

Finnish FLAG visits Scottish counterparts



A study group from the Österbotten FLAG in Finland visited Scotland in September as part of a networking and learning journey.

The 30-strong group, comprising fishermen, community activists, industry representatives, project promoters, the Ostrobothnian Fisheries Association, and a fishmonger, made a five-day tour of the east coast of Scotland, from Eyemouth in the Scottish Borders FLAG area, through Arbroath in the Angus FLAG area, and on up to Elgin, in the Moray FLAG area and Fraserburgh in the Aberdeenshire FLAG area. The group saw a wide variety of Axis 4-funded projects, including a specialist crab processor, a major exporter of live shellfish, Eyemouth Harbour Trust, the preparation of PGI status 'Smokies' in Arbroath, the installation of wifi at Fraserburgh fish markets, and the Covesea Skerries lighthouse in Lossiemouth. This visit helped to establish relationships that could be a basis for further cooperation in the new programming period 2015-2020. [More details here...](#)

Polish FLAGs at the FSU



Two Polish FLAGs ([Suwalki-Augustow](#) and [Frog Land](#)) visited the FARNET Support Unit (FSU) in Brussels on the 2 October, in between study visits to cooperation partners in Germany and Holland. The purpose of the study visits was to learn more about aquaculture production in the German and Dutch FLAG areas concerned. In Brussels, the Polish FLAG representatives (about 40 in all, mainly board members) also visited their regional representation offices (the regional authority of the Suwalki-Augustow FLAG, i.e. the Podlaskie region, has

already decided to implement multi-funded CLLD, while the region of the Frog Land FLAG is probably not going to use this option). At the FSU, the groups learned more about the services on offer and about Axis 4 in the current and future periods.

Parisienne fish and chic!



On the 27 September, "Causses", the famous gourmet store in Paris, opened a new aisle dedicated to canned Portuguese sardines and mackerel. This sector accounts for around 3 500 jobs in Portugal and the high-profile listing in Paris is part of a promotional campaign led by the Portuguese industry and supported by the FLAG Litoral Norte. Another project supported by the FLAG led to the opening of a canned fish shop in Lisbon, by the association Vianapesca. Read more ([in Portuguese](#) and [in French](#))

Axis 4 in 4 minutes max



In March 2015, all roads will lead to Brussels for an important stock-taking event to mark the transition from the 2007-2013 Axis 4 programme to the new CLLD 2014-2020 programme. To ensure that this event has maximum impact, the FSU is asking FLAGs for short, snappy videos about the projects, the people and the outputs of Axis 4 on the ground, which can be featured at the event. For more information about this call for videos click [here](#). Meanwhile, a number of FLAGs are also preparing their final Axis 4 events (Belgium, Galicia, Bremerhaven,...), and a discussion on this topic was recently started on [LinkedIn](#).

A new website for the German national network



The German national network for Axis 4 has developed a new [website](#), which mirrors the visual identity of FARNET. The site presents a profile of the 23 fisheries areas in Germany, their FLAGs and the projects supported. It also acts as a relay for FARNET publications and German best practices. The website is an important tool for the national network, which is based in Bremerhaven and aims to support both regional and cross-border cooperation. Twice a year the network members meet to share experiences and to discuss current developments in the fisheries areas or in the industry. The focus is on the involvement and participation of all the stakeholders in fisheries areas.

The first Axis 4 gaming app



The first Axis 4 tablet game is now available on Android. The [Kitkan viisas](#) game puts users in the waders of a Finnish fisherman exploring the lakes of the [Kainuu Koillismaa FLAG area](#). The game is intended to boost awareness among tourists, children and their parents about local fish species, the environment and local traditions. It was developed by a partnership involving fishermen, the FLAG, and a local webgame design company, and is available on the [Google Playstore](#) in Finnish, English and Russian.

More about CLLD!

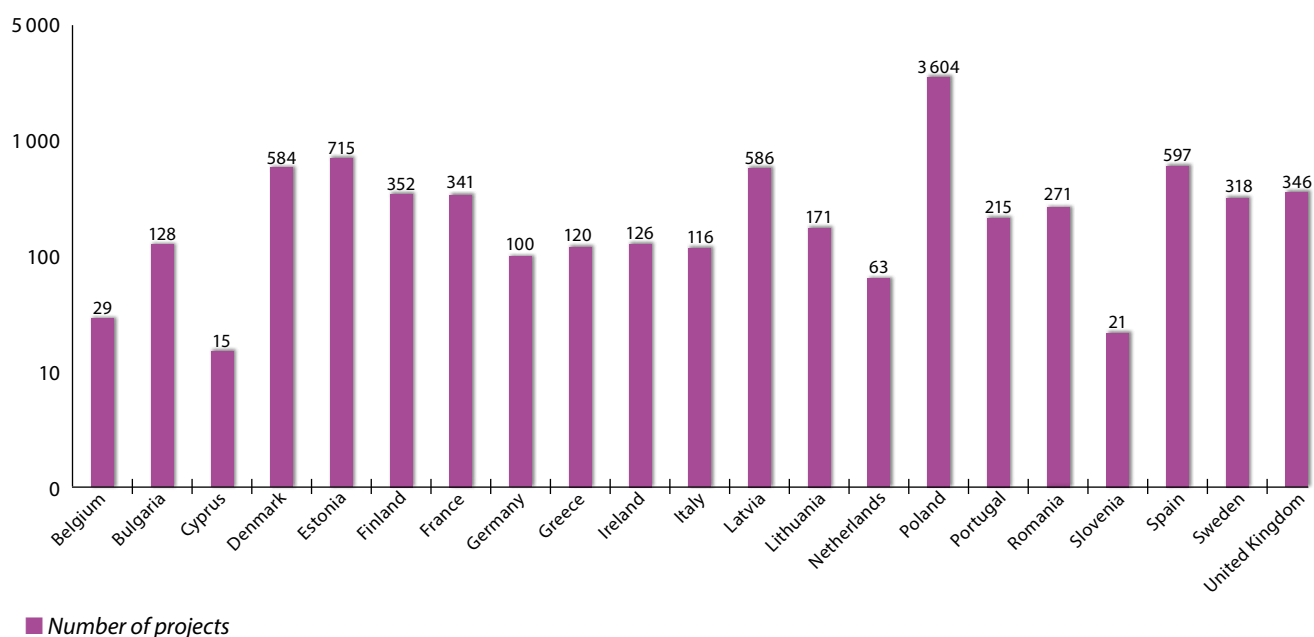


The European Commission's CLLD guidance document for local actors is now available in 22 languages and can be [downloaded](#) from the Europa website. Also, if you are involved in preparing for CLLD at managing authority level, or if your FLAG wants to help your regional or national authorities to better understand CLLD, take a look at our new [Questions & Answers](#) section on programming CLLD in the EMFF.

State of play: 8 818 projects and counting!

By October 2014, the 312 FLAGs now active across 21 Member States had supported an estimated 8 818 projects¹.

8 818 Axis 4 projects



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

Forthcoming events and activities

09-11 December 2014	Blue Growth in the Mediterranean and the Black Sea: developing sustainable aquaculture for food security	Bari (IT)
20 January 2015	Atlantic Action Plan at the Stakeholder Platform conference	Porto (P)
21-23 January 2015	Coastal Futures 2015	London (UK)
26-30 January 2015	World Inland Fisheries Congress	Rome (IT)

Other news

The importance of inshore fishing



The [GIFS](#) (Geography of Inshore Fishing and Sustainability) project, an INTERREG 2 seas project initiated in 2012, concluded in September 2014 with a number of valuable outputs, including a [Toolkit](#) to help improve understanding of the importance of inshore fisheries. The toolkit contains tips and techniques for multiple stakeholders, including local fisheries communities, to evaluate, integrate and communicate the broad value of inshore fishing. With six partners from four Member States (UK, FR, BE, NL), the project assessed the socio-economic and cultural importance of inshore fishing to coastal economies in the Channel maritime area. The highlights of the project and its linkages with the tourism economy in fisheries areas can also be found in the [Tourfish magazine](#).

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