

Last chance to influence new programmes

Tools for FLAGS & local stakeholders



The [Regulation](#) governing the EMFF was adopted on the 15 May, while the [financial allocations](#) per Member State were also agreed in mid-June. The timetable is now firmly set for the revised Partnership Agreements to be submitted to the Commission by 21 July and the Operational Programmes by 21 October, at the latest.

The Operational Programmes could then be approved within six months – by the end of March 2015. Member States should consider whether to use preparatory support to cover the transition period for existing FLAGS and for preparing new partnership. They should also ensure that the procedures for selecting FLAGS are in place as soon as possible after the programmes are approved. This period represents the last opportunity for FLAGS to ensure that their views about the priorities for fisheries areas and communities are taken into account. More information is available on the [FARNET website](#). Updates will also be provided in the [FAQs section](#).

CLLD guide for local actors



The European Commission recently published a '[Guidance on Community-Led Local Development for Local Actors](#)', which provides practical tools and suggestions for implementing CLLD for those directly involved in local action groups. For the 2 600 existing FLAGS and LAGs, the guide explains in more detail how the Commission intends to strengthen local partnerships and ensure high quality strategies that have a clear results orientation, and are responsive to changing external conditions. The guide also outlines how cities and other local stakeholders can use [CLLD](#) as a tool to meet other existing and emerging challenges (social exclu-

sions, climate change, etc.), drawing in particular on the ESF and ERDF. This guide is complementary to the [guidance document for managing authorities](#). Information on these and other tools is available on the [FARNET website](#).

Fish online



In Sweden, the Blekinge FLAG¹ has supported the launch of a new online direct sales system called [FiskOnline](#). Based on the same principles as the [FischvomKutter](#) or [Havfrisk](#) projects, FiskOnline allows customer to order fresh fish directly from local fishermen, whole or filleted, and to choose the nearest port for pick-up. The project is the brainchild of local fishermen, Bengt Larsson and Glenn Fridh, and was launched in April 2014, in Karlskrona, in the presence of the Blekinge County Governor, Ms. Berit Andor Bylund, and local chef, Filip Gamelius, who was also on hand to cook the latest FiskOnline catch. So far it has been welcomed by local fishermen: "For us, it is both a good and new way to sell our fish. It allows us to develop and continue the small-scale and coastal fisheries," say brothers, Björn and Jimmy Andersson, fishermen from the island of Sturkö.

Be seen on Twitter



Hashtags (#) are used before a word on Twitter to 'tag' it and make it easier to find (see [online FARNET toolbox on social media](#)). #AgriChatUK illustrates how this can be used as a powerful tool: launched in April 2011 as the first UK-based agricultural hashtag on Twitter, #AgriChatUK provides those involved in agriculture and farming with a means to share ideas, discuss topical issues or simply to connect. After winning an innovative communication award at the European conference, [Telling the Story](#), in 2013, #AgriChatUK now has more than 12 000 followers, and has also inspired

similar initiatives in other countries. With more and more fishermen and FLAGs now using social media, what about a #FLAGfishtalk? Or do you have better idea? Share it on Twitter @EU_FARNET.

CLLD event by the European LEADER Association



On the 28 May, the European LEADER Association for Rural Development (ELARD) organised a conference on "[Community-Led Local Development at the dawn of 2014-2020](#)". The programme included presentations on the CLLD guidance documents (see above) and the LEADER measure in the new Rural Development Regulation. There was also a sharing of experiences and ideas on the implementation of CLLD in rural, urban and fisheries areas. During the event it was announced that the European Economic and Social Committee is preparing a policy report (opinion) on CLLD as a tool of cohesion policy in local, rural, urban and peri-urban areas. The discussion focused mainly on the need for a flexible and efficient implementation framework to realise the full value added of the bottom-up approach, and ensure that CLLD benefits all areas.

¹ This article and photo were provided by Ingmar Elofsson from the Blekinge FLAG.

LinkedIn group on CLLD

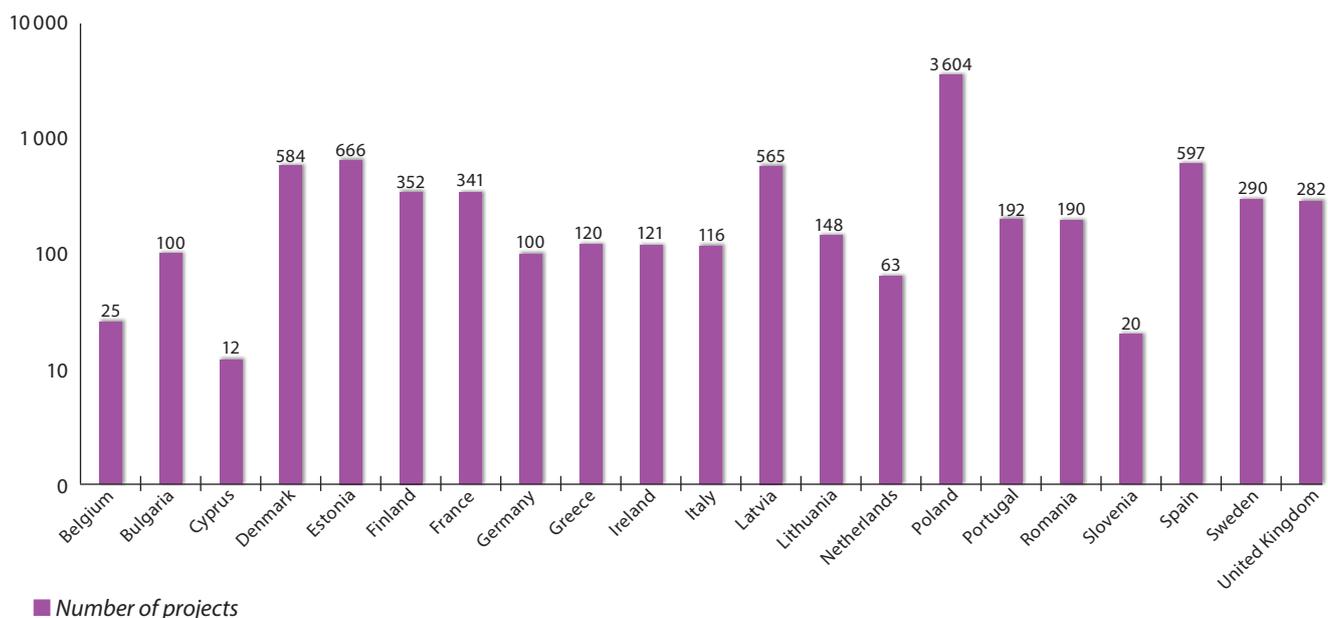


In the wake of the successful [jubilee conference](#) organised by [AEIDL](#) (the European Association for Information on Local Development) in February 2014, an online [discussion group](#) has been launched on LinkedIn. Reinventing Europe through Local Initiatives is the place to go to share your stories, questions and ideas on how local initiatives can make a difference in creating the Europe of tomorrow.

State of play: 8 488 projects and counting!

By June 2014, the 307 FLAG now active across 21 Member States had supported an estimated 8 488 projects².

8 488 Axis 4 projects



Forthcoming events and activities

06-09 October 2014	OPEN DAYS – 12th European Week of Regions and Cities	Brussels (B)
22-24 September 2014	Southwest FLAG Lab	Barcelona (SP)

² This figure is based on information provided voluntarily by managing authorities up to June 2014.

Other news

Photo competition for EU-funded projects



The European Commission recently launched the 3rd edition of the *Europe in My Region* photo competition on the [Commission's Facebook page](#). Photos of *any* EU co-financed project inside the EU are eligible and participants can submit up to three photos, which should include evidence of the EU funding (on a billboard, plaques, posters, etc.). This could be an excellent showcase for FLAGS/Axis 4 projects, which invariably have strong visual appeal. The competition runs until the 25 August and prizes (camera equipment and a trip to the [Open Days](#) event in Brussels) will be presented in Brussels in October.

Tackling marine litter



The European Environment Agency's latest edition of Signals (2014) addresses the topic of "[Well-being and the environment](#)" and includes a section on marine litter (p35-39), which presents a growing risk to ecosystems, animals and human health. The EEA has also developed [Marine LitterWatch](#), which includes a free app to monitor marine litter on Europe's beaches and support the creation of clean-up communities. Another related initiative, [Litterati](#), is using social media to "crowdsource" and track global clean-up efforts.

Follow FARNET on



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 others working in this field. Contact: info@farnet.eu

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

Disclaimer: Whilst the Directorate-General for Maritime Affairs and Fisheries is responsible for the overall production of this newsletter, it is not responsible for the accuracy, content or views expressed within particular articles. The European Commission has not, save where otherwise stated, adopted or in any way approved any view appearing in this publication and statements should not be relied upon as statements of the Commission's or the Directorate-General for Maritime Affairs and Fisheries' views. The European Commission does not guarantee the accuracy of the data included in this publication, nor does the European Commission or any person acting on its behalf accept responsibility for any use made thereof.