

CLLD Factsheet for the EMFF: FINLAND



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Map of the MS with FLAGS: not yet available

The Finnish CLLD programme

The CLLD context

Finland, a country with a population of 5.49 million people, has a 6,300 kilometer long coastline, 190 000 lakes and a large number of rivers.

Fishing is an important commercial and recreational activity. In 2012, there were about 1 500 fishing businesses, with the vast majority (97 %) owning a single vessel. The fisheries sector has 295 full-time equivalent (FTE) employees. The total revenue generated by the Finnish fleet in 2014 was €52 million. The total value of the fisheries sector is about €900 million per annum.

The **aquaculture** sector employs a further 349 FTEs.

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

Axis 4 achievements (2007-2013)

During Axis 4 (EFF), Finland had eight **FLAGS** in total: five coastal FLAGS (including the autonomous Åland islands) and three inland FLAGS, in the lake districts in the East and North of the country.

Achievements of Axis 4:

- ✓ FLAGS were able to bring **new thinking** to, and involve **new actors** in the EFF programme implementation;
- ✓ **Cooperation** between different actors increased, and this has been the most important qualitative result of CLLD. Interest groups that previously did not have much interaction now sit at the same table. Cooperation between professional fishermen, environmentalists and researchers has been improving;
- ✓ FLAG projects often had a **catalytic effect**, leading to larger scale business investments or development projects.

An evaluation¹ of the EFF Axis 4 activities for this period concluded that the ‘new’ approach was successful in terms of the development and renewal of fisheries areas: 58% of project promoters said they could not have implemented their projects without FLAG support, and those who could have, were able to do things on a bigger scale.

CLLD objectives and challenges for 2014-2020

The **main challenges** that community-led local development will have to address in Finland’s fisheries areas in the coming years include:

- A decline in the number of commercial fishermen, which could lead to a situation where this valuable natural resources is underutilised;
- The vulnerability of the fisheries sector to market fluctuations;
- Low profitability in some fisheries sectors(?);
- An increase in the seal and cormorant populations in coastal areas;
- Environmental degradation, especially eutrophication in the Baltic Sea;
- Conflicts with other stakeholders; with commercial fisheries often competing with recreational fishing and environmental conservation.

To cope with these challenges, the **objectives of the Finnish Operational Programme 2014-2020** are:

- ✓ to foster **competitiveness, renewal and adaptation** of the fisheries sector, and
- ✓ to enhance **cooperation** between regional actors, interest groups and LAGs.

The **objective of CLLD** for this period is to support these strategic goals in the local context, including by:

- ✓ boosting and optimising activities throughout the entire value chain;
- ✓ promoting **innovation** across sectoral boundaries, creating new ways of thinking and doing business, while also ensuring the **sustainable** use of the natural resources;
- ✓ Encouraging and supporting **open-mindedness, cooperation, continuous know-how** development and calculated risk taking, which are the cornerstones of the fisheries CLLD strategy.

The number of FLAGs have been increased to ten. They include the former eight FLAGs, whose strategies have been selected for this period as well, plus two new groups that fill in geographical gaps on the south-west coast and archipelago side, and in the inland Lake Päijänne area. Compared to 2007-2013, the total budget for CLLD has been increased slightly, so the average budget per FLAG remains similar (see Table 1).

Table 1 CLLD budget in Finland

EMFF budget for CLLD [€]	Proportion of CLLD in EMFF budget ² [%]	Co-funding [€]	Total budget [€]	Average budget per FLAG [€]	Number of FLAGs
4.400.000 €	11%	5.000.000 €	9.400.000 €	940.000 €	10

¹ Mid-term evaluation of the FLAG strategy implementation. August 2013. English Summary.

² 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.

Multi-fund CLLD in Finland

For the moment, Finland is **not implementing** a **multi-fund** approach for CLLD. However, in most cases, FLAGs and LAGs do **share the same offices and administrative support costs**, which allows for good synergies.

The FLAGs and their areas

Six FLAGs are located on the **Baltic Sea coast and Åland islands** and four in the **inland lake areas** in the central, eastern and northern parts of the country (see Table 2).

Table 2 Overview of FLAG information

FLAG name	Surface area [km ²]	Population [# Inhabitants]	Population density [# Inhabitants per km ²]
South Finland	5 915	300 000	51
Archipelago Sea	Information pending	Information pending	Information pending
Bothnian Sea & Lake Pyhäjärvi	4 671	181 000	39
Ostrobothnia	6 750	160 000	24
Bothnian Bay	12 033	193 496	16
Åland	1 553	28 007	2.1
Lake Päijänne	Information pending	Information pending	Information pending
East Finland	67 500	725 400	11
Kainuu-Koillismaa	28 487	91 515	3.2
Lapland	33 500	25 500	0.75

The national network: support to FLAGs

The fisheries network will be **hosted by the National Rural Network / Agency for Rural Affairs**. This will ensure good coordination, cost efficiency and other synergies between the two networks.

The fisheries network will **operate on a phased basis**; the first phase will cover a two-year period, from December 2015 until the end of 2017. The network's activities and achievements will be evaluated at the end of this first phase as part of the EMFF Operational Programme (OP) evaluation process. The future of the network will be decided, based on the evaluation results.

The **total budget** for the fisheries network for the whole programming period is **€900 000**, with about €350 000 allocated for the first phase.

The network aims at:

- Improving internal and external networking by **fostering synergies** within and outside the fisheries sector;

- Promoting good **cooperation** and developing new partnerships / consortiums, especially in the Baltic Sea area, benefitting Finnish fisheries;
- Strengthening the **visibility** and improving the **image** of Finnish fisheries, its products and know-how;
- Acting as an '**innovation broker**', including by providing development and advisory services;
- **Communicating** information on the implementation and results of the EMFF OP. This task is very broad, with a national and international scope. On the international level, the main focus is the Baltic Sea area.
- **Supporting FLAGS** by organising needs-based training, and by facilitating the exchange of good practices and partner searches in Finland and abroad.
- **Supporting the fisheries authorities:** organise events e.g. seminars and training related to the delivery of the EMFF OP.
- **Participating** in the activities of the EU's fisheries area network (FARNET);

Cooperation

Cooperation is **strongly encouraged**, both at the inter-territorial and transnational levels.

Requirements: **no specific national rules for cooperation have been defined**, but project promoters must have an office in the programme area, i.e. in Finland.

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

Possible cooperation areas: Transnational cooperation is mostly expected within the Baltic Sea basin, focusing on issues of common interest such as the **prevention of seal and cormorant damage**.

Possible partners: The national network will help with partner searches, partnership agreements and other aspects of cooperation.

Date of publication: 6.07.2016