

FLAG Factsheet: Liepāja

Biedrība "Liepājas rajona partnerība"

Country: Latvia

Region: Kurzeme

Area: Municipalities of Aizpute, Durbe, Grobiņa, Nīca, Pāvilosta, Priekule, Rucava, Vaiņode and Liepāja city

Code: LV201

Operational: 2007-2013 and 2014-2020 programming periods



AREA

Description of the area and its main challenges

The Liepāja District Partnership area is located in the south-western part of Latvia, bordering with Lithuania. The FLAG area stretches for 111.28 km along the Baltic coast and includes the municipalities of Ventspils, Saldus and Kuldīga districts. Five percent of the area is covered by **waterways**, which include the rivers Bārta and Durbe, and the Liepāja, Pape, Tosmare and Durbe lakes. **Forestry** accounts for a further 41% of the FLAG area.

There are 3651 businesses registered in the area, 90% of which are **small and medium-sized enterprises** with an annual turnover of less than €70 000. There are 92 premises offering **touristic accommodations** with the total capacity of 2 025 beds. The coastal municipalities and the city of Liepāja have 59 registered businesses operating in the fisheries sector. The unemployment rate in the FLAG area is 8% (2014), which is slightly below the national average in Latvia (10.8%).

The main economic sectors are: agriculture, the processing of agricultural products, logging, wood processing, transport, construction, the production of building products, fisheries and fish processing.

The main challenges for the area is **attracting new entrants to the fisheries sector** and **promoting diversification**.

The FLAG's area also lacks comfortable and safe places for leisure and recreation along the Baltic coast. The existing **infrastructure** is outdated and inadequate for the numbers of tourists visiting the area. This prevents opportunities to promote the coastal areas and thus increase the socio-economic benefits for the FLAG area.

Population: ~ 40 000

Population Density [Inhabitants/ km²]: 11.27

Surface area [/km²]: 3 594

Protected areas: There are 14 Natura 2000 sites, 19 protected areas, three nature parks and one nature reserve in the FLAG area.

Total employment in fisheries: 1000 FTE (in 2014)

1. **Fishing:** 324 FTE
2. **Aquaculture:** 9 FTE
3. **Processing:** 667 FTE

Women employment in fisheries: *no data*

STRATEGY

Short summary of the FLAG strategy

The FLAG strategy aims to:

- Diversify the fisheries sector in the Baltic coastal area and add value to fish and aquaculture products;
- Strengthen the fisheries sector by creating new jobs and by ensuring the transfer of fishing traditions and skills, especially to young people;
- Promote cooperation between fisheries and tourism businesses along the Baltic coast by supporting new innovative services related to the sea and the coast and the implementation of projects that reduce the negative impact of seasonality;
- Encourage activities to preserve the cultural heritage of fishing villages along the coast and support infrastructure that reduces the depletion of natural resources (e.g., wooden footbridges);
- Foster the restoration of fisheries heritage landmarks and improve their accessibility in order to meet the needs of the tourism sector;
- Promote new activities and strengthen the role of fishermen in tourism activities in the FLAG area.

Importance of the following objectives

Objective	Priority (1 is low, 5 is very high)	% of the budget allocated to them in the strategy
Adding value, creating jobs, and promoting innovation along the fisheries chain	5	35
Supporting diversification	4	30
Enhancing and capitalising on the environmental assets	2	10

Promoting social wellbeing and cultural heritage	3	25
Strengthening the role of fisheries communities in local development	-	-

Budget information

Total public budget allocated to the FLAG for 2014-2020: €2 024 400.75

EMFF: €1 720 740.64

Member State co-financing: €303 660.11

Source of co-financing: National

Multi-funding: EAFRD – €1 909 883.21 including national co-financing of 68%.

Project examples and ideas

- Establishment of a fisheries and fishing museum in the city of Liepāja.
- Support for the development of fish processing businesses: processing and filleting equipment, and improving the delivery chain and the sale of fish and fish products, the development of new fish products, etc.
- Diversification of existing tourism businesses and the creation of new businesses along the Baltic coast.

Calls for projects

The FLAG organises calls for projects once a year. The first call for projects related to the EMFF support closed on 2 June 2016.

Thematic expertise and cooperation

The FLAG has experience in project evaluation, the facilitation of workshops and the involvement of members of the FLAG and other stakeholders in the evaluation of project results. It is also active in the organisation of Open Days workshops on CLLD.

The FLAG is interested in developing cooperation projects on the following topics:

- Marketing fisheries products;
- Tourism and coastal development.

No budget has been defined for cooperation.

PARTNERSHIP

Lead partner or Responsible Legal Entity

Biedrība "Liepājas rajona partnerība" (Association "Liepāja District Partnership")

FLAG members

The FLAG board (decision-making body) consists of 12 members, but all 72 members of the FLAG are actively involved.

The FLAG board consists of two representatives of the public sector (municipalities) and ten representatives of the private/NGO sectors. The private sector is represented by four fishermen and two rural businesses. There are four NGO representatives, including one representative of a youth association, one representative of women associations, and two representatives of environmental associations.

Number of individuals on main decision-making body/ board: 12

% of public actors (on the decision-making body): 15

Number of individuals/organisations in partnership/ general assembly: 72

% of fisheries actors (in the partnership): 36

% of environmental actors (in the partnership): 7

% of other private / NGO sector actors (in the partnership): 42

Number of contracted staff in FLAG [FTE]: 2

Links with LEADER or other CLLD groups:

The territory is the same as the LEADER territory and the FLAG/LAG is managed by **the same entity**, which implements an **integrated local development strategy** co-financed by the EMFF and the EAFRD. The EMFF co-financed investments are restricted to the following municipalities and parishes: Pāvilosta, Medze parish in the Grobiņa municipality, Nīca parish in the Nīca municipality, Rucava parish in the Rucava municipality and Liepāja city. The **board of the FLAG is also the board of the LAG**. There are four representatives of the fisheries sector, which equates to 40 % of the private/NGO sector representation.

Contact information

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<http://www.draugiem.lv/www.lrpartneriba.lv/>

Language information

Native language: Latvian

Language	Basic level	Intermediate level	Good level
English	X		
<i>German</i>	X		
<i>Russian</i>			X