



## FLAGs as drivers of green growth



**FARNET’s 6th transnational seminar, which takes place in Olhão, Portugal on the 4-6 June 2012, will focus on the topical issue of green growth.**

The event will look at the role of FLAGs as drivers of green growth in fisheries areas and, in particular, at the opportunities presented by Axis 4. By showcasing projects and approaches, as well as providing opportunities for exchange and networking among FLAGs and other stakeholders, the event aims to provide a platform for fisheries areas to advance their green agendas. The registration process for the event will be opened in early March. [More details...](#)

## Improving coordination of EU funds: cooperation between LAGs and FLAGs



A recent survey by FARNET shows that almost two-thirds of FLAGs (139 groups, or 63%) have developed some kind of formal cooperation with Leader LAGs, while many more engage in informal cooperation. In the context of recent proposals from the European Commission on improving coordination between EU funds in supporting “community-led development”, this experience could provide valuable lessons for the future.

The survey identifies three main “formal” organisational models of cooperation: in 40% of cases (89 FLAGs) the LAG and the FLAG are the same organisation; in another 17% of cases (23 FLAGs), LAGs and FLAGs are managed as “sub partnerships” of a third “accountable body”, usually a local public organisation such as a development partnership responsible for the area; while a further 19% of FLAGs (27) have some sort of formal organisational relationship with the LAG, even though they are separate, independent entities. [More details...](#)

## A charter for FLAG cooperation in the Mediterranean



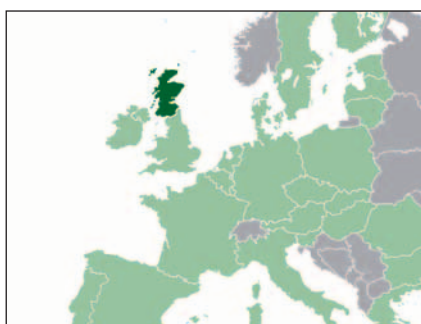
Eighteen FLAGs from Cyprus, France, Greece and Spain recently signed a [Charter for Mediterranean Cooperation](#), which establishes a framework for addressing common issues, through the implementation of joint actions. Initial actions foreseen include environmental and educational activities, as well as promotional actions for local fisheries products and fisheries-related tourism. However, the scope of the charter remains open to further projects that contribute to the development of Mediterranean fisheries areas. Several of the new Italian FLAGs have also expressed an interest in joining the network and are expected to sign the Charter in the coming months.

## New FLAG network in Western Poland



A new network of FLAGs from Western Poland was established in December 2011. This regional network brings together ten inland FLAGs from three voivodships: Wielkopolskie, Lubuskie and Dolnoslaskie. It follows the establishment, in June 2011, of another informal network of eight FLAGs in the Pomorskie voivodship. The Western Poland network will be chaired by FLAG presidents on a rotating basis, changing every three months. The first president is Mr Andrzej Kuczynski from the Pojezierze Dobiegniewskie FLAG.

## Twelve new FLAGs in Scotland



In January 2012, the Scottish Government announced details of its Axis 4 programme, which will support 12 FLAGs, with a total budget of up to £7.6 million. The FLAGs will be distributed across 13 local authority areas: Aberdeenshire, Angus, Dumfries & Galloway, East Lothian, Fife, Highland, Moray, Orkney, Shetland, Scottish Borders, Western Isles, and one FLAG covering Argyll & Bute and South Ayrshire. It is expected that the FLAGs will be operational by the spring of 2012. [More details...](#)

## Focus on Ostrobothnia, Finland



In Ostrobothnia, Finland, the fisheries sector is currently experiencing a period of intensive development, with notable successes in areas such as the tanning of fish skin, fishing for cyprinids and the processing of bream. This development is being supported by the local FLAG (Aktion Österbotten), which is seeking to promote small scale fisheries business and to develop the market for wild-caught fish. To date, a total of 39 projects have been supported, resulting in an investment of over €1.0 million in the local fisheries sector. Guy Svanbäck, Executive Manager of the Ostrobothnian Fisheries Association [tells us more...](#)

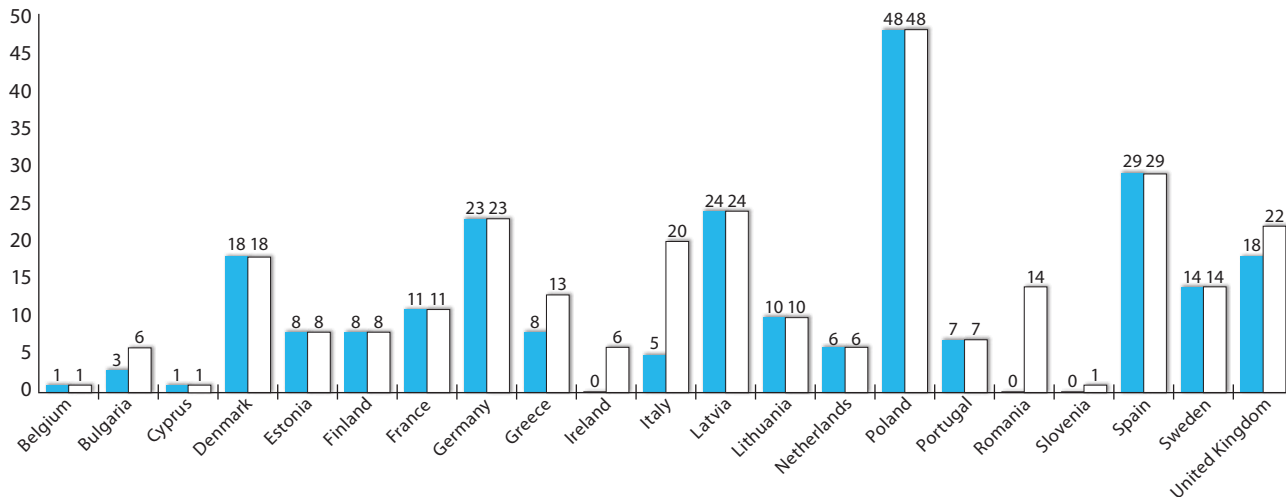
## FARNET "buzzing" on the social networks



Having launched its first [discussion group on LinkedIn](#) just over two years ago, FARNET now has almost 400 members and is hosting discussions in over a dozen thematic and national subgroups. To further enhance its online presence, FARNET also recently launched its own [YouTube channel](#), where videos produced by FLAGs and other stakeholders can be shared, commented on, and "buzzed" across the web. And, for anyone who wants even more FARNET, you can now also find us on [Twitter](#), where you can get round-the-clock news and updates on Axis 4, fisheries and EU policy.

## State of play: 242 FLAGS with approved strategies

By February 2012, a total of 242 FLAG were active in 18 Member States. Amongst the newcomers, seven groups were recently selected in the Canary islands (Spain) and another 15 in the UK.



■ Number of groups with approved strategies by February 2012   □ Number of groups planned

## Forthcoming events and activities

4-6 June 2012	FARNET transnational seminar on opportunities in the environmental sector	Olhão, Portugal
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## Other news

### EFF interim evaluation



In January 2012, the Directorate General for Fisheries and Maritime Affairs published an Interim Evaluation of the EFF 2007-2013. From an Axis 4 perspective, the main positives cited are the strong involvement of local authorities and the Leader experience. The valuable contribution of FARNET is also recognised. The main challenges identified were delays in setting up procedures, access to private financing, the lack of interest from the fisheries sector, and the impact of the financial crisis, especially in Ireland, Greece and Denmark. [More details...](#)

### EU funding for “intelligent” energy



The 2012 call for proposals for the Intelligent Energy Europe (IEE) programme was published on 20 December 2011, with a deadline of 8 May 2012. The programme supports projects that seek to improve energy efficiency, increase the production and consumption of renewables, and promote sustainable transport and mobility. This could include projects in fisheries areas. A database of existing projects can be found on the programme website. [More details...](#)

### Send us your news

The FARNET newsletter is a resource for all those engaged in building a more sustainable future for Europe’s fisheries areas. Please send us news and information on your activities which might be of interest to other groups or actors working in this field. Contact: [info@farnet.eu](mailto:info@farnet.eu)

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**Editor:** European Commission, Directorate-General for Maritime Affairs and Fisheries, Director-General.

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