Inclusion of the sustainable blue economy in the future LDS

Online capacity building meeting for Croatian FLAGs

14 December 2021

2021-2027 – where are we going?

- New EU policy framework (Green Deal, Farm to Fork, digital transition...)
- Situation of the fishing sector
- Expected and unexpected shocks (climate, COVID-19, social...)
- ...and more than 10 years of CLLD experience for most areas, 5 in Croatia!





Time to do something MORE, DIFFERENT, NEW…

CLLD in the EMFAF
as seen by the European Commission

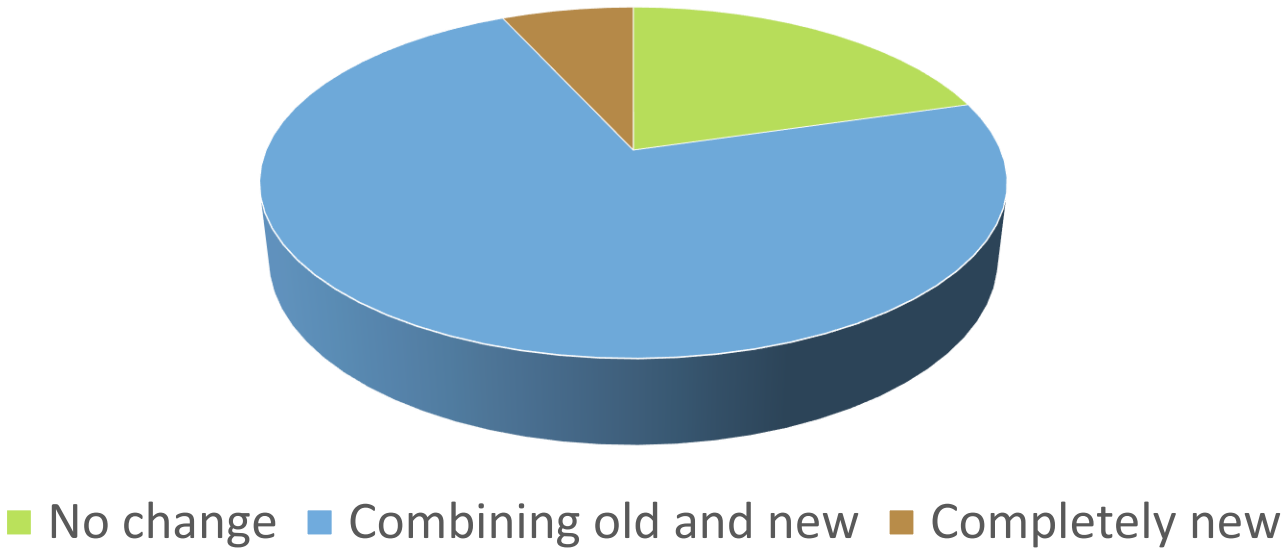
- a tool to boost **economic diversification** in a local context through the development of coastal and inland **fisheries**, **aquaculture** and a **sustainable blue economy.**

- CLLD strategies should ensure that **local communities** in fishing and aquaculture areas better exploit and benefit from the opportunities offered by the sustainable blue economy, capitalising on and strengthening environmental, cultural, social and human resources.

(from the DG MARE presentation at the Baltic & Inland seminar , March 2021)

How much will change in your LDS?

(from participants' responses at registration for the Baltic&Inland seminar, March 2021)



What can we do differently?

- Look at your area with "new eyes"



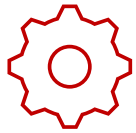
  - ✓ look critically at the old **challenges**, identify **new** ones
  - ✓ assess your experience up to now and learn from it
  - ✓ revisit your **SWOT** and make it better
- Think where do you want to be by 2030



  - ✓ choose a new **focus**
  - ✓ formulate better, clearer **objectives**
  - ✓ set ambitious but realistic **targets** (and relevant **indicators**)

What can we do differently?

- Adapt FLAG practices
  - ✓ refresh the partnership and its links with the community
  - ✓ improve project selection **criteria and procedures**
  - ✓ design more adapted **support to project promoters**
  - ✓ communicate more effectively
  - ✓ reorganise FLAG office
  - ✓ ...
- Use **cooperation** with other areas to help implement your strategy





For more ideas, look at the FARNET Guide: "Forward-looking strategies for fisheries areas" (in EN, FR, DE, ES, IT, PL and RO)

Be inspired…

- by the FARNET Good Practices on the next slides!
  - Innovation in aquaculture
  - Sustainable food systems for the future
  - Circular economy
  - Biodiversity and resource management
  - Energy transition
  - Social capital for stronger fishing communities

Innovation in aquaculture

- **Indoor aquaponics (DK)**: A Finnish FLAG supported a research project to create a business model based on indoor aquaponic farming. This innovative concept reduces water use by 85% and produces both fish and vegetables with near zero-waste discharge.
- **Producing seaweed and fish (DK):** A local company is integrating a vertical seaweed cultivation system into the recirculated aquaculture system (RAS) industry to reduce the environmental impact of land-based fish production.
- **Sea truffle farming (IT)**: A local fisheries cooperative and research institute successfully pilot the farming of warty venus clams, or “sea truffles”, diversifying the area’s aquaculture production.
- **Preserving wild sea urchin stocks through sustainable farming (PT)**: The Mondego Mar FLAG financed a project to bring some unused saltpans back into use to produce an aquaculture product which is highly coveted by restaurants: the sea urchin, also known as ‘Portuguese caviar’.
- **Salinity and temperature data to improve flat oyster spat collection (FR):** The oyster farmers of south Brittany installed a high-frequency multi-sensing buoy to support the understanding of spat settlement of the flat oyster, a key resource in the area.

Sustainable food systems for the future

- **Certified octopus fishery (ES)**: A fleet of 27 artisanal boats from western Asturias prides itself on the sustainability of its activities. With support from the FLAG, the octopus fishery became the world's first to receive Marine Stewardship Council (MSC) certification.
- **From fishermen to you (PT):** The "Cabaz do peixe" or seafood basket is a short chain marketing scheme. It involves a virtual platform for the local artisanal fishing fleet to sell their catch directly to the general public, ensuring the delivery of fresh and high-quality products, as well as consumer safety.
- **Local products in local outlets (PL):** The Carp Valley FLAG has supported a project to brand and promote its local inland fisheries and aquaculture products. It has also supported the creation of a special stand in a local supermarket to sell all products branded with the Carp Valley logo.
- **Bringing fish processing to Estonian island (EE)**: A coastal fisherman in western Estonia has redeveloped his fish shop, allowing fresh fish to be processed locally for the first time, while also creating jobs.
- **Promoting underused fish species (FI)**: The Ostrobothnia FLAG supported a project getting local community members and migrants to create innovative recipes from underused fish species, resulting in an increased consumption of undervalued fish.
- **Blockchain improves traceability for small-scale fishers (IT):** This cooperation project applies a technology based on the "blockchain" principle to fisheries, implementing a traceability system which provides complete and accurate information to consumers of artisanal fishing products.

Circular economy

- **From marine litter to tools for the fisheries sector (ES)**: The Costa Sostible FLAG has supported the renovation of an abandoned local school to be used as a new marine litter transformation centre by three associations for the handicapped.

- **Fil & Fab: From harbour collection to recycling of old fishing nets (FR):** A new start-up, Fil & Fab, is tackling the issue of marine litter by developing the first French recycling network for old fishing nets.

- **Recycling polystyrene fish boxes (DK):** Some creative thinking and investment have led to the creation of Denmark's first recycling plant to process expanded polystyrene into plastic pellets that can be sold to manufacturers for a wide range of new products.

- **Crushed shells and 3D printing (IT):** In Olbia, the northern area of Sardinia, the shells of mussels are no longer considered waste. With the help of the FLAG, local students and teachers are using crushed shells to create useful objects of all sorts, from moulds created by 3D printing.

- **Cooperation and circular thinking (ES)**: Shellfish harvesters, a forestry association and local wine producers join forces to produce quality compost from seaweed and other biomass which was either waste or nuisance.

Biodiversity and resource management

- **Fishing intelligently (PL-FI):** Finnish and Polish fishers work together on spreading new, sustainable fishing techniques which benefit both the natural environment and the fisheries sector.
- **MPAs: under fishers' surveillance (ES)*:*** With support from the FLAG, local fishers are helping enforce protection measures and halt poaching in the region's oldest fisheries marine reserve, Cabo de Palos. Its improved protection has favoured an increase of endemic species.
- **A participative coastal management plan (IT)**: Small-scale coastal fishers and fish farmers have been actively involved in the design of a coastal management plan for the Emilia-Romagna coastline. This stock management plan focused on three local high value species identified by the sector at regional level.
- **Improving eel stocks in Lake Bolmen (SE):** To improve eel production in Lake Bolmen, the Halland FLAG has supported an initiative aimed at investigating why eel stocks are lower than expected compared to other similar sized lakes in Sweden.
- **Mobile App for reporting catch data (FI):** The East Finland FLAG has supported the creation of a mobile app for Finnish inland fishers to register their catches. Developed by a University of Applied Sciences and introduced in May 2020, the tool will enhance catch-data collection and traceability along the fisheries value chain.

Energy transition

- **Reducing energy consumption and waste in shellfish processing (IE):** An Irish FLAG has supported a local, family aquaculture business that farms Gigas oysters to improve processing methods, reduce energy consumption and cut waste.
- **Making oyster farming energy self-sufficient (FR):** A shipyard has led a project to support Brittany's oyster farms in their transition to renewable energies by studying their needs, piloting a tidal turbine and developing an electric barge for oyster production.
- **Turning methane from discarded shellfish into energy (FR):** Shellfish farming is an important economic activity on the Atlantic French coast, but it also generates undersized mussels as by-products. This project focuses on exploiting their potential by generating methane to produce energy.
- **Decarbonising aquaculture on Culatra Island (PT):** The Sotavento do Algarve FLAG supported investment to enable Culatra Island, Portugal's most important location for aquaculture production, to transition to solar energy.
- **Servicing the offshore wind sector (DK)**: A FLAG-supported project brings together a network of 17 local businesses in order to consolidate Bornholm as one of Denmark's two "energy islands", focused on the production and transformation of wind energy.

Social capital for stronger fishing communities

- **Keeping fishing active and safe during the sanitary crisis (ES):** When COVID-19 hit and social distancing rules closed down many operations, the Basque FLAG, Spain, was quick to make contact with different members of its network in search of a solution that would allow fishers and other related workers to carry on their activities.
- **Linking fishers and restaurants in the fight against the effects of COVID-19 (FR)**: As fishing and aquaculture suffered a considerable loss of turnover due to COVID-related measures, a small group of fishers and a fish farmer volunteered to deliver fresh fish to local restaurateurs who, in turn, prepare free-of-charge dishes for hospital staff and people in need.
- **Mobilising & training volunteers (BG):** This project mobilised and trained local volunteers to carry out actions related to reducing water pollution and poaching. It demonstrates the important contribution social capital can make to tackling pressing challenges.
- **Extra-curricular learning on small-scale fisheries (DE)**: A response to low awareness and understanding of fisheries sees a concerted effort to strengthen educational work on the fishing industry along the North Sea coast of Lower Saxony, using different locations for an enhanced learning experience.
- **Recruiting young people to train with experienced fishers (FI):** The Lapland FLAG has financed a fisheries recruitment and training project to rejuvenate the ageing fisheries sector in the area around the Lokka and Porttipahta reservoirs. As a result, 14 young fishers of both genders started to operate.

Challenges for inland communities

- lack of integration of fisheries with the rest of the territory, usually a rural area
- lack of networking opportunities due to the marginal importance of fishing in the local economy
- competition from recreational fishing and other forms of tourism linked to fishing
- lack of marketing opportunities for freshwater fish species, which are less in demand than seawater species
- insufficient processing of products to meet consumers' new demand for processed products

Opportunities for inland FLAGs

- cooperation with other similar inland areas
- exchanges of experience and best practices
- better links with the tourist industry by offering specific products – quality labels for local fish products, B&B, recreational fishing, …
- better marketing of freshwater fish species
- promote innovation and diversification of species and products

Thank you! Hvala!

follow us on

The content and views expressed in this presentation are those of the author(s) and not those of the European Commission.