



FLAG Factsheet: Ria de Arousa

Grupo de Acción Local do Sector Pesqueiro Ría de Arousa

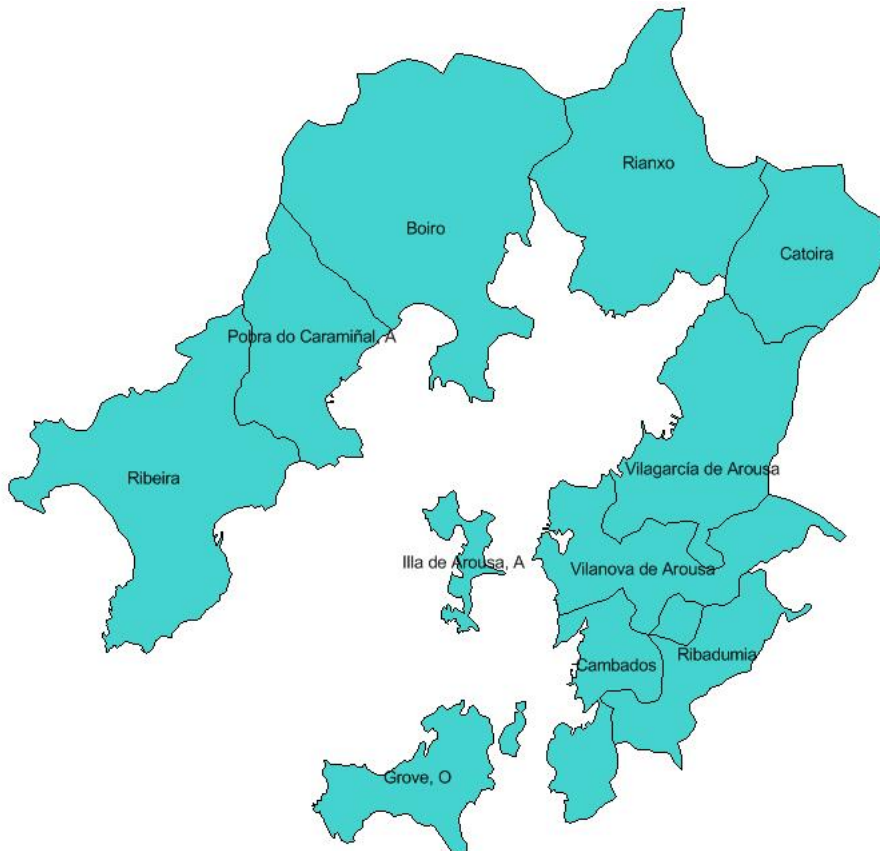
Country: Spain

Region: Galicia

Area: Ría de Arousa

Code: ES203

Operational: 2007-2013 and 2014-2020 programming periods





AREA

Description of the area and its main challenges

The FLAG is located in the middle of the north western coastline of Spain facing the Atlantic Ocean. The coastal territory of the Ria Arousa FLAG is a horseshoe-shaped area around the wide mouth of the tidal river of the same name and includes a number of islands.

Its economy has historically relied on the fishery sector (**fishing and shellfish gathering**) with a strong specialisation in the **canning industry**.

The **tourism industry**, on the other hand, is flourishing thanks to the presence of flat sandy beaches with water sports facilities and a warm climate. The area's **nature reserves** and its **cultural heritage** make it an attractive tourist destination.

The main challenge for the area is to compensate the **decline in employment in the fisheries sector**. During the last decade, fisheries production has dropped due to the **frequent blooming of algae and a decline in marine resources**, leading to a decrease in employment in the sector.

Small businesses are in **need of complementary activities** to deal with periods of less fishing activity. As for the processing industry, the **working conditions** in the **canning industry** do not fully meet current standards making it **less and less attractive – especially for women**, often also responsible for the management of family life.

In addition, there is a **need for linking fisheries and tourism**, and in particular to **promote the fisheries sector's products** towards the growing number of tourists visiting the area.

Population: 153 708

Population Density [Inhabitants/ km²]: 361

Surface area [km²]: 425

Coastal, inland and/or island: coastal

Protected areas: There are five protected areas in the FLAGs territory covering a total of 29 160 ha, almost 70% of the area. These include: one National Park (Marítimo Terrestre de las Islas Atlánticas (8 490 ha); two Special Areas of Conservation (Complejo Húmedo de Corrubedo (9 265 ha), Complejo Ons-O Grove (7 608 ha) and two Special Protection Areas (Complejo Intermareal Umia-O Grove (2 813 ha) and Complejo litoral de Corrubedo (984 ha)).

Total employment in fisheries: 11 498

1. **Fishing:** 3 224

2. **Aquaculture:** 2 929

3. Processing: 5 345 (commerce included)

Women employment in fisheries: 2 109

STRATEGY

Short summary of the FLAG strategy

One of the main aims of the strategy is to challenge **producers to broaden and diversify their activities within the fisheries sector**. In order to do this, the FLAG intends to support **training** both for primary producers (fishermen, shell gatherers, aquaculture professionals) and for those stakeholders involved in downstream activities such as processing and trading of seafood products.

A majority of **women** work in **shellfish and canning** activities and therefore play an **important role** in fisheries. The FLAG will also focus on actions that **improve the working conditions in these industries** and aim for a better work-life balance.

A third objective is to stimulate **interaction between different economic sectors** to generate cross-sectoral initiatives. These can, for example, lead to the development of tourist packages in which fisheries related experiences or products are integrated and jointly promoted.

Another aim is to use environmental points of interest as well as unique elements of the cultural heritage of the coastal area to **attract a more diversified range of visitors to the FLAGs territory**.

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	43%
Supporting diversification	4	33%
Enhancing and capitalising on the environmental assets	3	8%
Promoting social well-being and cultural heritage	3	8%
Strengthening the role of fisheries communities in local development	2	4%

Project examples and ideas

- Training on promotion of fisheries products
- Improvements in the marketing of new products
- Tourist packages on marine tourism
- Diversification of shellfish farm activities
- Development of an organic mussel pâté
- Recycling of fisheries and aquaculture production materials (nets, etc.)

Projects approved to date can be found at the following link:
<http://www.accioncosteira.es/?q=gl/proyectos> .

Calls for projects

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

Thematic expertise and cooperation

The FLAG gained experience through the cooperation project "Mar Galaica" www.margalaica.net/en/, a project between all Galician FLAGs to jointly promote maritime tourism in Galicia.

It also undertook an exchange project with French students helping to map the fisheries sector (based on data, interviews and visits) of Ria Arousa.

Type of cooperation projects foreseen

The FLAG is interested in cooperating on the same themes that are important for their area. These are **adding value to products, diversification and environmental projects that look for a balance between the protection of the ria and a sustainable use for fisheries activities.**

The FLAG is open to cooperation with other Spanish groups, transnational FLAGs or with groups located around a specific sea basin, such as the Atlantic Ocean or Mediterranean Sea.

Inter-territorial (within your Member state): yes

Transnational: yes

Sea basin: yes

Budget available for cooperation: €223 538

PARTNERSHIP

Lead partner or Responsible Legal Entity

Grupo de Acción Local do Sector Pesqueiro Ría de Arousa

Other key actors/organisations in the partnership

The FLAG board consists of five fishermen's associations ("cofradías"), five local public authorities, one association of net makers, one association of shellfish farmers, one business association and two social entities (one cultural association and one association of disabled people)¹.

¹ This information is independent from the consultation of environmental actors during the elaboration of the local development strategy.

% of public actors (on the decision-making body): **17**

% of fisheries actors: **33**

% of other (non-fisheries) private / NGO sector actors: **50**

% of environmental actors²: **0**

Number of individuals/organisations in partnership/ general assembly: **54**

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

Links with LEADER or other CLLD groups:

The FLAG territory overlaps with the Barbanzas LEADER LAG. It acts independently but shares 2 board members with the LAG (municipalities of Boiro and Ribadumia). The FLAG coordinates its work informally with the LEADER LAG through ad hoc meetings, by exchanging projects ideas, e.g. on promotion and branding of local products.

Budget information

Total public budget allocated to the FLAG for 2014-2020: €7 451 285

EMFF: €6 410 092

Member State co-financing: €1 131 193

Source of co-financing: Regional

Multi-funding: No

Contact information

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FLAG website: www.accioncosteira.es with video presenting the region
<http://www.accioncosteira.es/?q=gl/node/2550>

Facebook: www.facebook.com/galp.riadearousa

Number of contracted staff in FLAG: 2 FTEs

² Ibidem.

Language information

Native language: Spanish and Galician.

Language	Basic level	Intermediate level	Good level
English	X		
French		X	