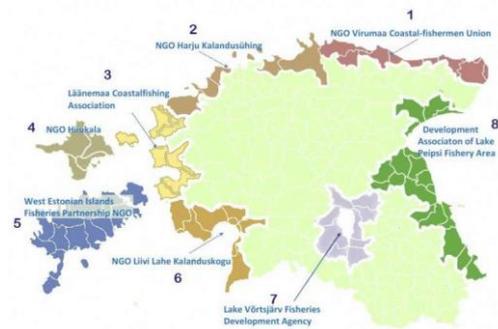


CLLD Factsheet for the EMFF: Estonia

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The Estonian CLLD programme

The CLLD context

With a population of approximately 1.3 million people, and covering an area of 45 227 km², Estonia is one of the smallest Member States in the EU. It is made up of 2 355 islands, the biggest of which are Saaremaa and Hiiumaa, giving it an extensive coastland of approximately 3 780 km. It also has numerous inland waterbodies. Lake Peipus, (Estonian: *Peipsi-Pihkva järv*;) is the third biggest lake in EU.

Although the fisheries sector accounts for just 0.5% of gross domestic product (GDP), fishing has always been an important economic and social activity in Estonia, in both coastal and inland areas. The Estonian fisheries sector includes three main activities: fishing, fish farming and fish processing and marketing. In addition to fishing, the collection of red algae and the production of agar-agar are also important activities in coastal fisheries areas, providing an additional source of income for fisherman in the off-season.

2014 figures show 2 603 FTEs working in fisheries, including 333 in small scale fisheries, 164 in trawling fisheries in the Baltic Sea, 90 in long distance fisheries, 1 971 in processing and 45 in fish farming (species such as rainbow trout, eel and salmon).

An overview of the country's fisheries profile is available at:

http://ec.europa.eu/fisheries/cfp/emff/doc/op-estonia-fact-sheet_en.pdf

Axis 4 achievements (2007-2013)

During the 2007- 2013 programming period, Estonia had eight FLAGs, which attracted a high level of interest from local stakeholders, especially fishermen. The FLAGs focused on solving community problems, supporting small harbour renovations, diversification, adding value to local fisheries products and marketing, revitalization of coastal villages, improving working conditions for fisherman, and boosting the local economy. The impact of Axis 4 support, and the involvement and cooperation of local administrations, businesses and

fishermen, has been very positive for fisheries communities. It has also helped to establish FLAGs as recognized partners that represent the interests of small scale fisheries at national level.

CLLD objectives and challenges for 2014-2020

The **main challenges** that community-led local development will have to address in Estonia's fisheries areas in the coming years are:

- Ensuring balanced territorial development of fisheries areas;
- To support the restructuring of the small-scale fisheries sector. .

To cope with these challenges, the **objectives for CLLD** in Estonia 2014-2020 will mainly focus:

- Renovation of small fishing ports and revival and strengthening of economic activity in small harbours;
- Increasing the value of local fisheries products – including through small scale processing and marketing activities.;
- Supporting fishermen to diversify their activities;
- Creation or restoration of spawning grounds;
- Social welfare activities, including promoting fisheries and maritime cultural heritage;
- Cooperation between FLAGs.

In the period 2014-2020, CLLD in fisheries will ensure continuity for the eight FLAGs. The total budget for CLLD and average budget per FLAG has remained stable (see Table 1).

Table 1 CLLD Budget in Estonia

EMFF budget for CLLD [€]	Proportion of CLLD in EMFF Budget ¹	Co-funding [€]	Total budget [€]	Average budget per FLAG [€]	Number of FLAGs
€23 600 000	27%	€4 164 707	€27 764 707	€3 470 588	8

Multi-fund CLLD in Estonia

An integrated approach with the other ESI Funds is ensured at the national level, indeed planning and budgeting of all funds are integrated processes and are part of one state budget strategy.

FLAGs and their areas

Of the eight FLAG areas in Estonia, two are situated on the islands of Hiiumaa and Saaremaa, four are located along the Baltic coast, and there are two inland FLAGs around the country's biggest lakes, Vortsjarve and Peipus.

¹ 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.

Table 2 Overview of FLAG information

Area name	Surface area [km ²]	Population (year 2013) [# inhabitants]	Population density [# inhabitants per km ²]
Hiiumaa Fisheries area	1 023 (island)	8 394	8.20
Saaremaa Fisheries area	2 907 (island)	30 966	10,65
Harju Fisheries area	1 761 (coast)	77 018	43.7
Läänemaa Fisheries area	1 839 (coast)	22 707	12.34
Pärnumaa Fisheries area	1 678.04 (coast)	64 124	38,21
Virumaa Fisheries area	1 450 (coast)	89 989	62.06
Peipsi Fisheries area	3286.02 (inland)	30 421	9.25
Võrtsjärve Fisheries area	2 424 (inland)	23 554	9.71

National network / support to FLAGs

In the 2007-2013 programming period, the network was managed by the Rural Economy Research Centre. It focused on organising events, collecting, analysing and disseminating knowledge on fisheries area development, and on carrying out promotional activities. The National network was operational until the end of 2015.

Since January 2016, the Fisheries Information Centre took over the work of the National network. Its objectives are:

- ✓ To promote the exchange of knowledge and experience between fisheries organizations, FLAGs and public authorities;
- ✓ To support the initiation and further development of cooperation for example by organizing thematic meetings and training for the FLAGs;
- ✓ To support research and pilot projects for the fisheries sector;
- ✓ To disseminate Estonian experience at the EU level and to share EU experience with the local level in Estonia.

Cooperation

The MA is currently preparing the **national regulations on transnational and inter-territorial cooperation**. These will include more specific details concerning activities, partners and delivery system and are expected to be completed by the summer of 2016.

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