Project discussion hubs – "Meet the Practitioners"

Smart Financing Projects

1. **Functional Digital Region**
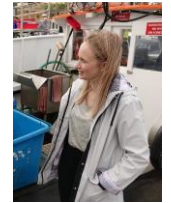   *Carl Dahlberg, Leader Bohuskust och Gränsbygd (SE)*

This Swedish project aims to develop a "Functional Digital Region", focusing on supporting local initiatives and networks via an online communication platform, and encouraging local funding via a crowdfunding platform which is about to be launched.

2. **Credit Unions**
   Amy Thurtle, Cornwall and Isles of Scilly FLAG (UK)

Credit Unions supports fishermen in accessing micro credit to kickstart projects where traditional banking systems would not. Credit Unions is now evolving even further by better educating fishing businesses and fishermen to improve their financial management and investments, in order to safeguard themselves during winter and poor weather months.

Smart Partnership Projects

3. **Courtmacsherry Co-operative Community Shop**
   Mark Gannon, South FLAG (IE)

A few years ago, the closure of the local shop in Courtmacsherry was a serious loss to the vitality of the community. Thanks to support from the local FLAG, Courtmacsherry's community got together and formed the local Community Shop Co-operative in January 2016. The Co-op has now become a focal point for the community, with a groceries section, a bookshop and a tourist information office.

4. *Partnership project with Solidarity purchasing group*
   Donatella D'Andrea, Costa Blu FLAG (IT)

In Italy, the Gruppi di Acquisto Solidale (GAS) are groups of households that cooperate in purchasing and distributing food directly from local producers respecting ethical, environmental and solidarity criteria. FLAG Costa Blu in Abruzzo started bringing the local GAS together with small-scale fishermen, so that they could become active suppliers.

5. **Hästholmen harbor development through local cooperation**
   Michael Cornell, Leader Vättern (SE)

The operation of Hästholmen port is carried out in co-operation between different actors. FLAG Vättern has played a role in several projects, including the development of the port based on stakeholders' suggestions; the construction of a building for cleaning fish; and the restoration of the traditional boat houses in the port.

Smart Services Projects

6. **Emergency consultations for the fishing community**
   Rita Pestana, Sotavento Algarve FLAG (PT)

This FLAG-supported project allows the remote fishing community of Ilha da Culatra to access emergency medical consultations using the Permanent Assistance Service system (PAS). The doctor carries out consultations using a phone and video function, and is assisted remotely by a nurse who is with the patient at the PAS office.

7. Xesmar
Rosa María Carballo Martínez, Ría de Arousa FLAG (ES)

Accompanied by the FLAG, two fishermen's guilds for the seafood sector in Galicia have developed XESMAR. This online platform, accessible on a mobile app, facilitates the organisation of the work, encourages the training of professionals and drives connection between the actors in the industry.

8. Schull Bait Bins
Brenda O'Riordan, South FLAG (IE)

Schull Harbour used to suffer from smelly bait waste. In 2017, the local harbour users' group came together to request new FLAG-funded bait bins, which would no longer drain onto the pier but directly into the sea.

Smart Resource Use Projects

9. Blue Crab Control Plan
Enrique Ferrer Moragues, La Safor FLAG (ES)

The blue crab is native to the North Atlantic and is characterised by its great voracity. In recent years, it has been detected all along the Mediterranean coast and its effects on native fauna have been documented. The FLAG is supporting a collaboration between a local fishing organisation and scientists from the University of Alicante (CIMAR) to develop control measures to limit the expansion of this invasive species and find market opportunities for its exploitation.

10. Roach in Lapland: from unwanted bycatch to marketable product
Markku Ahonen, Lapland FLAG (FI)

A few years ago, by-catches of roach started to increase in the Lokka reservoir, located in Finnish Lapland. As there was no market for roach in Lapland, local fishermen, together with the municipality and the FLAG, established a project to analyse the potential of mincing the fish for human consumption.

Smart Local Non-FLAG-Supported Projects

11. Grow Remote
Tracy Keogh, Co-founder of Grow Remote (IE)

Grow Remote is a rapidly growing movement that has emerged in Ireland in recent months. It encourages people living in rural areas to take advantage of career opportunities offered by working remotely. Started by a group of community developers in rural areas who are somehow all linked to remote working, Grow Remote supports the building of so-called "Chapters" where the inhabitants of rural areas can come together locally to unveil opportunities for remote working.

12. ENTROPI
Maria Looney, Project Manager & lead researcher at Halpin/NMCI (IE)

ENTROPI project is co-financed by the EMFF and aiming to advance Key Enabling Technologies (KETs) along the value chain to accelerate the deployment of multi-use offshore platforms, particularly for renewables and aquaculture. Focusing on the Atlantic sea basin, the project will develop the investment case for three bankable demonstration projects, each supported by a public-private partnership.