

CLLD Factsheet for the EMFF: GERMANY

 The flag of Germany, consisting of three horizontal stripes of black, red, and gold.	<p>Contact the MA here: Ursula Posselt Bundesministerium für Ernährung, Landwirtschaft und Verbraucherschutz Referat 621 Rochusstraße 1 53123 Bonn Tel: +49(0)228 99 529 4122 ursula.posselt@bmelv.bund.de</p> <p>Map of the MS with FLAGs : N/A</p>
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The German CLLD Programme

The CLLD context

Germany covers a surface area of 356 854 km² and, with 80.2 million inhabitants, it has the biggest population of all the EU Member States. A relatively short coastline of 3 660 km means that **coastal fisheries and aquaculture play a minor role in the German economy**. The total value of all fish caught is less than 2% of the total value of the country's agricultural output. Nevertheless, fishing has a strong tradition in the coastal regions and also in some inland areas. About 1 372 people are employed full-time in fishing, with a further 1 063 in the aquaculture sector. Overall, the fisheries sector employs more than 40 000 people¹ and provides consumers with over 1.2 million metric tonnes of high-quality fisheries products each year, with a total value of €8.5 billion².

German **fisheries** activities are mainly confined to the North Sea, the Baltic Sea and long distant waters. In January 2012, the fleet consisted of 1 582 vessels, which makes it one of the smallest fleets in the European Union. Fishing on the Baltic coast is almost exclusively small-scale, with 1 174 vessels of less than 12 meters, using mainly passive gear such as gill nets and fish traps. The evolution of the fishing fleet in recent years shows that there has been a slight decrease in terms of the number of vessels, especially those under 12 meters, which declined by 27%³.

Around 80% of the total output of **inland fisheries** comes from aquaculture, a sector with considerable potential for growth. The remaining 20% comes from traditional river and lake fisheries. In addition to professional fishermen, more than 1.5 million recreational fishermen use and manage Germany's waterways, catching around 9 000 tonnes of fish every year⁴.

An overview of the country's fisheries profile is available at http://ec.europa.eu/fisheries/cfp/emff/doc/op-germany-fact-sheet_en.pdf

¹ Fisheries in Germany – In depth Analysis; Directorate General for internal policies, 2014

² From <http://www.bmelv.de> consulted on 11 February 2014.

³ Fisheries in Germany – In depth Analysis; Directorate General for internal policies, 2014

⁴ Ernst and Young, 2011

Axis 4 achievements (2007-2013)

In the previous programming period, Germany had a total of 23 FLAGs. In two of the six Länder concerned (Schleswig-Holstein and Mecklenburg-Western-Pomerania), the FLAGs had strong links with LEADER. In general, the FLAGs in Germany represented a variety of actors, including the public and private sectors (i.e. fisheries, tourism, agriculture), as well as civil society.

The main achievement in Germany is the improved networking between these different actors. While the focus and size of the partnerships varied, a priority for all FLAGs was the participation of actors from the fisheries sector, which was not always easy to achieve.

CLLD objectives and challenges for 2014-2020

The **main challenges** that community-led local development (CLLD) will have to address in Germany's fisheries areas in the coming years include:

- A decline of fish stocks has affected the fisheries sector;
- Economic indicators such as the unemployment rate or GDP per capita are less favourable than the average in the German fisheries areas;
- The vulnerability of the sector to market fluctuations;
- Environmental degradation, especially eutrophication in the Baltic Sea.

To cope with these challenges, and taking into account the lessons from the past, the **objectives of CLLD** in Germany in the period 2014-2020 are:

- ✓ To better take account of the multi-sectoral needs of fisheries areas (tourism, heritage, local products, etc.);
- ✓ To develop capacity and know-how within FLAGs;
- ✓ To simplify administrative procedures;
- ✓ To encourage cooperation and the exchange of experience from other programmes;
- ✓ To promote networking with other regions and the sharing of information on projects and policies.

The number of FLAGs will increase from 23 up to 29 or 30, covering the same six Länder: Niedersachsen, Schleswig-Holstein, Sachsen, Bayern, Bremen and Mecklenburg-Western-Pomerania (see Table 2 below). Compared to 2007-2013, the total budget for CLLD has decreased from €33.6 million to €24.6 million, which means the average budget per FLAG will fall from €1.5 million to €0.82 - €0.85 million (see **Error! Reference source not found.**).

Table 1 Budget for CLLD in Germany

EMFF budget for CLLD [€]	Proportion of CLLD in EMFF Budget ⁵	Co-funding [€]	Total budget [€]	Average budget per FLAG [€]	Number of FLAGs
€20 910 000	13,3%	€3.690.001	€24 600 001	€ 848 276 or € 820 000	29 or 30

Multi-fund CLLD in Germany

In Germany, coordination between funds or **multi funding**, especially between the EAFRD and the EMFF is encouraged. LAGs/FLAGs decide autonomously how best to coordinate the

⁵ Total EMFF budget minus UP3 (Fostering the implementation of the Common Fisheries Policy) and UP6 (Fostering the implementation of the Integrated Maritime Policy). This enables us to compare the budget devoted to CLLD under the EMFF with the budget under the EFF, which did not contain the measures of the current UP3 and UP6.

different funds (e.g. joint working groups, joint implementation strategy, etc..). In the case of joint working groups, the selection panel will have to establish a lead fund.

The FLAGS and their areas

The selection of FLAGS is the responsibility of the Länder, which may use different processes.

The FLAG strategies were developed at local level using a bottom-up process, which involved the participation of a broad range of actors. In this context, and given the different profiles of the FLAG areas selected, the strategies vary from one area to another. However, all FLAGS must prioritise some of the following themes identified in the operational programme:

- ✓ Strengthening competitiveness;
- ✓ Improving fisheries and tourism infrastructure;
- ✓ Diversification;
- ✓ Promoting local, sustainable tourism and eco-tourism;
- ✓ Protecting the environment in fisheries areas;
- ✓ Reviving and developing fishing communities;
- ✓ Cooperation among fishing communities;
- ✓ Protecting and enhancing the natural and architectural heritage.

State of play: Besides Mecklenburg-Western-Pomerania, all Länder have now launched their call for FLAGS and 20 FLAG strategies have been approved (see Table 2).

Table 2 Information on the FLAG selection process per Länd

Länd	Planned no of FLAGS	State of the selection process – June 2016
Niedersachsen	1	The FLAG strategy has been approved and the FLAG is operational: 11 projects have already been selected for funding.
Schleswig-Holstein	9	All nine FLAG strategies have been approved (together with LEADER). The funding guidelines have been published, and a kick-of-meeting with the FLAGS took place in May.
Sachsen	8	All eight FLAG strategies have been approved (together with LEADER), and project application forms will be ready in June.
Bayern	4	All four FLAG strategies have been approved and the funding guidelines completed. The FLAGS are operational and have started to select projects.
Bremen	1	This will be the same FLAG as in the last period. It has yet been approved but the guidelines have been completed.
Mecklenburg-Western-Pomerania	6 or 7	The FLAG selection process started in June and six or seven FLAGS will be selected by September 2016 (together with LEADER).

The national network / support to FLAGS

The German national network (NN) for the period 2007–2013 was formally established in the second half of 2011, following agreement by the six German Länder that participated in Axis 4 of the EFF and the Federal Ministry of Food, Agriculture and Consumer Protection. The NN was **coordinated by two FLAGS** (Bremerhaven and Lower Saxony) and was conceived as a pilot for future networking activities.

For the 2014-2020 period, the German Operational Programme proposes the re-establishment of the network of FLAGS, without detailing the mandate, timing or budget. A final decision on the

location of the network office, the mandate and the budget is still to be taken (presumably in the second half of 2016).

Cooperation

Cooperation, networking and exchange are **strongly encouraged in the Operational Programme (OP)**, and FLAGs are also encouraged to cooperate and coordinate their activities with other local actors and with LEADER LAGs.

Budget: FLAGs set their own cooperation budgets according to their needs.

Requirements: **No specific national rules for cooperation have been defined.**

Possible cooperation areas: not defined yet

Possible partners:

- ✓ Other fisheries areas;
- ✓ Conservation bodies;
- ✓ Protected areas;
- ✓ Fishing societies, associations, organisations or groups; and/or,
- ✓ Other areas, groups or projects with similar challenges and/or projects in a particular fisheries area.

Date of publication: 6.07.2016