Meeting for fisheries Community-Led Local Development
Managing Authorities and National Networks

Brussels, 17-18 May 2017

Participants: Over 40 Managing Authorities (MA) and National Networks (NNs) representatives from 18 countries implementing CLLD

MESSAGES FROM DG MARE

SATISFACTORY

√ FLAG selection

- 301 out of 353 FLAGs have been selected
- Rate has improved in comparison to the previous period

√ Project selection

- Close to 500 projects have already been selected

Mark your calendars! EMFF Stakeholder Conference 12-13 October 2017 in Estonia

The conference will bring together all EMFF stakeholders to look at the future of the EMFF post-2020. DG MARE is counting on you for an in-depth reflection on what has been accomplished so far and where we want to go.

NEEDS IMPROVEMENT

√ Getting FLAGs operational in certain Member States

√ Rate of spending

- Project expenditure needs to increase and accelerate

Emerging Projects

Bringing positive developments to their areas: FLAGs in Finland and FLAGs in Galicia

State of Play

Bar chart showing FLAG and project data by country (CY, DE, DK, EE, ES, FI, FR, HR, IE, IT, LT, LV, PL, PT, RO, SE, UK) with four series: Number of expected FLAGs, Number of FLAGs selected, Number of FLAGs operational, Number of projects selected/approved.
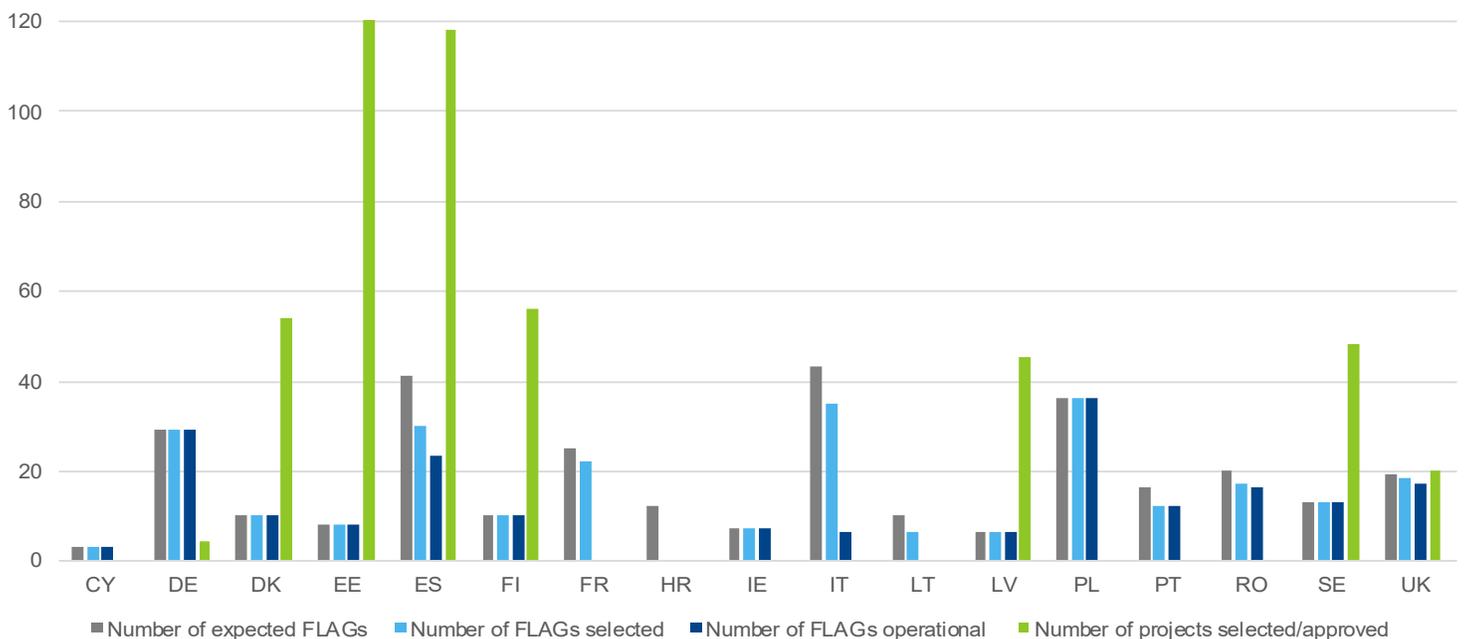
Enabling cooperation

In most Member States, cooperation is organised at the FLAG level and projects are developed in much the same way as any other FLAG project. However, in Ireland, Latvia and Catalonia (Spain) which organise cooperation at national or regional level, calls for projects are expected this summer. Galicia (Spain), who also organizes regional calls, has already selected four cooperation projects (including a regional wide women's network and a project to promote fisheries-related tourism) and will continue to promote and select cooperation projects every year.

Participants identified a series of techniques for supporting and encouraging cooperation:

- Awareness-raising and provision of guidance at the local level

- FLAG meetings to allow for networking (including with FLAGs from other regions or countries) and the generation and exchange of ideas

- Provision of experts for thematic input as well as technical support for cooperation

- A dynamic and proactive national network

- Pre-empting some of the practical challenges – e.g. sharing of costs. What are the different ways of splitting project costs between FLAGs.

Check out FARNET's new cooperation page for an overview of cooperation by Member State and cooperation ideas & partners.

Delivering CLLD

For FLAGs to be able to start supporting local development in their areas and spending their allocated budgets, MAs need to ensure that the national rules and efficient delivery systems for the programme are in place as soon as possible. Discussions revealed that while some Member States are forging ahead, others still have a number of pending issues to resolve, ranging from FLAG selection; to signing FLAG contracts and delivering running costs; to developing IT systems for collecting and reporting data on EMFF implementation.

FLAGs need a budget to employ staff and start work! See how Poland advances running costs to their FLAGs, as well as funds for project implementation.

Introducing myFARNET
Your space for exchange and collaboration!

myFARNET is the new platform to help build the culture of communication with the FARNET community. Use it as a constructive workplace for exchange and cooperation: get in touch with others, ask questions about CLLD implementation, share events and news updates, work on cooperation projects. **Join** the 20 MAs who have already signed up – **discussions have begun on FLAG communication, financing cooperation projects and more!** We thank you for your feedback in preparation for the official launch.

Monitoring & Evaluation

Data collection

The FAME Support Unit was present to give an overview on the initial findings of the data reported by the end of March, as required by EMFF Article 97 (1)(a), and feedback on common reporting errors. Some Member States have still not finalized the development of their data collection systems.

Errors to avoid:

- Inserting more than one value per cell

- Leaving cells blank

- Using description instead of foreseen code

For more information, consult the FAME Support Unit CT05 Working Paper: EMFF Article 97(1)(a) – reporting data requirements.

For questions, email FAME@fame-emff.eu.

First round of CLLD operations reported:
Types of operations
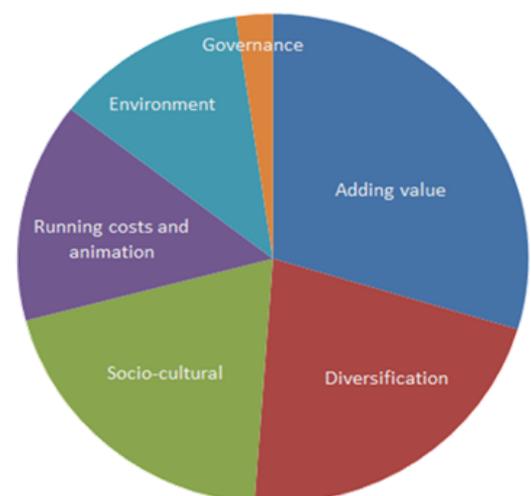
Source: FAME Support Unit

Ensuring the innovative character of CLLD

Beyond "business as usual"

Article 32 2(d) of the CPR states that CLLD shall be "*designed taking into consideration local needs and potential, and **shall include innovative features in the local context**…*". The following action points were considered during the meeting as ways for MAs to encourage FLAGs to go beyond the "usual" projects and bring change to their communities through creative thinking, experimentation and new ideas.

- ✅ Improve your delivery system to be more adapted to CLLD
  - Ensure flexibility at national level
  - Review rules and reasonableness of checks on project costs
  - Take innovation into account when evaluating activities
- ✅ Provide guidance to FLAGs
  - Ensure an open definition of innovation (to be used as guidance for FLAGs for project selection criteria)
  - Collect and disseminate good practice of innovative projects (via newsletters, brochures, websites)
  - Provide guidance on social responsibility in FLAG running costs (procurement etc.)

- ✅ Organize meetings & events to promote innovation
  - Organize workshops for FLAGs and IBs to develop ideas for innovative projects
  - Ensure linkages with researchers by bringing together scientists and specialized institutions and FLAGs
  - Hold an innovation discussion in the National Network
  - Organize meetings with specialized institutions (development centers) and with those from different backgrounds to ensure "collision" of ideas
- ✅ Inform FLAGs about the innovation discussion at the MA meeting

📍 Tips
  - Promote good and "bad" practice for inspiration and learning
  - Don't discourage new ideas or risk-taking by punishing unsuccessful initiatives

Lessons learnt

Looking ahead

- It is not enough to select FLAGs. FLAGs need to be operational in order to make a difference.
- Don't underestimate the power of the rules you are setting. Bear in mind responsibilities you have - especially regarding innovation
- Cooperation is a way to break down barriers of "localism"

Innovation in CLLD: what does it mean to you?

Sea basin exchanges

Baltic Region
- Relaunch of the Baltic Leadership Programme
- Work on environmental issues
- Transnational cooperation on cormorants and seals: have FLAGs join partnership

Eastern Mediterranean Region
- Joint promotion of the region and branding
- Protecting the environment and mitigating climate change
- Build exchange and cooperation on small-scale fisheries & social inclusion

Atlantic
- Contact between MAs and invitations to each other's FLAG events
- Work to develop a "fishing villages" brand
- Focus on strengthening generational renewal