

# CLLD Factsheet for the EMFF: Slovenia



## The Slovenian CLLD Programme

### The CLLD context

Slovenia, a country with a population of 2,06 million people, has a coastline of just 46 km along the northern Adriatic, between Italy and Croatia in the Gulf of Trieste.

Slovenia's employment in the **marine fisheries sector** in 2012 was estimated at 107 jobs, corresponding to 63 full-time equivalents (FTEs), down from 77 FTEs in 2008. The scrapping of vessels under the EFF, including the two largest vessels, played a role in this. However, between 2013-2014 there was growth in marine fishing employment of 9%. The value of fish products landed in 2014 was about €1,29 million.

**Aquaculture** production is growing and has a total market value of about €3,75 million. The number of people employed in sea-based aquaculture and inland water fish farming increased by 8 and 3% respectively between 2013 and 2014.

An overview of the country's fisheries profile is available at [http://ec.europa.eu/fisheries/cfp/emff/doc/op-slovenia-fact-sheet\\_en.pdf](http://ec.europa.eu/fisheries/cfp/emff/doc/op-slovenia-fact-sheet_en.pdf)

### Axis 4 achievements (2007-2013)

Slovenia only had one FLAG with a partnership of 46 members, implementing 20 projects, involving the private fisheries sector in most of them.

Axis 4 made it possible to combine the tradition of commercial sea fishing together with the conservation of natural and maritime cultural heritage in the local area. Through the FLAG partnership, a wide range of local actors (fishermen, marine aquaculture workers, municipalities, scientists, institutions, NGOs and individuals in the field of cultural heritage protection, environmental non-governmental organisations) has been actively involved in initiatives responding to the needs of the local area.

### CLLD objectives and challenges for 2014-2020

The **main challenges** that community-led local development must address in Slovenia's fisheries areas in the coming years are:

- ✓ Old small scale coastal fishing vessels, out-of-date fishing equipment;
- ✓ Low educational level of fishermen and low incomes;
- ✓ The need to strengthen connections between fishermen and other sectors in the community as well as with the scientific and research community;

- ✓ Low visibility of freshwater aquaculture and lack of cooperation and integration of this sector with other sectors (e.g. tourism, culture, catering)

To cope with these challenges, the **objectives for CLLD** in Slovenia for 2014-2020 are:

- ✓ promoting economic growth, social inclusion, job creation and employability and mobility of the workforce in coastal and inland communities that depend on fisheries and aquaculture, including diversification of activities in the fisheries sector and other maritime economy sectors;
- ✓ maintaining the tradition of commercial sea fishing and conserving the natural and maritime cultural heritage of the coastal area;
- ✓ a wider inclusion of local actors in the local development: fishermen, mariculture workers, municipalities, scientists, institutions, NGOs and individuals in the field of cultural heritage protection, environmental organisations and other stakeholders operating in the local area;
- ✓ using the still untapped potential of freshwater aquaculture in rural areas, promoting closer links and cooperation between stakeholders, strengthening the role of sectors and seeking opportunities for additional sources of income;
- ✓ better integration and visibility of the aquaculture sector, increased added value of aquaculture products, promoting innovation at all stages of the supply chain, encouraging networking.

In the **2014-2020 programming period**, **CLLD** covers the **same coastal area of Slovenia** and also includes **inland areas** having aquaculture activities. The total surface area included in EMFF is 4065.6 km<sup>2</sup>. This is an important change compared to the previous period, where only the coastal area was covered. The total CLLD budget has been increased from €2.8 million to €6.6 million, and due to the increasing number of FLAGs from one to four, the average FLAG budget is expected to be approximately €1.68 million (compared to €2.8 million in 2007-2013), see **Error! Reference source not found.**

*Table 1 CLLD Budget in Slovenia*

<b>EMFF budget for CLLD [€]</b>	<b>Proportion of CLLD in EMFF Budget <sup>1</sup></b>	<b>Co-funding [€]</b>	<b>Total budget [€]</b>	<b>Average budget per FLAG [€] *</b>	<b>Number of FLAGs</b>
€5 000 000	26 %	€1 666 667	€6 666 667	€1 666 667 <sup>2</sup>	4

## Multi-fund CLLD in Slovenia

The 2014-2020 programming period envisages the use of CLLD in three ESI Funds, namely the EAFRD, ERDF and EMFF.

<sup>1</sup> Total EMFF budget minus UP3 (Fostering the implementation of the Common Fisheries Policy) and UP6 (Fostering the implementation of the Integrated Maritime Policy). This enables us to compare the budget devoted to CLLD under the EMFF with the budget under the EFF, which did not contain the measures of the current UP3 and UP6.

<sup>2</sup> Note: Each FLAG receives a different budget depending on the development and importance of the fishers/aquaculture sector in the area

The decision on the use of the different funds lies with each FLAG (which implies they need to comply with the conditions of each chosen Fund); in practice, all the four FLAGs use all three Funds.

## The FLAGs and their areas

One LAS Istre FLAG is located on the Adriatic Sea and three FLAGs have inland territories (see **Error! Reference source not found.**).

*Table 2 Overview of FLAG information*

FLAG name	Surface area [km <sup>2</sup> ]	Population [# inhabitants]	Population density [# inhabitants per km <sup>2</sup> ]
LAS DOLINA SOČE	1 088.7	24 253	22.0
LAS POSAVJE	968.2	75 683	78.2
LAS ISTRE	384.4	87 883	228.8
LAS GORENJSKA KOŠARICA	1 624.3	162 024	99.7

## National Network / support to FLAGs

Slovenia's existing Rural Network will also provide support to CLLD groups using EMFF Funds. Networking at national and local level aims at increased integration and cooperation between producers, the scientific-research community, NGOs in the field of environmental protection and the different managing authorities. The Network's short-term action plan is to collect and disseminate information and to organise a CLLD event in 2017.

## Cooperation

Cooperation is mandatory for all FLAGs and the Managing Authority encourages the FLAGs to envisage cooperation in their strategies, both at the inter-territorial and transnational levels.

FLAGs will set their own cooperation budgets as per their needs, and will initiate cooperation projects.

Since Slovenia had a limited experience in FLAG cooperation under Axis 4 (one LAG in 2007 – 2013 period only), support on partner search and information on cooperation proposals from other CLLD groups will be needed.

In September 2016, a cooperation agreement was signed between the coastal FLAG in Koper and the neighbouring Italian and Croatian FLAGs.