

Parliament seeks changes to the EMFF and Axis 4



In July 2013, the fisheries (PECH) Committee of the European Parliament adopted a series of amendments to the Commission's proposals for the new European Maritime and Fisheries Fund (EMFF). The Committee voted to reintroduce subsidies for the temporary cessation of fishing activities, the scrapping and replacement of certain small scale fishing vessels, the replacement of certain engines and to support young fishermen.

It also supported amendments of direct relevance to Axis 4, notably on restricting support for diversification to activities within the fisheries sector and on requiring that fisheries sector representatives should hold a majority on FLAG boards. These amendments will be voted on by the full Parliament in October. Once the Parliament has reached its final position, a series of "trilogues" between the Council, the Parliament and the Commission will take place, suggesting a possible delay in the adoption of the EMFF. [Further details...](#)

Polish FLAGs join discussion on CLLD



In June, the FARNET Support Unit participated in a conference for Polish FLAGs on "CLLD in the next EU financing perspective", followed by a discussion on lessons learnt in the current period. In Poland, work on CLLD is being coordinated by the Regional Development Ministry, but the decision on whether or not to use CLLD in the ERDF and ESF rests with the regions, which manage a significant part of these Funds under their regional operational programmes. The regions are also likely to be the intermediate bodies in charge of the CLLD aspects of the EMFF

and the EAFRD from 2014. The ministry is recommending that up to 10% of the ESF and 5% of the ERDF should be implemented through CLLD. Several regions have already expressed an interest in this, but so far only the Kujawsko-Pomorskie region has put forward concrete plans. This involves the creation of a special priority axis in the regional programme, integrating all four funds. In Poland, the aim is to have one strategy and one LAG/FLAG per area, although in the case of FLAGs, exceptional overlapping of areas is being considered.

Biofuels drive cooperation between Finnish and French FLAGs



At the end of May, a delegation led by the [Österbotten FLAG](#) (Finland), travelled to the Basque region of southwest France to explore opportunities for cooperation in areas linked to the fisheries and biofuels sectors. The visit was hosted by the [FLAG Côte Basque-Sud Landes](#) and [IFHVP](#), the French institute for pure vegetable oils. During the visit, the delegation learned about a local scheme for the production of an additive-free biofuel, as well as activities in the areas of pesca-tourism, small-scale fish processing, direct selling, and the promotion of fish through events. A return visit is planned for the spring of 2014. [More details...](#)

UK FLAG visits Fisch vom Kutter project in Germany



In June, Whitehaven fisherman, Mark Wallit, and Paul Crooks, the manager of the [North and West Cumbria FLAG](#), visited the AktivRegion Ostseeküste, on the German Baltic coast, to learn more about the Axis 4-supported [Fisch vom Kutter](#) project. Uwe Sturm, Ostseeküste FLAG manager, took the opportunity to present the visitors with a new brochure, which describes the project's innovative direct sales system for fish, and the economic benefits for the region's traditional fishing businesses. Helped by awareness raising through

FARNET, the project has already inspired similar initiatives in several other countries, such as "[Havfrisk Fisk](#)" in Denmark.

@Drecklyfish – the fish auction on Twitter!



To secure a better income and diversify their customer base, the fishermen in Newlyn, Cornwall (UK), decided to embrace on-line tools to test new markets and add value to their products. A first step was to develop a [website](#) to promote their catch and connect with customers on social media. The fishermen then launched a unique twitter based auction ([@Drecklyfish](#)) in February 2013. This allowed customers to bid online for traceable and locally caught fish, which were delivered directly to their door by the fishermen themselves. After a

successful start with herring and hake, the last trial resulted in a record quick sale of brown-crab. The fishermen involved recently introduced a proposal to the [Cornwall and isles of Scilly FLAG](#) for support to develop their business.

Andalucian FLAG network for women entrepreneurs



Lourdes' "[chin-chin](#)" bar, Maria's "[Mary fashion shop](#)", and Shonia's [fisheries ecotours](#) are just some of the businesses featured on "[Mujeres la Mar de Emprendedoras](#)", a platform promoting the initiatives of female entrepreneurs in seven FLAG areas in Andalusia, Spain. The platform showcases 14 successful local projects led by women. It hosts a series of videos that tell the stories and share the motivations of these women, who have been able to raise the profile of their businesses (many also supported individually by Axis 4) and share

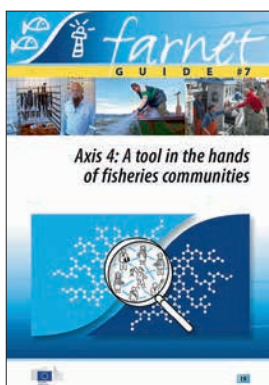
their tips and advice on how to successfully diversify into areas that can breath new life into local economies.

Royal visit to Holderness Coast FLAG



On Tuesday 23 July 2013, Prince Charles was in Bridlington (UK) where he met with members of the fishing industry and visited the [Holderness Coast FLAG](#). Catherine Murphy, from MMO, the EFF Axis 4 managing authority, said: "it was a nice acknowledgement that the Holderness FLAG was included in the royal visit. The Prince said he was pleased that the MMO were committed to making European funding available to fishermen around the coast." Prince Charles also saw projects supported by the FLAG including the restored Bridlington fishing coble and research vessel the Huntress. [More details...](#)

New FARNET publication: Axis 4, a tool for fisheries communities



In a relatively short period, Axis 4 has shown that it can contribute to solving some of the main challenges facing fishing communities. In generating several thousand projects, and bringing a much needed dynamism to the local level, it has demonstrated its value as a tool that allows fishermen and fishing communities to take their future into their own hands. The FARNET Support Unit has just produced a [new publication](#) that highlights, in practical terms, what this means for fishing communities in different parts of Europe and how they can use this tool to improve their livelihood.

FLAG input required for Axis 4 study



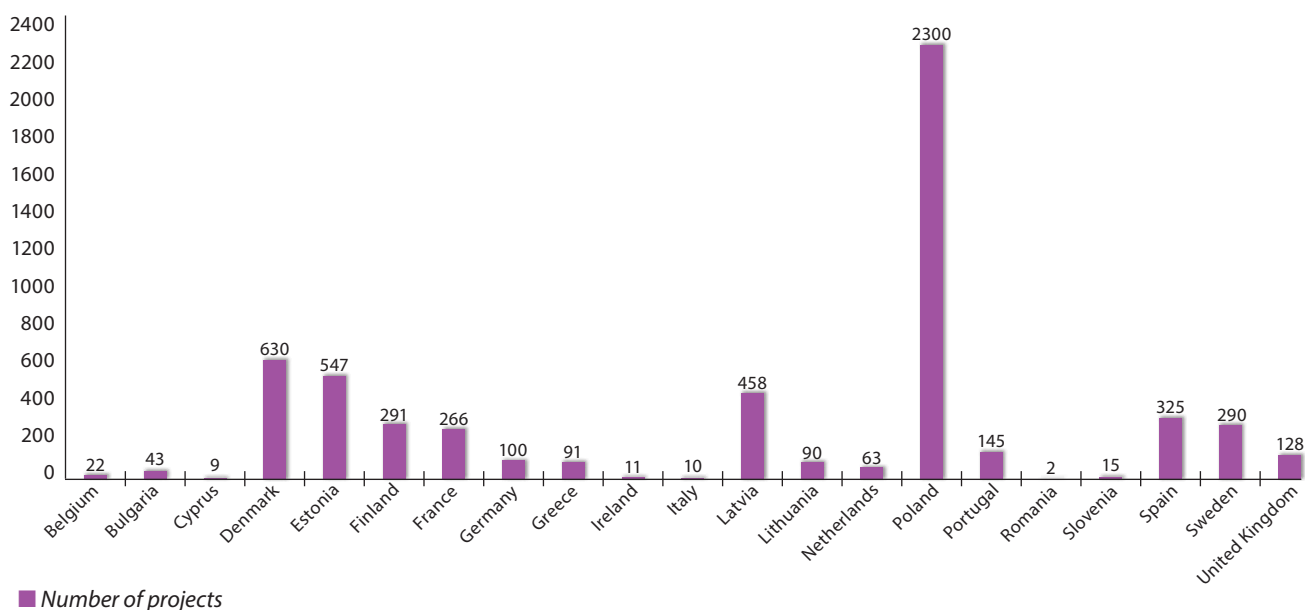
The European Commission recently launched a study on the 'Implementation of Axis 4 of the European Fisheries Fund'. The study will assess the operation of FLAGs, focusing on results, and the delivery systems put in place by the Member States. It will also look at the proposals for strengthening community led local development in the period 2014 to 2020. The study is being carried out by a consortium that includes Capgemini Consulting (NL), Rambøll Management Consulting (DK), Wageningen University (NL) and a team of national experts. In the coming weeks, all FLAGs will be contacted and

asked to complete an on-line questionnaire. Twenty in-depth case studies will also be carried out, as well as interviews with managing authorities.

State of play: 5 836 projects and counting!

By August 2013, the 303 FLAG now active across 21 Member States had supported an estimated 5 836 projects¹.

5 836 Axis 4 projects



■ Number of projects

¹ This figure is based on information provided voluntarily by managing authorities up to August 2013.

Forthcoming events and activities

7-10 October 2013	OPEN DAYS – 11th European Week of Regions and Cities	Brussels (B)
22-24 October 2013	FARNET Seminar: Connecting fisheries and the tourist economy	Cagliari, Sardinia (IT)

Other news

LIFE funding for fisheries and coastal areas



In July, the European Commission approved €281.4 million for 248 new LIFE+ projects, a number of which have a strong coastal or fisheries dimension. These include: a French project on developing sustainable approaches to shore-based sea angling; Italian projects on managing marine litter, reducing the impact of ghost fishing gear, and trout population recovery; a Maltese project on marine Natura 2000 site designation; a Danish project on the restoration of coastal habitats; and an Estonian project on restoring freshwater habitats. [Further details...](#)

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