

**FLAG Factsheet: Jurkante**

*Jūrkante*

**Country:** Latvia

**Region:** Vidzeme

**Area:** Towns of Ainaži, Salacgrīva. Parishes of Ainaži, Salacgrīva, Liepupe, Pāle, Skulte and Viļķene.

**Code:** LV206

**Operational:** 2007-2013 and 2014-2020 programming periods



**AREA**

**Description of the area and its main challenges**

The Jūrkante FLAG is located in the northern part of Latvia and stretches for about 61 km along the Gulf of Riga coast, from Skulte to Ainaži. The FLAG covers two towns (Ainaži, Salacgrīva) and two municipalities made up of six parishes (Ainaži, Salacgrīva, Liepupe, Pāle, Skulte and Viļķene).

The unemployment rate in the FLAG area is 3.6% (2014), which is well below the national average (10.8%) and continues to decline.

There are **three small ports** in the area, which have a strong tradition of fishing and fish processing. One **large processing company** operates in the area and provides 75 % of the sector’s employment.

The area is characterized by its **rich biodiversity**, with a significant number of **protected areas** such as the Stony Beach of Vidzeme, the meadows of Randa, the Salaca River Valley and the North Biosphere Reserve. These areas are renowned for their natural landscapes and scenery, like the Ainaži northern pier, the cliffs of Veczemes and the Salaca river.

The FLAG area is also well known for its **cultural events**, such as the Lamprey Festival, the Festival of “Herring Eaters” and the Sea Festival.

Challenges facing the area include **population loss** and a **decline in the number of coastal fishermen**. Currently there are only a few young fishermen involved in small scale fishing activities. Enterprise and business development in the area is also negatively affected by global competition, as well as the limited purchasing power of the local population. The Russian embargo on European fish products in 2014 has also had a significant impact on the local fisheries sector and continues to affect communities along the coast.

**Population:** 10 091

**Population Density [Inhabitants/ km²]:** 13.4

**Surface area [km<sup>2</sup>]:** 751.5

**Protected areas:** There are twenty protected areas including the North Vidzeme Biosphere Reserve, the Salaca River Valley, the meadows of Randa, the Stony Beach of Vidzeme and the Vitrupe River Valley.

**Total employment in fisheries:** 542 FTE

1. **Fishing:** 51 FTE
2. **Aquaculture:** *no data*
3. **Processing:** 491 FTE

**Women employment in fisheries:** no data

## STRATEGY

### Short summary of the FLAG strategy

The fisheries CLLD strategy focuses on strengthening competitiveness and boosting business development within the fisheries sector, as well as on promoting the use of local natural resources to create business opportunities, and preserving the fisheries cultural heritage.

More specifically, the FLAG strategy aims to:

- Develop and diversify the fisheries sector and reduce the negative effects of seasonality;
- Protect and strengthen environmental resources and contribute to mitigating climate change;
- Promote fisheries areas and improve cultural infrastructure.

### 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	10
Supporting diversification	4	10
Enhancing and capitalising on the environmental assets	4	40
Promoting social wellbeing and cultural heritage	5	40
Strengthening the role of fisheries communities in local development	-	-

### Budget information

Total public budget allocated to the FLAG for 2014-2020: €1 114 198.85

EMFF: €947 069.02

Member State co-financing: €167 129.83

**Source of co-financing:** national

**Multi-funding:** EAFRD – €619 161 including national co-financing of 68%

## Project examples and ideas

- Preservation and promotion of old fishing traditions (restoration and set-up of fisheries related museums, training for young fishermen – establish a school of artisan crafts, etc.);
- Diversification of the fisheries sector (equipment for producing smoked fish, equipment for processing and packaging fish, etc.);
- Eco-friendly use of natural resources (purchase and installation of solar panels and wind energy generators for use in guest houses or other small enterprises in the coastal area, etc.).

## Calls for projects

The FLAG organises calls for projects once a year. The deadline for the first call for projects was the 18<sup>th</sup> of May 2016.

## Thematic expertise and cooperation

*The FLAG is interested in exploring two cooperation ideas:*

- *Sustainable development of coastal areas - development of infrastructure (cycling routes) - with Estonia;*
- *Transfer of fishing traditions, exchange of experience - with Estonia and Finland.*

*No budget has been defined for cooperation.*

## PARTNERSHIP

### Lead partner or Responsible Legal Entity

Biedrība 'Jūrkante' ("Jūrkante" Association)

### FLAG members

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

The board consists of three representatives of the public sector (municipalities) and ten representatives of the private/NGO sector. The private sector is represented by five fishermen and two farmers. There are three NGO representatives, including one youth representative and two representatives of women interests' associations.

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

**% of public actors** (on the decision-making body): 24

**% of fisheries actors** (in the partnership): 38

**% of environmental actors** (in the partnership): 0<sup>1</sup>

**% of other private / NGO sector actors** (in the partnership): 38

**Number of individuals/organisations in partnership/ general assembly:** 45

**Number of individuals on main decision-making body/ board:** 13

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

#### Links with LEADER or other CLLD groups:

The FLAG area is the same as the LEADER area and is administered by the same entity. EMFF co-financing of projects is only possible in the parishes of Skulte, Liepupe, Tūja, Salacgrīva, Svētkiems and Ainaži. The LAG-FLAG manages the implementation of a single local development strategy co-financed by the EMFF, the EAFRD and a national contribution, with separate action plans for each ESI Fund.

The board of the FLAG is also the board of the LAG. There are five representatives of the fisheries sector, which equates to 50 % of the private/NGO sector representation.

#### Contact information

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#### Language information

Native language: Latvian

Language	Basic level	Intermediate level	Good level
English			X
Russian		X	

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