

## FLAG Factsheet: Central Finland *Sisä-Suomen kalatalousryhmä*

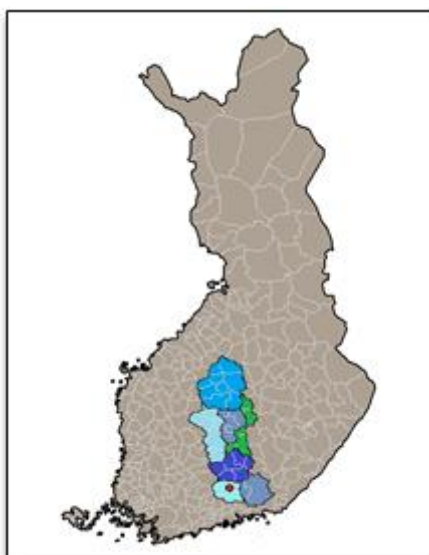
**Country:** Finland

**Region:** Central Finland

**Area:** Keski-Suomi and Päijät-Häme, the municipality of Pertunmaa and the northernmost part of the Kymenlaakso province

**Code:** FI 209

**Operational:** 2014-2020 programming period



## AREA

### Description of the area and its main challenges

The FLAG area covers **34 municipalities** (Hankasalmi, Joutsa, Jyväskylä, Jämsä, Kannonkoski, Karstula, Keuruu, Kinnula, Kivijärvi, Konnevesi, Kuhmoinen, Kyyjärvi, Laukaa, Luhanka, Multia, Muurame, Petäjävesi, Pihtipudas, Saarijärvi, Toivakka, Uurainen, Viitasaari, Äänekoski, Asikkala, Hartola, Hollola, Heinola, Kärkölä, Lahti, Orimattila, Padasjoki, Sysmä, Kouvola and Iitti) and **8 lakes** (Päijänne, Keitele, Ylä-Keitele, Kolima, Kivijärvi, Ala-Keitele, Pyhäjärvi, Keuruselkä).

Fishing is an important and profitable activity in the FLAG area, especially along the main section of the Kymijoki River. **Fish farming** is also an important economic activity, with a strong tradition in the area. The existence of local centres of population (i.e. the cities of Lahti, Jyväskylä and Kouvola), as well as the proximity of the Helsinki metropolitan region, guarantees a consistent demand for fish products. A specialty of the area is signal crayfish, which represents an opportunity but also a challenge, as this is an **invasive species**.

Fish stocks in many of the local lakes are not fully exploited because of a decline in fishing activity.

There are four **main challenges** facing the fisheries sector in inland Finland:

- 1) The **size of the area**, which poses logistical challenges, for example;

- 2) The **infrastructure** is inadequate to support fisheries activities. More processing and production facilities and ice stations are needed, in particular;
- 3) Small fish **species**, signal crayfish and fish that have low commercial value, such as cyprinids, are **not being fully exploited**;
- 4) The **low profitability of fish farming**;
- 5) **Climate change** and in particular warm summers raising **water temperature** which has increased fish mortality rates.

**Population:** 571 650

**Population Density [Inhabitants/ km<sup>2</sup>]:** 23

**Surface [area/km<sup>2</sup>]:** 24 385

**Coastal or inland:** Inland

**Protected areas:** 1450 m<sup>2</sup>

**Employment in fisheries:** 115

**Fishing:** 30 FTE

**Aquaculture:** 70

**Processing:** 15

**Women employment in fisheries:** No information available

## STRATEGY

### Short summary of the FLAG strategy

The FLAG area is known for its high-quality fish products, good production methods and efficient logistics. Cooperation between all the parties in the industry's production chain – both between consulting and development organisations and between the owners of waterways and the authorities – is seamless. Profitability of the industry has improved due to new production methods, improved logistics and an increased focus on processing. There are also some profitable fishing tourism businesses active in the area, working in close cooperation with local communities, other tourism businesses and professional fishermen.

To build on this, the FLAG has three strategic priorities:

1. Develop expertise, improve quality and support innovation;
2. Development local infrastructure and enhance the operating environment;
3. Develop new products and markets.

### Importance of the following objectives for your strategy

<b>objective</b>	<b>Priority (1 is low, 5 is very high)</b>	<b>% of the budget allocated to them in the strategy</b>
Adding value, creating jobs, and promoting innovation along the production chain	<b>5</b>	<b>30</b>
Supporting diversification	<b>5</b>	<b>30</b>
Enhancing and capitalising on the environmental assets	<b>3</b>	<b>20</b>
Promoting social well-being and cultural heritage	<b>2</b>	<b>10</b>

<b>objective</b>	<b>Priority (1 is low, 5 is very high)</b>	<b>% of the budget allocated to them in the strategy</b>
Strengthening the role of fisheries communities in local development	<b>2</b>	<b>10</b>

### Project examples and ideas

- Removing the signal crayfish, an invasive species (according to the EU Strategy on Invasive Species), from local waterways by harvesting it as a source of food.
- Improving access to fishing sites for professional fishermen.

### Calls for projects

Projects can be presented and selected on an ongoing basis.

### Thematic expertise and cooperation

Implementation of the local strategy requires extensive cooperation within the area. This cooperation centres around the parties active in the fishing industry: owners of waterways, research education organisations, business development agencies and enterprises active in the area.

### Type of cooperation projects foreseen

**Inter-territorial:** Improving the use of cyprinids and other underutilised species

**Transnational:** Study trips to benchmark the best available techniques and methods

**Sea basin:** Not applicable

**Other:** None

**Budget available for cooperation [€]:** Not available at this stage

## PARTNERSHIP

### Lead partner or Responsible Legal Entity

LAG Päijänne-LEADER

### Other key actors/organisations in the partnership

The Association of Finnish Inland-fishermen, the Association of Finnish Fish-farmers; fish-processing and marketing companies.

**% of public actors (on the decision-making body):** 30%

**% of fisheries actors:** 40%

**% of other (non-fisheries) private / NGO sector actors:** 25%

**% of environmental actors** 5%

**Number of individuals/organisations in the partnership/ general assembly:** 4

**Number of individuals on the main decision-making body/ board:** 25

## Links with LEADER or other CLLD groups:

FLAG territory is the same as (or overlaps with) one or several CLLD territory/territories	Yes
FLAG shares its legal structure with a Leader LAG/CLLD group	Yes
FLAG shares certain board members with a Leader LAG/CLLD group	Yes
FLAG and LAG have a common local development strategy (with separate sections for EMFF/ EAFRD/ other ESI funds)	No
FLAG coordinates its work informally with nearby Leader LAG(s) – how? By using same information, personnel and information routes, such as websites	Yes

## Budget information

Total public budget allocated to the FLAG for 2014-2020 (a+b): €700 000

(a) EMFF: €329 000

(b) Member State co-financing: €371 000 State, €377 000 private and municipalities

Source of co-financing: National and local

Multi-funding: Not applicable

## Contact information

President/Chair, organization: Heikki Tuomainen, Koulutuskeskus Salpaus

FLAG Manager: Janne Ruokolainen

Email [janne.ruokolainen@paijanne-leader.fi](mailto:janne.ruokolainen@paijanne-leader.fi)

Telephone +358 44 712 4209

Postal address Meijeritie 1, 17200 VÄÄKSY, FINLAND

FLAG website [www.paijanne-leader.fi/kalatalousryhma/](http://www.paijanne-leader.fi/kalatalousryhma/)

Twitter [Sisasuomenkalatalous@Sisasuomenkala](https://twitter.com/Sisasuomenkalatalous)

Facebook [www.facebook.com/sisasuomenkalatalous](https://www.facebook.com/sisasuomenkalatalous)

**Number of contracted staff in FLAG [FTE] 1**

## Language information

Language	Basic level	Intermediate level	Good level
English		x	