

FLAG Factsheet: Laukiem Jurai FLAG

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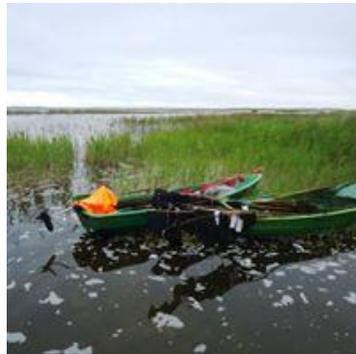
Country: Latvia

Region: Riga

Area: Municipalities of Engure (Smārde, Engure and Lapmežciems parishes) and Tukums (Zentene, Slampe, Tume, Degole, Jaunsāti, Džūkste and Lestene parishes), Jūrmala city

Code: LV204

Operational: 2007-2013 and 2014-2020 programming periods



AREA

Description of the area and its main challenges

The FLAG is situated in the central part of Latvia close to the capital city – Riga. It covers around 75 km of the coastline along the Gulf of Riga. The area has notable **inland water sources** like the Engure, Kaņieris, Sloka and Valgums lakes. The coastal area has a well-developed **fish processing** (14 enterprises that employ around 800 people) and tourism sectors (66 enterprises that count for over 200 jobs). **Agriculture** is also playing a key role in the local economy. The unemployment rate of the area is at 4,4% which is below that of the neighboring regions.

The main challenge in the FLAG area is the **population decrease** which is accompanied by a **reduction of the provision of public services**. The **lack of well-equipped recreational areas** along the coast of the Gulf of Riga also reduces the attractiveness of the area for tourists and residents alike. As the FLAG area is partly covered by Ķemeri National Park and several other protected areas, **protecting biodiversity and cultural heritage** are other important challenges in the area.

Population: 73 668

Population Density [Inhabitants/ km²]: 55.96

Surface area [km²]: 1316.38

Protected areas: The main protected areas are the Ķemeri National Park (NATURA 2000) and the Engure Lake.

Total employment in fisheries: approx. 1061 FTE

1. **Fishing:** fishing rights issued to 253 people
2. **Aquaculture:** 0
3. **Processing:** 14 companies (approx. 808)

Women employment in fisheries: no data available

STRATEGY

Short summary of the FLAG strategy

The FLAG strategy focuses on the following main objectives:

- Support existing resource-based businesses in triggering innovation
- Support to new businesses in fisheries, processing and other marine-related economic activities
- Sustainable management and use of natural resources of the Kemer National Park and promotion of the fisheries cultural heritage
- Improve tourist accommodation and tourism-related activities in the 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	4	15
Supporting diversification	4	15
Enhancing and capitalising on the environmental assets	5	35
Promoting social wellbeing and cultural heritage	5	35
Strengthening the role of fisheries communities in local development	4	Horizontal objective included in above objectives

Budget information

Total public budget allocated to the FLAG for 2014-2020: €1 438 339.55

EMFF: €1 222 588.58

Member State co-financing: €215 750.93

Source of co-financing: national

Multi-funding: EAFRD – €696 200 including national co-financing of 68%

Project examples and ideas

- Diversification of tourist activities in coastal areas
- Foster the creation of fisheries thematic villages in the municipality of Engure

- Improve recreational infrastructure along the coast to boost tourist activities

Calls for projects

The first call for projects was launched in 2016 (closed on 2 May 2016).

The calls for projects are launched separately for each strand of the strategy once a year and twice a year specifically for business development projects.

Information regarding the calls for proposals is available on the website of the FLAG: www.plj.lv

Thematic expertise and cooperation

The FLAG is interested in cooperation projects focused on the following themes:

- Touristic activities along coastal areas and promoting traditional crafts;
- Cultural activities in inland areas to promote the fisheries heritage;
- Sustainable use of protected areas and campaigns raising awareness.

No budget has been defined for cooperation.

PARTNERSHIP

Lead partner or Responsible Legal Entity

Biedrība "Partnerība laukiem un jūrai" (Association "Partnership for the Land and the Sea")

FLAG members

The FLAG board (decision-making body) consists of nine members, but all 33 members of the FLAG are actively involved.

The FLAG board consists of three representatives of the public sector (municipalities) and six representatives of the private/NGO sector. The private sector is represented by three fishermen, one rural business and one NGO representative.. The NGO representative is also in charge of the youth and women interest's association.

Number of individuals on main decision-making body/ board: 16

% of public actors (on the decision-making body): **33**

% of fisheries actors (in the partnership): **33**

% of environmental actors (in the partnership):⁰¹

% of other private / NGO sector actors (in the partnership): **33**

¹ This information is independent from the consultation of environmental actors during the elaboration of the local development strategy.

Number of individuals/organisations in partnership/ general assembly: 33

Number of individuals on main decision-making body/ board: 9

Number of contracted staff in FLAG [FTE]: 1

Links with LEADER or other CLLD groups:

The FLAG territory is the same as the LEADER territory and the LAG-FLAG is managed by the same entity implementing an integrated local development strategy with separate action plans for each EU Fund. The EMFF co-financed projects can be implemented only in Engure and Lapmežciems parishes of Engure municipality and Jūrmala city.

The board of the FLAG is also the board of the LAG. There are three representatives of the fisheries sector, which accounts for 50 % of the private/NGO sector representation.

Contact information

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FLAG website: www.plj.lv

Facebook: www.facebook.com/laukiemunjurai/

Language information

Native language: Latvian

Language	Basic level	Intermediate level	Good level
English		X	
Russian			X