



FLAG Factsheet: Litoral Norte

Grupo de Ação Local Costeiro Litoral Norte

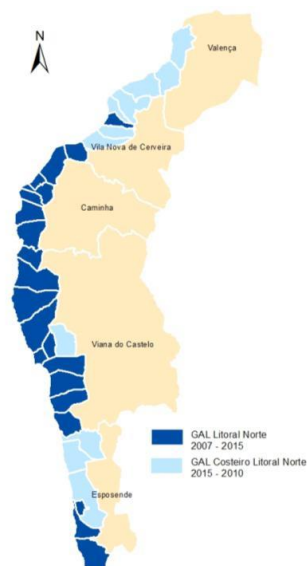
Country: Portugal

Region: Norte (North)

Area: Alto Minho

Code: PT201

Operational: 2007-2013 and 2014-2020 programming period



AREA

Description of the area and its main challenges

Located in the north of Portugal, the Litoral Norte (North Coast) is part of the Alto Minho region (NUT III), which is composed of 25 communes that make up five coastal and inland municipalities (Braga, Viana do Castelo, Caminha, Vila Nova de Cerveira and Valença).

The area has significant **tourism potential**, mainly due to the quality of the natural environment, the rivers course (the Minho and Lima Rivers are designated Sites of Community Importance - Natura 2000), and the coastal zone (16 Blue Flag beaches, Litoral Norte Natural Park).

Along the coast, there are many active fishing communities, which help to preserve the area's maritime identity and traditions. The **quality of the fish** caught here is well recognised, with most

popular species being octopus, sardines, mackerel (sea species), lamprey, sole and shad (migratory species found in local rivers).

Other activities associated with the "blue economy" include **ship building and repair**, and **offshore renewable energy production**.

The development of the maritime economy is a strategic priority for the region and is essential to preserving the social and cultural fabric of the area.

Specific challenges:

1. Protect the area's biodiversity and improve the quality of coastal ecosystems and environmental, heritage and cultural resources generally.
2. Strengthen the area's maritime culture and heritage.
3. Develop the North Coast as a tourism destination by promoting maritime activities, as well as environmental and cultural tourism.
4. Strengthen local institutional capital.
5. Enhance the added value of activities, products and services related to the sea.
6. Diversify activities in fishing areas by promoting innovation and the transformation of marine resources into new products and services.
7. Provide more structured and consistent support to local entrepreneurs.
8. Facilitate the accreditation of skills associated with the development of maritime activities.
9. Increase the employability of residents and help to maintain and create jobs and increase opportunities for skilled employment.
10. Promote social inclusion and cohesion.

Population: 98 960 inhabitants (INE 2011)

Population Density [Inhabitants/ km²]: 414

Surface [area/km²]: 238,65

Coastal or inland: 51.5 kms of coastline; 30 kms of river course (Minho River)

Protected areas: One protected area: Litoral Norte (Northern coast) Natural Park; two Sites of Community Importance included in the Natura 2000 Network: the Lima River and Minho River.

Employment in fisheries: 481

Fishing: 481

Aquaculture:

Processing: *No data*

Women employment in fisheries: 35

STRATEGY

Short summary of the FLAG strategy

The strategy proposed for the Litoral Norte presents the following vision for the development of the area:

"A territory that values its maritime and fishing resources and traditions, while supporting new opportunities for economic development and job creation."

Realising this vision for the Litoral Norte is based on the pursuit of the following strategic objectives:

1. To promote and strengthen the different features of the area, in particular its environmental sustainability, and its heritage and maritime culture.
2. To support increased competitiveness, diversification, entrepreneurship and innovation in the local economy and in the maritime activities.
3. To support skills development and accreditation, and promote employment, employability and inclusion.
4. To strength the area’s social and institutional capital, enhance its visibility and improve the quality of local governance.

Importance of the following objectives for the strategy of the FLAG

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	30%
Supporting diversification	5	30%
Enhancing and capitalising on the environmental assets	3	5%
Promoting social well being and cultural heritage	3	5%
Strengthening the role of fisheries communities in local development	5	30%

Project examples and ideas

To consolidate the good results achieved in the last programming period, the FLAG will build on the dynamics generated by a series of flagship project, such as:

The Sea Villages: this concept was developed in the 2007-2014 programming period and is also assuming an important role in the 2014-2020 Litoral Norte (North Coast) Strategy. The original project will be reinforced and will be now be one of the main priorities of the Coastal LAG. In the 2014-2020 programme, the project will be further developed with the creation of a **Sea Villages Network**, which will contribute to the sustainability of fishing communities and to the promotion of their endogenous entrepreneurship capacities. The concept will also be **extended to other fishing communities**.

Promotional campaigns for artisanal products at national/international scale. Building on a project developed by **Vianapesca**, a producer organisation of small-scale and medium-sized fleet operators from Northern Portugal, which developed a commercial strategy to boost

sales of canned fish products and consolidate a commercial network at national and international level. A possible future project would be to further develop **marketing activities** for locally produced and emblematic seafood such as lamprey, sole or Allis shad, and seaweed, and to invest in **new production processes**.

Calls for projects

Not available yet. To date there is no specific national legislation relating to the launch of calls for applications.

Thematic expertise and cooperation

- Development of maritime tourism;
- Development of the Sea Villages Network;
- Diversification of activities in fisheries areas;
- Adding value and innovation in the use of maritime resources and products.

Type of cooperation projects foreseen

Inter-territorial (within your Member state): X

Transnational: X

Sea basin: Atlantic

Other: Cross border

Budget available for cooperation [€]: *No data available*

PARTNERSHIP

Lead partner or Responsible Legal Entity

Comunidade Intermunicipal do Alto Minho (CIM Alto Minho) (inter-municipal body)

Other key actors/organisations in the partnership

The partnership governance model is supported by a **Partnership Protocol**, signed by 49 local and regional entities, which are considered fundamental to the development of the Litoral Norte (North Coast) development strategy. These entities are part of the **General Council** of the Coastal LAG Litoral Norte. The private sector represents 75% of the members of the partnership, covering the main intervention areas, namely:

- Associations of professional fishermen, including seven fishermen's associations, one producer organisation and one insurance co-operative;
- The business sector, including: fishing boat owners (7), enterprises engaged in the production, commercialization and processing of fisheries products (4), aquaculture businesses (1), shipbuilding businesses (2), and other business activities related to the sea, including maritime enterprises (2);
- Private associations, including business associations (2), rural development associations (rural CLLD) (3) and one yacht club;
- The tourism sector, including: a private association of tourism enterprises and a hoteliers association;

- A private association that promotes maritime culture and a business incubation association.

There are 12 public entities, including: five local authorities, two inter-municipal communities, one higher education institution, one institution of maritime technology, a maritime education and research institute; and three State bodies responsible for key sectors of the maritime economy (ports, fish markets, coastal management).

% of public actors (on the decision-making body): 43%

% of fisheries actors: 43%

% of other (non-fisheries) private / NGO sector actors: 14%

% of environmental actors¹ 0%

Number of individuals/organisations in partnership/ general assembly: 49

Number of individuals on main decision-making body/ board: 7

Links with LEADER or other CLLD groups

FLAG territory is the same as (or overlaps with) one or several CLLD territory/territories: with two rural CLLD groups	yes
FLAG shares its legal structure with a Leader LAG/CLLD group	no
FLAG shares certain (how many?) board members with a Leader LAG/CLLD group	N/A
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? The three CLLD groups in the territory – the Coastal LAG Litoral Norte (FLAG), led by CIM Alto Minho, the ADRIL and the ADRIMINHO (Rural LAG's) – are partners in several projects and territorial development initiatives.	yes
FLAG has formal cooperation with Leader or other CLLD groups A protocol of joint procedures has been signed between the CLLD groups, which aims to promote synergies between the different funding instruments (EMFF, EAFRD, ERDF and ESF).	yes

Budget information

Total public budget allocated to the FLAG for 2014-2020 (a+b) [€]: 2 760 928.05

(a) EMFF [€]: 2 400 807

(b) Member State co-financing [€] 360 121.05

Source of co-financing (national/ regional/ provincial): National

Multi-funding:

EFRD [€]: 1 250 000.00

ESF [€]: 750 000.00

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

Contact information

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Facebook <https://www.facebook.com/Grupo-de-Ação-Costeira-do-Litoral-Norte>

Number of contracted staff in FLAG [FTE] 3 (1 FTE and 4 – partial time)

Language information

Language	Basic level	Intermediate level	Good level
English			X
French			X
Spanish		X	