FLAGs.

Budget available for cooperation: € 25 000 per year

PARTNERSHIP

Lead partner or Responsible Legal Entity

Grupo de Acción Local del Sector Pesquero Ría de Vigo – A Guarda

Other key actors/organisations in the partnership

The board (15) consists of:

Five fishermen´s associations (cofradías), four municipalities, one association of small shopkeepers and hotels, one association of net makers, one cooperative association of mussels from Galicia, one business association, one association of sports and cultural organisations, and one educational institute.

% of public actors (on the decision-making body): 27%

% of fisheries actors: 46%

% of other (non-fisheries) private / NGO sector actors: 20%

% of environmental actors: 7%

Number of individuals/organisations in partnership/ general assembly: 44

Number of individuals on main decision-making body/ board: 15

Links with LEADER or other CLLD groups:

The FLAG territory overlaps with that of the MAIV Baixo Miño LAG and the Pontevedra Morrazo LAG.

The FLAG acts independently but shares 12 board members with the LAG. There is no common strategy but an agreement of collaboration was signed.

Budget information

Total public budget allocated to the FLAG for 2014-2020: € 5 016 360

- EMFF: € 4 263 906

- Member State co-financing (Regional): € 752 454

Multi-funding: No

Contact information

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FLAG website: www.accioncosteira.es

Facebook: GALP Ría de Vigo A Guarda

https://www.facebook.com/GALP-Ría-de-Vigo-A-Guarda-548748488580680/?ref=br_rs

Number of contracted staff in FLAG [FTE]: 2 (1 FLAG manager / 1 Administrator)

Language information

Native language: Spanish and Galician.

Language	Basic level	Intermediate level	Good level
English		X	
French	X		
Portuguese	X		