

Sweden to apply CLLD to all ESI funds



Sweden has become one of the first EU countries to confirm its intention to apply Community-Led Local Development (CLLD) in all four European Structural and Investment (ESI) Funds.

At a special launch event on the 8th of April, representatives of the ministries concerned explained that, in future, local action groups will not only have the possibility to seek funding for fisheries and rural development, but also to address social issues and skills development. There will also be a single managing authority, the Swedish Board of Agriculture, responsible for all three programmes that include CLLD. Expressions of interest from local partnerships are being requested by May 2014 and it is expected that successful groups will be operational by mid-2015. As part of the new arrangements, the Swedish rural network will now become the rural and fisheries network. [More details...](#)

Axis 4 in Croatia



The Croatian EFF programme was formally launched on March 17th in Zagreb. The European Commission and the FARNET Support Unit (FSU) used the opportunity to discuss with the managing authority (MA) and partner organisations the establishment of FLAGs in Croatia and the transferable lessons which could be applied from elsewhere in Europe. There are no FLAGs foreseen under the current programme in Croatia but there are a number of coastal LAGs and there is strong interest in how this could be developed in the future. A joint workshop involving the fisheries and rural development MAs will be held later this year to explore the future development of FLAGs.

Cooperation between Portuguese and English FLAGs



In February, fishermen and members of the [Além Tejo FLAG](#) in Portugal visited the [Cornwall and Isles of Scilly FLAG](#) (UK). The visitors learned about Axis 4 projects such as [North Cornish catch](#) and [@DrecklyFish](#). They also made a trip to the fishing town of St Ives, to look at links between [maritime heritage and the arts](#), which are prevalent throughout Cornwall, and to the [Padstow Seafood School](#), where an impressive 75% of students find employment immediately after graduation. The FLAGs are now planning a return visit to Portugal in the summer.

Boat stories from North Devon



North Devon Moving Image (NDMI), a local community film-making organisation, was recently awarded €23,000 by the [North Devon FLAG \(UK\)](#) for the production of a series of short films about the work and lives of local fishermen and people whose lives revolve around working boats. To oversee the project, NDMI has teamed up with local film producer, Jo Stewart-Smith. Jo will work with local film makers on the [Boat Stories project](#), with a view to also promoting and encourage documentary film making in the area. The series is due to be completed by the summer of 2015.

Seaweed ice cream on the move



In November 2011, a tasty new seaweed ice cream made the long journey from the island of Skaro, Denmark, to a FARNET conference in Brussels. Supported by an [Axis 4 cooperation project](#) between the Danish “Small Islands” and “Bornholm” FLAGs, this new culinary innovation is now on the move again, having gained access to the developing Asian market. It is also completing trials to allow for its inclusion on hospital menus. The success of the ice cream, and support of Axis 4, has also inspired the development of other seaweed-based products, such as a wine combining seaweeds and apple juice, and a [“Beach Safari”](#), where tourists can learn about edible seaweed and wild plants.

Much to ‘sea’ in the Shetlands



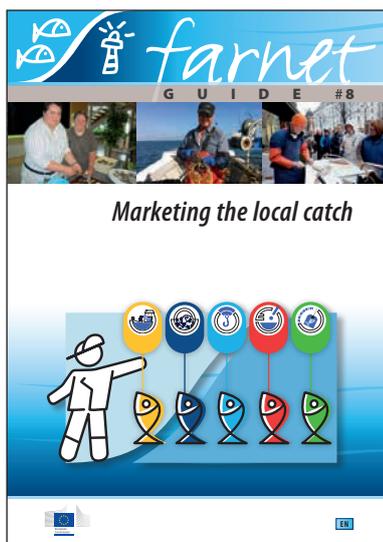
The Shetland Islands’ (Scotland) seafood industry – which is worth around €360 million a year, surpassing the value of the oil, gas, agriculture, tourism, and creative industries combined – has launched a campaign to build awareness of its social and economic importance. Supported by the Shetland FLAG, the [‘So Much to Sea’](#) project includes a series of community events, a new film, and wider promotions aimed at increasing understanding of what the seafood industry means to Shetland and its communities.

Inseparable Greece



Greek and Cypriot FLAGs were involved in promoting Axis 4 at a European Commission organised [Inseparable event](#) in Athens on March 17th. Based on the theme, “Eat, buy and sell fish responsibly in Athens: let juveniles become parents!”, the event was part of the pan-European information campaign on the new Common Fisheries Policy and was dedicated to sustainable fishing in the Mediterranean and to the protection of juvenile marine species. Two Greek FLAGs, Aneth and Lesvos, as well as the Larnaca FLAG from Cyprus, presented examples of Axis 4 projects focusing on sustainable local fisheries and aquaculture. You can now watch the event on [YouTube](#).

New FARNET guide



In 2013, the FARNET seminar, "Marketing the Local Catch", brought together stakeholders from across Europe to exchange ideas and experience on the marketing of locally caught fish and seafood. The outputs of this seminar, including some inspiring project examples, are now available in the latest [FARNET guide](#), a fully illustrated handbook that provides FLAGs and industry professionals with tips, insights and ideas on the different aspects of product marketing.

Study highlights the benefits of Axis 4



A study of Axis 4 of the EFF, to be published shortly, has found that considerable employment benefits and some important qualitative results have already been achieved by FLAGs and beneficiaries. Initiated by the European Commission in September 2013, the study looked at the implementation of Axis 4 in 15 Member States and aimed to: generate an early set of quantitative results; identify the main challenges and success factors; and provide country-specific recommendations on improving the implementation of CLLD in 2014-2020. More details will be published in the [FARNET Magazine \(no.10\)](#).

The fish recognition app

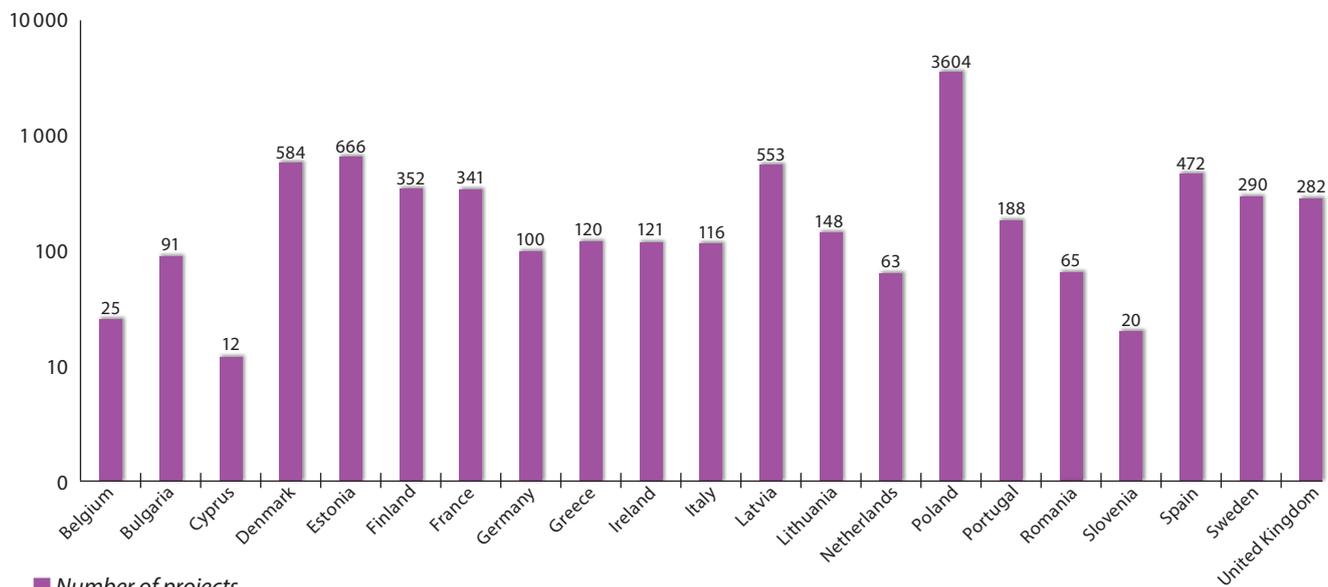


Imagine photographing a fish with your smartphone and instantly being able to identify it and learn more about the species... Well, this is now possible thanks to a French start-up, [Wassa](#), which recently helped the [Nausicaá Aquarium](#) in Boulogne-sur-Mer, France, to develop a "magic eye" for its app. This recognition software enables visitors to instantly identify different fish species. Wassa is now looking for partners to develop similar apps that could be applied to diving trails or in fisheries. And you? How would you use this kind of technology? Join the discussion on Facebook. The Nausicaá app is available on [iOS](#) and [Android](#).

State of play: 8 139 projects and counting!

By May 2014, the 307 FLAG now active across 21 Member States had supported an estimated 8 139 projects¹.

8 139 Axis 4 projects



1. This figure is based on information provided voluntarily by managing authorities up to May 2014.

Forthcoming events and activities

19-20 May 2014	European Maritime Day 2014	Bremen (D)
8 June 2014	World Oceans Day	worldwide
06-09 October 2014	OPEN DAYS – 12th European Week of Regions and Cities	Brussels (B)

Other news

Maritime spatial planning agreement



A draft directive establishing a framework for [maritime spatial planning](#) was agreed by the European Parliament and Council on March 6th. Once it enters into force, the Directive will help Member States cooperate more closely over cross-border sea areas, making it easier to coordinate sea-based activities, including the establishment of a coherent network of Marine Protected Areas.

A new strategy for coastal and maritime tourism



The European Commission has published a new "[European Strategy for more Growth and Jobs in Coastal and Maritime Tourism](#)". Recognising the sector's potential to promote sustainable development and job creation, the strategy sets out 14 actions to be undertaken at EU level, to support activities at Member State and regional level.

Major fishing nations commit to ending fleet overcapacity



On March 14, a [joint statement](#) on the adoption of measures to tackle global fleet overcapacity was signed by the EU and major fishing nations, including the United States, Colombia, Japan, Philippines and Indonesia.

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