

# COOPERATION IDEA

## *Fisheries Local Action Groups*

### **The round goby (*Neogobius melanostomus*) as a potential commercial opportunity in the Baltic**

*The round goby* (*Neogobius melanostomus*) is an invasive species now common throughout the Baltic region, with economic potential. Originating in the Caspian Sea with strong markets in Ukraine and Belarus, which could be developed in Europe. This project would like to involve FLAGS that are interested in and/ or with experience of catching and selling round goby from the Baltic Sea.

#### Objectives

The knowledge of the fisheries and commercial potential of this species is still poor around the Baltic Sea. This project therefore seeks to develop concrete/ bankable proposals over the next 12 months to support projects to develop the fishery in different regions of the Baltic, with a focus on: a) the fishing methodology and gears; and b) the market for round goby products.

#### Proposed actions

Over the next 12 months this pilot project will carry out a scoping exercise towards producing a proposal in support of a Baltic-wide project to exploit the resource.

#### Desired results

Ultimately develop a new commercial opportunity for small-scale fishermen in the region based on this invasive species contributing to improving the sustainability of the area on environmental, social and economic grounds.

**Thematic category:** Small-scale and coastal fisheries; Fisheries by-products; Gastronomy; Processing; Business support; Promotion and awareness-raising

**Looking for partner located:** in the Baltic

**Cooperation idea proposed by:**

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