


## CLLD Factsheet for the EMFF: Poland

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### The Polish CLLD Programme

#### The CLLD context

Poland; a country with a population of 40 million people, has 491 km of Baltic coastline (775 km including the Szczecin and Vistula lagoons) and approximately 550 000 km of inland waters. Although per capita consumption of fish and seafood is fairly low (22nd position in EU in 2013), in 2014 Poland was the 9th largest importer of fish from outside the EU among the Member States, and also the 12th largest extra-EU exporter in terms of volume.

Sea fisheries products prevail in terms of volume (ca 80% of supply, some 180 000 tonnes), but the importance of inland aquaculture is growing. Carp production plays a major role as Poland is the main European market for live carp, with consumption exceeding 21 000 tonnes (2013). Poland also is the largest producer of smoked salmon in the EU (over 55,000 tonnes in 2013, which accounts for 1/3 of EU production).

The Polish fisheries sector has 7845 full-time equivalent employees (FTE), of which 18% in the marine fisheries, 56% in aquaculture and 26% in inland fisheries. The fish processing sector accounts for another 15 088 FTE (4th in the EU, after Spain; France and UK).

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

#### Axis 4 achievements (2007-2013)

In the previous programming period, Poland had a total of 48 FLAGS (9 coastal and 39 inland). The Polish FLAGS supported a very high number of projects (in total approximately 5 500) of which many contributed to creating and maintaining jobs (according to a FARNET study carried out in 2016, each Polish FLAG created on average 87 new jobs and maintained 52 jobs, although these figures are based on estimates and should be treated with care).

A large part of these projects contributed to diversifying fisheries area, upgrading aquaculture production, promoting fisheries areas and valorising their heritage. Polish FLAGS were also quite active in inter-regional cooperation.

## CLLD objectives and challenges for 2014-2020

While sea fisheries face a biological barrier of fish supply in the main catching area (the Baltic Sea), inland aquaculture still has significant potential of growth. The use of this potential along with an increase of fish product consumption appear to be the main challenges for the sector in the 2014-2020 perspective.

The Polish MA is expecting fisheries CLLD to contribute to the creation of 375 jobs and maintain an additional 375 jobs in fisheries areas, and to help create 110 new businesses.

In 2007-2013, Poland allocated nearly 26% of its EFF budget (€190 million) to CLLD and FLAGs were expected to play an important role in the overall development of fisheries areas, supporting infrastructural investments and a wide range of educational and cultural projects as well as fisheries businesses. In the 2014-2020 period, the CLLD budget is significantly lower (€79.7 million, i.e. 16% of the total EMFF budget) and the focus is more on the fisheries sector and job creation and less on the development of fisheries areas, see Table 1. The number of FLAGs decreased from 48 to 36: most of the coastal areas previously covered by Axis 4 still are included in fisheries CLLD, but there are fewer inland FLAGs, due to a stricter definition (compared to the previous period) of what can be defined as a “fisheries area”. The total area covered by FLAGs has been reduced from 70 000 km<sup>2</sup> to 57 900 km<sup>2</sup>.

Table 1 CLLD Budget in Poland

EMFF budget for CLLD [€]	Proportion of CLLD in EMFF Budget 1	Co-funding [€]	Total budget [€]	Average budget per FLAG [€]	Number of FLAGs
€ 79 699 995	16%	€ 14 064 705	€ 93 764 700	€ 2 604 575	36

## Multi-fund CLLD in Poland

The Polish Partnership Agreement (PA) envisages CLLD in four of the five ESI Funds and opens up the possibility of multi-funded strategies. However, the decision concerning CLLD in the ERDF and ESF was delegated to the regional Intermediate Bodies and only two out of 16 Polish regions have decided to use this option: Kujawsko-Pomorskie and Podlaskie. In these two regions LAGs can potentially use the four funds in a single strategy. In other regions LAGs can use EAFRD and EMFF at strategy level, and in some regions they may also have access to ERDF and ESF on a project-by-project basis.

The call for Local Development Strategies was harmonised across the Funds, with joint selection bodies in all the regions and common selection criteria. LAGs can use EMFF if they have at least 50 fishermen in the area and total value of fish production at least €300 000 (approximately). However, if the LAG would like to be mono-funded from EMFF, it must have at least 70 fishermen and fish production of around €600 000 minimum. For multi-funded LAGs there are provisions for lead fund, with a formula which ensures a fair distribution of running costs between all Funds.

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<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.

A significant effort was made to simplify the delivery of CLLD and delegate more functions to the LAGs. A number of new instruments such as umbrella projects and Simplified Cost Options have been introduced (the SCO so far only within EAFRD). Some rules on eligibility, project approval and reporting could not be harmonised, and individual projects cannot be multi-funded.

A special website has been created by the Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development to explain the CLLD approach and it integrates the key national documents related to CLLD implementation: <http://www.minrol.gov.pl/Wsparcie-rolnictwa/PROW-2014-2020/Rozwoj-Lokalny-Kierowany-przez-Spolecznosc-RLKS>

## The FLAGs and their areas

The Ministry of Maritime Economy and Inland Navigation acts as the national Managing Authority (MA) and is responsible for designing the delivery procedures, overall monitoring and evaluation and reporting to the EC, while the 16 regional Marshall Offices (intermediate bodies; IBs) are responsible for selecting the F/LAGs, the day-to-day contact with the groups, eligibility checks of projects, and monitoring of F/LAG activities.

The call for F/LAGs was launched in Autumn 2015 (with the deadline of the 31st of December), and the final approval of the FLAGs and the strategies was completed in all regions by May 2016.

As in the previous period, there is at least one FLAG in each of the 16 Polish regions. The highest number of FLAGs were selected by the two regions on the Baltic sea coast, Pomeranian (Pomorskie) and Western Pomeranian (Zachodniopomorskie) – 15 FLAGs in total, of which 9 are coastal. The remaining FLAGs are inland.

Out of the 36 FLAGs in Poland, 24 are mono-fund EMFF, and the remaining 12 are multi-funded (of those, 2 have EMFF as Lead Fund, 9 have EAFRD and 1 has ESF as Lead Fund).

*Table 2 Overview of FLAG information*

FLAG name	Region	Surface area [km <sup>2</sup> ]	Population [#]	Population density [# per km <sup>2</sup> ]	Employment (*) in fisheries [#]
Partnerstwo dla Doliny Baryczy	Dolnośląskie	1 662	98 097	59	272
Nasza Krajna i Pałuki	Kujawsko-Pomorskie	2 017	146 572	73	87
Pojezierze Brodnickie		1 017	49 523	49	50
Owocowy Szlak	Lubelskie	810	61 803	76	75.5
W Dolinie Tyśmienicy i Wieprza		1 920	98 755	51	166
Pojezierze Dobiegniewskie	Lubuskie	1 768	70 941	40	113
Z Ikrą	Łódzkie	1 396	93 405	67	158
Dolina Karpia	Małopolskie	310	56 501	182	173
Zalew Zegrzyński	Mazowieckie	733	94 729	129	57
Opolszczyzna	Opolskie	1 522	97 857	64	99
Puszczy Sandomierskiej	Podkarpackie	1 845	148 133	80	83
Roztocze		2 146	103 107	48	98

FLAG name	Region	Surface area [km2]	Population [#]	Population density [# per km2]	Employment (*) in fisheries [#]
Pojezierze Suwalsko-Augustowskie	Podlaskie	3 482	111 119	32	126
Kaszuby	Pomorskie	957	92 534	97	70
Pojezierze Bytowskie		2 411	90 115	37	186
Rybacka Brać Mierzei		940	67 914	72	126
Północnokaszubska		572	81 597	143	452
Słowińska		1 286	64 720	50	162
Morenka		2 936	113 668	39	150
Dorzecze Łeby		889	71 777	81	150
Bielska Kraina		Śląskie	275	102 486	373
Jurajska Ryba	1 101		53 345	48	82
Świętokrzyska	Świętokrzyskie	2 513	145 615	58	104
Mazurskie Morze	Warmińsko-Mazurskie	2 825	86 698	31	89
Wielkie Jeziora Mazurskie		1 993	55 354	28	71.5
Zalew Wiślany		651	34 230	53	119
7 Ryb	Wielkopolskie	1 817	115 154	63	80
Nadnotecka		1 967	77 650	39	71.5
Darłowska	Zachodniopomorskie	1 647	67 795	41	388
Partnerstwo Drawy z Liderem Waleckim		3 461	92 005	27	50
Zalew Szczeciński		932	65 271	70	142
Mielerńska		1 637	65 661	40	186
Pomorza Zachodniego		1 109	52 059	47	129.5
Morze i Parsęta		596	73 984	124	233
WIR – Wiejska Inicjatywa Rozwoju		2 094	84 361	40	78
Lider Pojezierza		2 616	129 463	49	82

(\*) according to the information received from the FLAG

## National Network / support to FLAGs

The creation of the National Network is envisaged in late 2016 or early 2017, and it will function within the Managing Authority, financed from Technical Assistance (TA). An amount of €10 000 per year is earmarked to cover the organisation of one national FLAG meeting; while all the other NN activities will have to be funded from TA on a case-by-case basis.

Another bottom-up FLAG network, under the form of six regional networks and a nationwide convention of Polish FLAGs (Konwent Polskich LGR), functioned in 2007-2013 and is expected to continue in the 2014-2020 period. Its primary role is advocacy, and representing the FLAGs in their contacts with the MA, PA, IBs etc.

Polish FLAGs can also benefit from capacity building and other support for CLLD provided by the Polish National Rural Network (KSOW, [www.ksow.gov.pl](http://www.ksow.gov.pl)).

## **Cooperation**

Already in 2007-2013 cooperation between FLAGs was encouraged by the MA, and the majority of the 48 Polish FLAGs carried out inter-territorial cooperation projects (transnational cooperation was less frequent).

The MA/IBs continue to encourage cooperation in 2014-2020, and in case FLAGs intend to implement cooperation projects, they need to foresee it in the FLAG's overall budget.

The rules and procedures for cooperation projects are currently being developed by the national MA. Approval of cooperation projects is under the responsibility of the 16 Regional Marshall Offices (IBs).

Topics for cooperation vary from case to case, but 'Adding value to local fisheries products' and 'Developing new activities in fisheries areas / non-tourism diversification' seem to be the most popular ones.

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