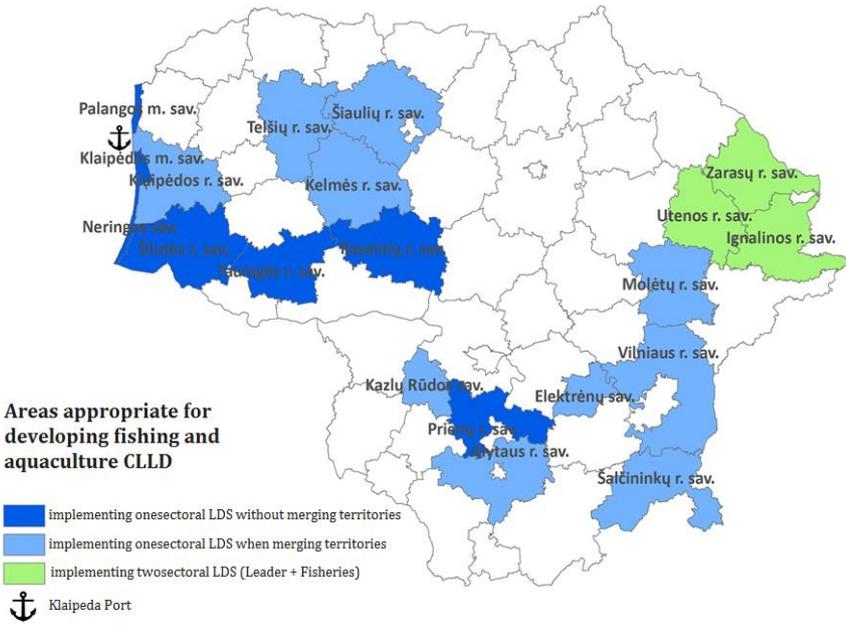


## CLLD Factsheet for the EMFF: Lithuania

	<p><b>Managing Authority</b>          Ministry of Agriculture of the Republic of Lithuania          Fisheries Department          Ms. Gintarė Zajankauskaitė          E-mail: <a href="mailto:Gintare.Zajankauskaite@zum.lt">Gintare.Zajankauskaite@zum.lt</a>          Phone: +370 5 239 1141  <a href="http://www.zum.lt">www.zum.lt</a></p> <p>FLAG areas in Lithuania</p>  <p><b>Areas appropriate for developing fishing and aquaculture CLLD</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><span style="color: blue;">■</span> implementing onesectional LDS without merging territories</li> <li><span style="color: lightblue;">■</span> implementing onesectional LDS when merging territories</li> <li><span style="color: green;">■</span> implementing twosectional LDS (Leader + Fisheries)</li> </ul> <p> Klaipeda Port</p>
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## The Lithuanian CLLD Programme

### The CLLD context

Lithuania is the most southerly of the Baltic States, bordering with Russia's Kaliningrad to the west, Belarus and Poland to the south and Latvia to the north. Lithuania covers an area of 65 302 km<sup>2</sup> and, at the beginning of 2016, its population stood at 2.8 million inhabitants.

The country has a relatively short coastline of sandy Baltic beaches with strings of dunes (90.6 km, or less than 1% of the EU's total coastline). This increases to 262 km when taking into account the Curonian Lagoon's coastline. The Port of Klaipeda is the only multipurpose, deep-water port in Lithuania. Fishing vessels also use

small ports like Nida and Šventoji. Lithuania has significant inland waters covering 2,625 km<sup>2</sup> or 4% of its territory. This includes over 3 000 large and small lakes and a dense network of rivers and streams.

The Lithuanian fisheries sector has been operating in an open market economy dictated by fierce competition in the past years, exacerbated by the economic crisis and its consequences. The total value of the fisheries sector is less than 1% of the country's GDP. Sea-related activities account for 2.6% of GDP: shipping, coastal tourism and ship-building are the most important sectors of the maritime economy. However, fisheries have a long tradition and play an important role in small communities in coastal and inland areas. According to 2015 data, the Lithuanian fisheries sector provides employment to 6,454 people (marine fishing activities – 685; aquaculture – 485; and fish processing – 5,284 people). About 81% of the employees working in fisheries sector are employed in the fish processing industry, most of them (67%) women.

An overview of the country's fisheries profile is available at [http://ec.europa.eu/fisheries/cfp/emff/doc/op-lithuania-fact-sheet\\_en.pdf](http://ec.europa.eu/fisheries/cfp/emff/doc/op-lithuania-fact-sheet_en.pdf)

### Axis 4 achievements (2007-2013)

During the 2007-2013 period, Lithuania had 10 FLAGs, covering a territory of 20 Lithuanian municipalities, both coastal and inland.

Axis 4 projects covered the following themes:

- ✓ improvement of quality of life in fisheries areas,
- ✓ nature protection,
- ✓ tourism activities,
- ✓ adding value to fisheries and aquaculture products,
- ✓ training within the fisheries sector.

### CLLD objectives and challenges for 2014-2020

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

- Low employment levels in many communities engaged in commercial fisheries and aquaculture.
- The difficulty that local fisheries products face to compete with tough competition from abroad.
- A need to diversify the economies of certain fisheries communities, while taking advantage of the natural and cultural heritage that they offer.

To cope with these challenges, the **objectives for CLLD** in Lithuania for 2014-2020 are:

- ✓ adding value, creating jobs, attracting young people and promoting innovation at all stages of the supply chain of fishery and aquaculture products;
- ✓ supporting diversification inside and outside commercial fisheries, lifelong learning and job creation in fisheries and aquaculture areas;
- ✓ enhancing and capitalizing on the environmental assets of the fisheries and aquaculture areas, including operations to mitigate climate change;
- ✓ promoting fisheries cultural heritage in fisheries and aquaculture areas.

For 2014-2020, Lithuania will have 3 joint LAG/FLAGs and 10 self-standing FLAGs, covering 20 municipalities with 23,515 km<sup>2</sup>. Compared to 2007-2013, the total budget for CLLD has been increased (from 8,925 M€ to 12,230 M€), so the average budget per FLAG is slightly higher – just over 1M€ (up from 0.89M€), see Table 1.

Table 1 CLLD Budget in Lithuania

EMFF budget for CLLD [€]	Proportion of CLLD in EMFF Budget <sup>1</sup>	Public co-funding [€]	Total budget [€]	Average budget per FLAG [€]	Number of FLAGs
€10 395 562	19%	€1 834 511	€12 230 073	€1 019 173	13

## Multi-fund CLLD in Lithuania

CLLD in Lithuania will be implemented in agricultural, fisheries and urban territories (with the EAFRD, EMFF, ESF, and ERDF). The Ministry of Agriculture is responsible for implementing CLLD in rural areas (LEADER) and in fisheries areas. CLLD in urban areas is managed by the Ministry of the Interior.

An integrated approach in the 3 joint LAG/FLAGs is secured by the development of one joint strategy in each group. The EAFRD acts as the lead fund, for simplification purposes.

Synergies between all ESI Funds will be fostered by:

- ✓ ensuring an integrated approach in territories where several groups are bordering or overlapping and where several ESI Funds are used (the LDSs should demonstrate the coherence and complementarity with other strategic documents of the territory);
- ✓ the three ESI funds under which CLLD is applied (EAFRD, EMFF and ESF) will be eligible to all CLLD groups to tap into for cooperation projects involving the relevant sectors (i.e. rural, fisheries, urban).

## The FLAGs and their areas

In order to be eligible for fisheries CLLD in Lithuania, areas must have a coastline or cover the banks of a river or lake. The population of the areas must be between 10,000 - 150,000 people (exemptions have been made for the city of Klaipeda and Neringa municipalities) and at least 40 people must be employed in fisheries, aquaculture or fish processing or the area's commercial fishing catch must be at least 100,000 kg per year. For joint LAG/FLAGs, the population criteria are the same, while the figures for the economic criteria are reduced to 15 employees or 10,000 kg of commercial fish landed.

In total 10 FLAGs and 3 LAG/FLAGs will be implementing fisheries CLLD, see Table 2.

Table 2 Overview of FLAG information

FLAG name	Surface area [km <sup>2</sup> ]	Population [# inhabitants]	Population density [# inhabitants per km <sup>2</sup> ]
Sventoji FLAG	10 976	15 468	1.4
Raseiniai FLAG	1 573	35 013	22
Siauliai FLAG	9 340.09	119 151	13

<sup>1</sup> 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.

FLAG name	Surface area [km <sup>2</sup> ]	Population [# inhabitants]	Population density [# inhabitants per km <sup>2</sup> ]
“Vidmares” Association (Neringa)	90	2 974	33
West Lithuania FLAG	4 233	135 303	32
Silute FLAG “Zuveju krastas”	1 714	41 397	24
Klaipeda FLAG	99	157 305	1 589
South West Lithuania FLAG	2 990	67 801	23
“Vilnijos zuvys” FLAG	2 638	119 424	45
Vilkauda FLAG	5 498	128 242	23
Zarasai and Visaginas LAG/FLAG	1 365	10 585	8
Utena LAG/FLAG	1 229	13 422	11
Ignalina LAG/FLAG	1 447	11 439	8

## National Network / support to FLAGs

A National FLAG Network (NN) was set up in June 2010, during the EFF programme. In its first years of implementation it was an informal network, supported by member fees paid by the FLAGs.

For the 2014-2020 programming period, the NN will receive funding (€31 700) from Technical Assistance of the EMFF, implying an annual budget of approximately €5 300 for 6 years. This will topped up with ongoing member fees from the FLAGs.

The NN's responsibilities are:

- ✓ to coordinate FLAG activities;
- ✓ to support the start-up of new FLAGs;
- ✓ to provide administrative and legal assistance to FLAGs;
- ✓ to promote exchange of information and experience;
- ✓ to collect and disseminate good practices;
- ✓ to collect, analyse and disseminate relevant FLAG information at national level;
- ✓ to foster domestic and cross-border communication and cooperation between FLAG network members.

Information on networks involved in CLLD in Lithuania can be found on:

- ✓ FLAG network: <http://www.zrvvgtinklas.lt/>
- ✓ LEADER network: <http://www.leaderlietuva.lt/en/>
- ✓ Lithuanian Rural Network: <http://www.kaimotinklas.lt/>
- ✓ CLLD in urban areas: <http://www.nrp.vrm.lt/>

## **Cooperation**

The legal act for cooperation is not yet prepared.

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