

CLLD Factsheet for the EMFF: LATVIA

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The Latvian CLLD programme

The CLLD context

Situated in the north-east of Europe, on the eastern coast of the Baltic Sea, the Republic of Latvia has a coastline of 494 km (accounting for 0.7% of the EU's 66 000 km coastline). **Maritime employment** accounts for **5.36% of national employment** and **maritime activities**, mainly shipping, represent **7.71% of national GDP – fisheries account for less than 1% of this**.

Around 6 000 people are employed in coastal and marine recreation and tourism in Latvia and, according to 2014 data, 6 554¹ people in the fisheries sector. Indeed, with 0.7% of the country's active population employed in the fisheries sector, Latvia has a relatively high employment dependency on fisheries..

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

Axis 4 achievements (2007-2013)

During Axis 4 (EFF), Latvia had 24 FLAGs in total, all combined with LEADER LAGs (8 coastal FLAGs along the Baltic Sea and 16 inland FLAGs).

The main achievements of Axis 4 were the following:

- ✓ Maintaining the local population and attractiveness of fisheries areas
- ✓ Improved small-scale infrastructure
- ✓ Diversification of employment in fisheries areas
- ✓ Collaboration between different types of stakeholders, creating new and viable partnerships

CLLD objectives and challenges for 2014-2020

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

- Low productivity and income of coastal fishermen Fostering cooperation between fishermen
- Low population density, limiting opportunities for business and employment on the coast and the development of the territory.
- Climate change impact on coastal areas.

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

OBJECTIVES

In order to increase employment and territorial cohesion in fisheries-dependent areas, FLAGs will build their strategies focusing on (one or more of) the following themes:

- ✓ adding value and promoting innovation at all stages of the fisheries and aquaculture products supply chain;
- ✓ supporting diversification within the fisheries sector, and into other sectors of the maritime economy;
- ✓ enhancing and capitalizing on environmental assets, including developing activities to mitigate climate change;
- ✓ promoting fisheries or maritime cultural heritage.

In the **2014-2020 programming period**, CLLD is being applied **exclusively in the coastal regions of the Baltic Sea and the Gulf of Riga**, where the majority of the fisheries activities take place (6% of Latvia's total territory). This is a change compared to the previous period, when the inland territory of the country was also included in the fisheries areas (covering 49.5% of Latvia's total territory). The total CLLD budget has increased from €14.7 million to €15 million, and taking into account the reduction of number of FLAGs from 24 to 6, the average FLAG budget increased considerably, from €0.6 million to €2.5 million (see **Error! Reference source not found.**).

Table 1 CLLD budget in Latvia

EMFF budget for CLLD [€]	Proportion of CLLD in EMFF Budget ²	Co-funding [€]	Total budget [€]	Average budget per FLAG [€]	Number of FLAGs
12 750 000 €	10%	2 250 000 €	15 000 000 €	2 500 000 €	6

Multi-fund CLLD in Latvia

In 2007-2013, all 24 FLAGs were also implementing local development strategies under the LEADER Axis of the Rural Development Programme. Groups applying for funds from the EFF and also from the European Agricultural Fund for Rural Development (EAFRD) had separate decision-making bodies for each fund as well as separate project evaluation committees.

The **multi-fund** approach continues to take place in the coastal areas of the Baltic Sea, where FLAGs are also operating as LAGs, working with both the EMFF and EAFRD.

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.

FLAGS and their areas

FLAGS in Latvia are located in the east of the country, along the Baltic coast.

Table 2 Overview of FLAG information

FLAG name	Surface area [km ²]	Population [# inhabitants]	Population density [# inhabitants per km ²]
Liepājas rajona partnerība / Liepāja District Partnership	3 588.74	39 659	11
Partnerība Laukiem un Jūrai / Partnership for Country and Sea	1 214.51	15 874	13
Ziemeļkurzemes biznesa asociācija / North Kurzeme Business Association	3 489.84	19 421	6
Publisko un private partnerattiecību biedrība "Sernikon" / Public and Private Partnership Association of "Sernikon"	128.43	13 103	102
Talsu rajona partnerība / Talsi District Partnership	1 712.32	35 913	21
Jūrkante	1 154.40	12 805	11

National network / support to FLAGS

The National Fisheries Network (www.zivjutikls.lv) was created in the previous period and has continued in the 2014-2020 period, providing information, training and other kinds of support to the various stakeholders, including the FLAGS. It works in a similar way to the **National Rural Network** (www.laukutiksl.lv).

Total budget and workforce: €2.5 million for the period; 1.2 FTE staff employed, along with several experts on an ad hoc basis.

Tasks:

- Networking and training for FLAGS;
- Dissemination of information, knowledge and best practices on fisheries issues;
- Facilitating the exchange of experience and skills;
- Gathering and assessing public opinion for the purpose of developing policies on the sustainable development of fisheries areas;
- Cooperating with stakeholders in the fisheries sector, public administrations, NGOs, fisheries enterprises and other institutions.

Management: run by the Latvian Rural Advisory and Information Centre, which also manages the **National Rural Network**

For CLLD in particular, **informal networking** between LAGs and FLAGs occurs on the **Latvian Rural Forum** www.laukuforums.lv.

Cooperation

There is limited experience of inter-territorial cooperation among Latvian FLAGs, with **only one cooperation project** implemented in the previous period.

The **budget for cooperation** will be managed at national level and amounts to €300 000, including preparatory support for cooperation projects. Funding for transnational and inter-territorial cooperation will be available from the second half of 2016.

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