



First European seminar for Fisheries Local Action Groups



24-26 March 2010 – Gijon (Spain) will be the venue for the first European seminar for Fisheries Local Action Groups (FLAGs).

The seminar will bring together FLAGs and stakeholders from across the EU, providing a first opportunity for networking and the exchange of views on issues of common interest. The event will focus in particular on increasing the capacity of FLAGs to implement local strategies. Practical knowledge and skills will be shared through four themed workshops on:

1. *Linking strategies to project selection*: which will look at approaches to evaluating and selecting projects, and to ensuring they contribute to achieving strategic objectives;
2. *Dynamic and balanced partnerships*: will explore the establishment of partnerships that are inclusive, balanced, and encourage the active engagement of all stakeholders;
3. *Building links with LEADER*: will look at different models of interaction between FLAGs and LAGs (LEADER groups); and
4. *Encouraging viable private investment*: will examine different approaches to providing business advice and support to private beneficiaries.

The second day of the seminar will start with an “open space” session on cooperation between FLAGs, followed by an assessment of needs and support requirements. Contact: info@farnet.eu

Experts underline added-value of territorial approach



The consultation on the reform of the CFP launched an important period of reflection on how EU policy can best respond to the challenges facing Europe’s fisheries areas. A recent meeting of the FARNET Advisory Group brought together experts from across Europe to explore the potential role of the territorial approach.

As a first step they pinpointed some of the ongoing problems facing fishing communities where integrated local approaches could make an important contribution to existing policies. Secondly, they reviewed what had worked well and what had gone wrong with previous territorial approaches supported by the European Commission in order to ensure that any future application to fisheries areas really builds on best practice. Further information on the ideas coming out of the advisory group will be reported in the next issue of the FARNET magazine. Contact: info@farnet.eu

A FARNET expert near you!

In January, the FARNET Support Unit completed the process of appointing experts in each of the 21 countries participating in Axis 4 for the sustainable development of fisheries areas.



supporting Axis 4 implementation. A two-day workshop was organised in Brussels on the 28-29 January to prepare the national experts for their new role.

“These ‘geographical’ experts will be the eyes, ears and mouth of the Support Unit in the countries concerned,” explained Team Leader, Paul Soto, “using their local knowledge, including their knowledge of language and culture, to extend the reach of the Support Unit.” The specific tasks of the experts will vary depending on local needs but, in general, will include organising a focus group in each country, data collection and needs assessment, identifying knowledge and skills gaps, liaising with FLAGs and Managing Authorities and generally

Calabria launches consultation with local actors



The region of Calabria (Italy) organised an EFF “study day” in Lamezia Terme on January 12, launching a process of awareness raising and consultation with local actors.

Attracting over 70 participants, including representatives from the fisheries sector, local administrations and local action groups, the event focused on two key EFF measures, the implementation of which requires the active participation of local actors:

- > Local management plans aimed at the management and control of fishing rights; and
- > Axis 4 for the sustainable development of fisheries areas.

During the event, Carlo Ricci, the FARNET national expert in Italy, presented the main features of Axis 4 and participated in an active discussion on its future implementation in the region.

FARNET participation in European Maritime Day 2010

In May, FARNET will organise a workshop as part of the 3rd European Maritime Day Stakeholder Conference, which this year takes place in Gijon, Spain.



European Maritime Day seeks to raise awareness among citizens of the importance of Europe’s seas and sea-related activities. The FARNET workshop will highlight the work of FLAGs and their important role in helping to meet some of the key challenges facing maritime areas, thereby contributing to a number of EU policy objectives. Further information will soon be available at : www.farnet.eu

First issue of FARNET Magazine

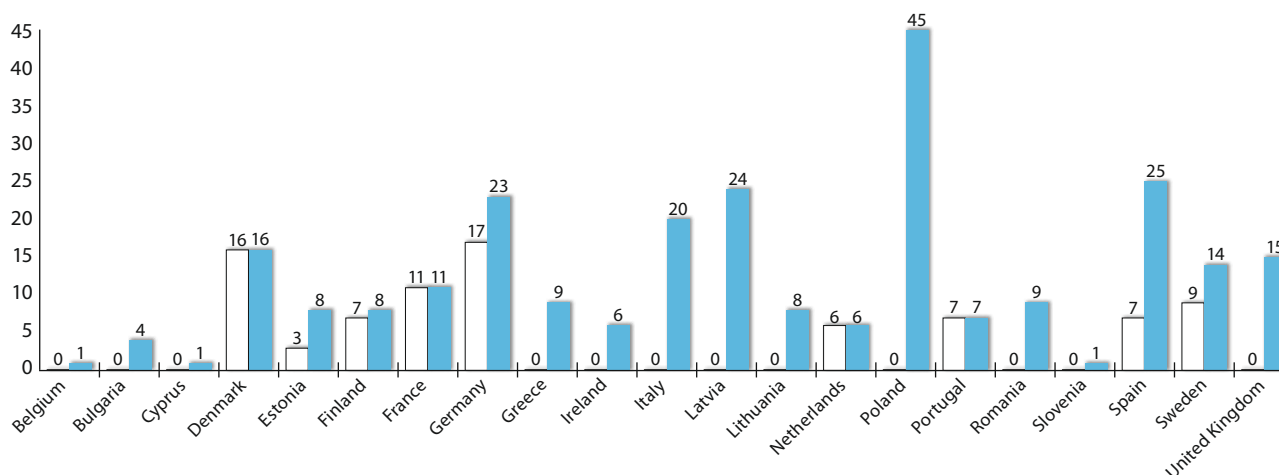


Diversification in North Jutland, capacity building in Estonia's fisheries areas and an interview with Cesar Deben, a key figure in the European Commission's Maritime Affairs and Fisheries Directorate-General. These are just some of the highlights of the first edition of the FARNET Magazine.

Published twice annually, the magazine aims to keep readers informed on issues relating to the implementation of Axis 4, as well as providing a medium for sharing information and ideas between stakeholders. Also covered in the first issue is a preview of the work of the FARNET Support Unit and an assessment of progress in the implementation of Axis 4 across the Union. The magazine is available in English, French, German and Spanish at: www.farnet.eu, or to subscribe for printed copies, contact: info@farnet.eu

State of play: 83 FLAGS with approved strategies

At the end of December 2009, there were 83 FLAGS with approved strategies, with a number of others at an advanced stage of approval (see chart). In the coming months, the FARNET newsletter will provide regular updates on progress across the EU.



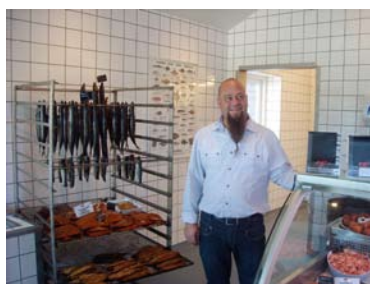
□ Number of groups with approved strategies (end 2009) ■ Number of groups planned

Forthcoming events and activities

March 2010	Launch of FARNET website	Brussels
24-26 March 2010	European seminar for FLAGS	Gijon, Spain
14 April 2010	Meeting for Managing Authorities	Brussels

Other news

Assessing the socio-economic impact of changes in the fisheries sector



A new European Commission study will assess the socio-economic impact of changes in the fisheries sector in Europe over the last decade.

The study will include a quantitative and qualitative assessment of impacts in 24 fisheries-dependant areas across Europe. It will look at development and diversification within these communities and the factors that have enabled or constrained this process, and will also provide a prospective analysis of challenges and opportunities. The coordinators of the study, MRAG Ltd, are keen to

involve FLAGS and their networks and will get in touch with the relevant FLAGS. (For more information please contact: r.arthur@mrags.co.uk)

Optimising value chains in fisheries

1-2 June 2010: EAFE, the European Association of Fisheries Economists, in cooperation with the University of Helsinki, will hold a Workshop on "Optimising Value Chains in Fisheries". The workshop will investigate how fisheries profitability can be improved through better organisation and better marketing. The following topics will be covered: EU Common Market Organisation, labelling, price formation, fish market segmentation, substitution at the fish market, vertical collaboration in the supply chain, globalisation, and market integration. Abstracts should be submitted by the end of March 2010. See: <http://www.eafe-fish.eu/>

Sustainable seafood a winner at the 2012 Olympics



The organisers of the 2012 Olympic Games in London have announced that more than 82 metric tons of seafood served during the games will be "demonstrably sustainable."

In its Food Vision, published in December 2009, the organisers said that all wild fish served will have to meet the UN Food and Agriculture Organization Code of Conduct for Responsible Fisheries. Farmed fish will have to be raised to high standards of welfare and fed only with demonstrably sustainable feed. The organizers also said they will exclude any species identified by the Marine Conservation Society as fish to avoid. See: <http://www.london2012.com/documents/locog-publications/food-vision.pdf>

Send us your news

The FARNET newsletter is a resource for all those engaged in building a more sustainable future for Europe's fisheries areas. Please send us news and information on your activities which might be of interest to other groups or actors working in this field. It's your newsletter, please use it!