FARNET and fisheries CLLD

Past, present and future…

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1st International conference on practical and theoretical implications of LEADER/CLLD in South-East Europe
November 20/22, 2019, Opatija, Croatia
FARNET: The European Fisheries Areas Network

- FLAGs
- NNs
- IBs / MAs
- European Commission
- Other stakeholders

The FARNET Support Unit
- A permanent team of 10
- A Geographic Expert per MS
  - Information dissemination
  - Exchange of experience and best practice
  - Capacity building
  - Support to FLAG cooperation
The origins…


- PESCA
- Axis 4
- CLLD

- LEADER II
- LEADER +
- Axis 4 LEADER
- CLLD
Growing family of CLLD areas: rural – fisheries – urban...
# The origins of fisheries CLLD

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<tr>
<td><strong>Focus</strong></td>
<td>Fisheries sector Restructuring Diversification</td>
<td>Fisheries areas Sustainable devt Quality of life</td>
<td>Integration of fish &amp; aquac sectors in devt of areas Coastal/maritime devt</td>
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<td><strong>Delivery</strong></td>
<td>Community initiative</td>
<td>Shared management</td>
<td>Shared management</td>
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<td><strong>Funding</strong></td>
<td>FIFG/ERDF/ESF</td>
<td>EFF</td>
<td>EMFF</td>
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<td><strong>Budget</strong></td>
<td>ECU 250 million</td>
<td>EUR 520 million</td>
<td>EUR 520 million</td>
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<td><strong>Local del.</strong></td>
<td>Various models (incl. Pesca groups) (#?)</td>
<td>FLAGs (312)</td>
<td>FLAGs (368)</td>
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<td><strong>Network</strong></td>
<td>Limited (both EU and national)</td>
<td>FARNET+13 NN</td>
<td>FARNET + 19 NN</td>
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CLLD at a crossroad between sectoral and territorial support

**Challenges of the fisheries AREAS**
- Urban pressure / remoteness
- Population loss / shifts / ageing population
- High unemployment levels
- Environmental deterioration/climate change
- Space and user conflicts
- Gentrification

**Challenges of the fisheries SECTOR**
- Resources
- Vulnerability of small scale fisheries
- Marginalisation or primary activities
- Capacity to invest/innovate
- Rising costs (e.g. fuel...)
- Low prices / lack of competitiveness
- Ageing fishermen/generational renewal
- Connecting to the “blue growth”
FLAGs operate in...

Aquaculture
- Extensive (carp ponds,..)
- Intensive (trout, eel,..)
- Fishfarming (seabass, seabream, salmon,..)
- Other cultures (shellfish, seaweed,..)

Fisheries
- Inland fisheries areas
- Marine fisheries areas
- Few strong fisheries areas
- Very dispersed and often part time fisheries
- Strongly dependent areas (variety of fleet segments)
- Dispersed fisheries areas (mostly SSCF)

Inland
- Inland aquaculture areas
- Inland fisheries areas

Marine
- Marine aquaculture areas
- Marine fisheries areas
368 FLAGs in Europe

FLAG budget:
€1.9 million average
(€360 000 – €10M)

€700 million total public
(€519 EMFF/ 10% of EMFF)

20 Member States
NUMBER OF FLAGS BY MEMBER STATE

368 FLAGS in 20 MS
EFF/EMFF budgets allocated to CLLD by Member State (M€)

Total 2007-2013: 519 M€
Total 2014-2020: 522 M€
FARNET work on CLLD delivery 2018-2019

- Initial identification of issues: September 2018
- Survey of FLAGs
- 5 case studies
- Intensive work on CLLD delivery at FARNET Managing Authorities meetings

- Preparation of a guide for Managing Authorities on „Delivering CLLD effectively” (working title), to be issued early 2020
FLAG survey on CLLD delivery

- **Questionnaire** to all FLAGs (Jan. 2019):
  - Time needed for each delivery step
  - Key barriers at each stage
  - Consequences of delivery issues for the FLAG area
  - Good (and bad) practices
- Responses from 198 FLAGs
- Complemented by in-depth case studies in 5 MS (EE, FR, GR, PL and SE)
Key conclusions from the FLAG survey

1. CLLD delivery is **complex and time-consuming** in most MS.

2. Most significant barriers:
   - at **application** (additional rules in national legislation and complex application forms)
   - at **approval** (long checks carried out by the MA or IB and restrictive interpretation of eligibility).

3. Negative consequences:
   - beneficiaries discouraged from applying
   - loss of credibility by the FLAG
   - negative impact on the image of the EU
   - divert EU funding to sub-optimal projects.

4(a) Two thirds of the FLAGs not involved in the design of delivery systems or only involved on an ad-hoc basis.

4(b) National systems considered helpful in delivering the local strategy when FLAGs have been involved in both design and review of the system.
Negative consequences of delivery issues

- Potential beneficiaries not applying: 48%
- Loss of FLAG credibility in the area: 33%
- Shift towards ‘easily spendable projects’: 22%
- Bad image of the EU in the area: 20%
- Beneficiaries ‘abandon’ their project after selection: 20%
- FLAG is not able to spend the budget in time: 18%
- Low interest to become FLAG members: 18%
- No negative consequences: 19%
Purpose of fisheries CLLD funding compared…

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<th>2014-2020</th>
<th>2021-2027 proposals</th>
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<td>CPR objective 8: promoting <strong>sustainable and quality employment</strong></td>
<td>CPR objective 5: a <strong>Europe closer to citizens</strong> by fostering the sustainable and integrated development of urban, rural and coastal areas</td>
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<td>EMFF objective 4: Increasing employment and territorial cohesion</td>
<td><strong>EMFF</strong>: To boost <strong>economic diversification in a local context</strong> through the development of coastal and inland fisheries, aquaculture and a sustainable blue economy. (recital)</td>
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<td>(a) adding value, jobs, young people &amp; innovation at all stages of the <strong>supply chain</strong>;</td>
<td>Sustainable blue economy: all economic activities related to oceans, seas, coasts and inland waters, including emerging sectors and non-market goods and services (definitions)</td>
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<td>(b) <strong>diversification inside or outside fisheries</strong>, lifelong learning and job creation;</td>
<td><strong>Priority 3: Enabling growth of a sustainable blue economy</strong> and fostering prosperous coastal communities.</td>
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<td>(c) enhancing and capitalising on the <strong>environment, climate</strong> change mitigation;</td>
<td><strong>CLLD strategies</strong>: local communities better exploit and benefit from the opportunities offered by the sustainable blue economy, capitalising on and strengthening environmental, cultural, social and human resources. (Art. 26.2)</td>
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<td>(d) <strong>social</strong> well-being and cultural heritage;</td>
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<td>(e) strengthening the role of fisheries communities in local development and governance.</td>
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Compared to current period, the post-2020 proposals:

…don’t contain:

• Definition of „fisheries and aquaculture areas” or population limits for CLLD areas
• Precise thresholds on decision-making (replaced by a general „no single interest group control”)
• Specific provisions on advance payments
• Higher co-financing rate for CLLD
• Provision for a description of National Network in the OP

…contain:

• Stricter time limits for putting first (F)LAGs in place
• New provisions for SCOs, including draft budget
Cooperation – new elements

• Currently cooperation limited to other LAGs or FLAGs (from the same or another MS), local public-private partnerships implementing CLLD strategies within or outside EU. **No such definition in post-2020 proposals**

• Currently MAs can select cooperation projects (exception to the rule that FLAGs select projects). **No such exception in post-2020 proposals**
Thank you very much!
Hvala!

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