



## What future for Axis 4?



**Experts from the FARNET advisory group gathered in Brussels on the 14-15 September to consider the future of Axis 4 within the EFF, and how best to coordinate this with territorial development supported by other EU programmes.**

This latest meeting of the advisory group took place in the context of discussions currently underway between the Directorate Generals (DGs) for Regional Policy, Agriculture and Maritime Affairs and Fisheries on options for streamlining procedures for funding local development. Representatives from all three DGs took part in the meeting, raising issues such as the possibility of local action groups drawing funds from all three DGs, what the different funds had in common and where they differed, and the potential role of fisheries actors in local development that goes beyond the fisheries community.

In terms of improving Axis 4 for the next period, the experts insisted on the importance of linkages between global and local strategies. They explored, for example, the scope for FLAGs to link up with possible new systems for decentralized resource management and to get involved in broader coastal management and the bringing together of different stakeholders, including scientists and the fisheries sector.

The meeting concluded with a presentation by the FARNET advisory group to the Director-General of DG Maritime Affairs and Fisheries, Lowri Evans, who welcomed the progress made towards a future territorial policy and offered initial reactions, which will be incorporated into the advisory groups further reflections and work around a future Axis 4.

## Managing authorities discuss financial issues



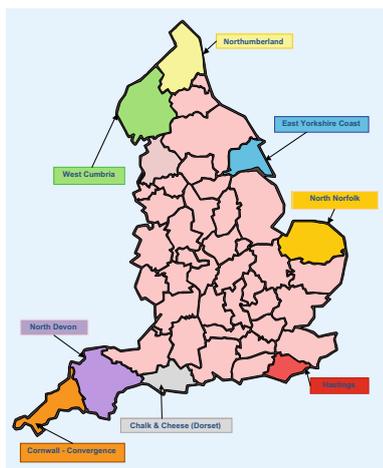
**At the end of September 2010, the FARNET Support Unit welcomed Axis 4 managing authorities (MAs) to their fourth meeting in Brussels, this time to explore financial issues related to Axis 4 implementation.**

A wide range of financial issues was identified and discussed, among them the difficulties being experienced by FLAGs and beneficiaries in providing match funding, and the need to develop flexible delivery mechanisms by MAs to avoid long delays in payments.

Potential solutions discussed included the possibility to make advance or staged payments and the use of in-kind contributions. Other ideas presented included cooperation with banks (with examples from several Spanish regions and from Poland) and the use of a national loan fund (e.g. Lithuania). There was also a presentation on the experience of Leader in dealing with financial issues.

The final part of the meeting looked at cooperation between FLAGs (transnational as well as within countries) and the role of MAs in stimulating and promoting this cooperation. Further details on the [FARNET website](#).

## England proceeds to select six FLAGs



**There was strong interest from all coastal areas during the first stage of the Axis 4 FLAG selection process in England, which closed on the 30 July 2010.**

The Marine Management Organisation (MMO), which runs the Axis 4 programme in England, aims to select a total of six FLAGs from the eight applications received. All eight potential FLAGs are currently receiving support to develop their local strategies. This includes a series of workshops and focus groups, all aimed at ensuring that the groups are on schedule to deliver high quality strategies within a 4-6 month period.

England's Axis 4 Panel will meet again in November 2010 to consider the merits of the eight applicant groups. At this stage, the quality and content of the strategies received will dictate the final selection of groups and their share of the total €8.5 million Axis 4 budget (including EU co-financing of €4.6 million).

England also hosts the Managing Authority for Axis 4 in the United Kingdom. It is envisaged that Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland will also be in a position to progress with FLAG selection in the near future. Further details on the [MMO website](#)

## Taking stock in Galicia: meeting with the Cofradías



**The heads of the Galician fishing organizations (cofradías), and other actors involved in the development of Axis 4 projects in the region, met on October 6 to discuss challenges encountered during the first call for projects.**

The meeting, which took place at the Conxemar fish fair in Vigo, was an initiative of the federation of Galician *cofradías*, in response to certain challenges that the fisheries sector had encountered in the early stages of Axis 4 implementation in Galicia – particularly in terms of presenting projects.

A total of 62 projects were approved in the first call for projects in the region, 22 of which were presented by the fisheries sector. Approximately 70% of these projects are “non-productive” – financed up to 100% by the FLAG. A challenge for future calls, therefore, is to increase the number of “productive” projects being presented – projects that attract private match-funding, and especially projects from the fisheries sector.

The meeting looked at some of the obstacles the fisheries sector faced in securing private match-funding, with members of the panel insisting on the need to ensure that the fisheries sector played an active role in presenting projects that invested in the future of Galicia's coastal areas.

## Cooperation between Estonian and Portuguese FLAGs



**In September 2010, the Estonian FLAG, Saarte Kalandus, from the island of Saaremaa, visited the Portuguese FLAG, Sotavento do Algarve, to exchange experiences and explore opportunities for future cooperation.**

The two areas share a strong fishing tradition and, historically, were both dependent on the canning industry. In the Algarve, this heritage is now being revived through activities linked to tourism. The Estonian FLAG took the opportunity to learn about these initiatives, and to share some of its own experiences, such as in establishing an on-line auction platform to enable local fishermen to better market and increase the value of their catch. Further details are available on the [Olhão municipality webpage](#)

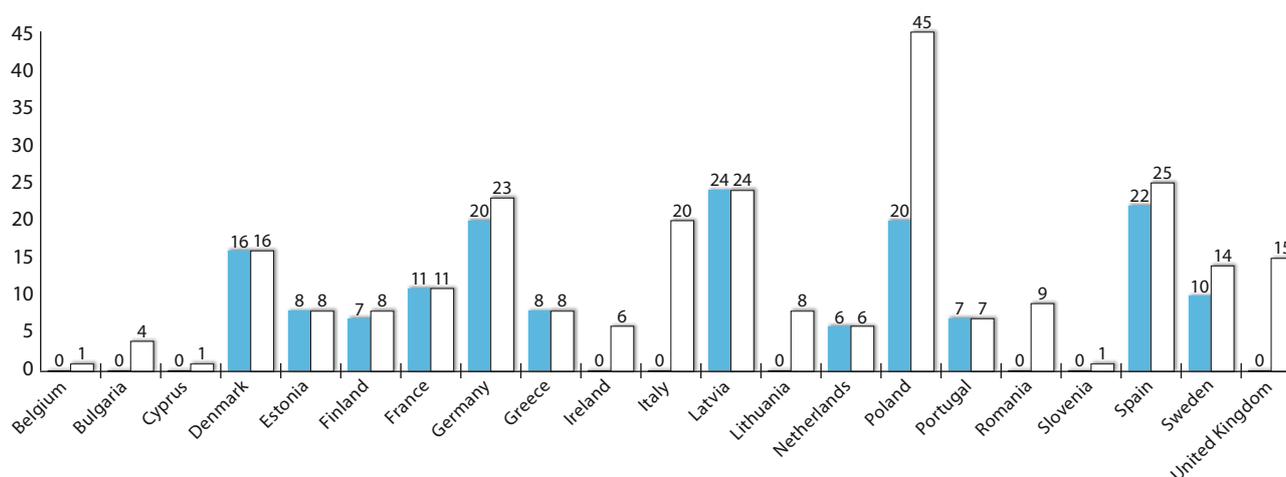
## Italy: Calabria launches EFF website



The Calabria region has published a new [website](#) on the European Fisheries Fund (EFF) in the region. The site, which was developed by Aquatech, the organisation that provides technical assistance to the EFF in Calabria, contains news about calls for projects, as well as references to other sources of information at national and European level. Particular attention is paid to the dissemination of innovative aspects of the EFF, such as local management plans and FLAG development strategies.

## State of play: 165 FLAGs with approved strategies

By mid-October 2010, there were 165 FLAGs in 12 Member States with approved strategies. Since the last update, seven new FLAGs were approved in the Asturias region of Spain, eight new FLAGs in Greece and 26 in Poland.



■ Number of groups with approved strategies in October 2010 □ Number of groups planned

## Other news

### Ocean of tomorrow: €45m for maritime research



On September 9, the European Commission presented details of a €45 million investment fund for maritime research. "The ocean of tomorrow 2011" call for proposals invites funding bids from projects proposing innovative, forward-looking and sustainable approaches to promote "blue growth" and develop the economic potential of Europe's coastlines, seas and oceans. See [the ocean of tomorrow](#) web page for more details.

### "Coexisting" in Europe's coastal areas



COEXIST is a multidisciplinary research project already approved for funding under the EU Seventh Framework Programme for Research. This project will evaluate competing activities and interactions in Europe's coastal areas, with a

view to developing a roadmap for better integration, sustainability and synergies. Several case studies from a number of different regions will be considered and FLAGs in these areas could benefit from participation. For more information, contact Emma Bello Gomez: Tel. +353 1 475 8713, e-mail [emma@aquatt.ie](mailto:emma@aquatt.ie) or visit the [Aqua TT website](#)

### It's not just about the fish!



"It's not just about the fish: Social and cultural perspectives of sustainable marine fisheries" is the title of a conference being organised on the 4-5 April 2011 by the School of Science and the Greenwich Maritime Institute at the University of Greenwich (UK).

The conference aims to bring together researchers and practitioners from across the globe to assess the relationships between fishing, fishers and the wider community, and to assess the barriers and opportunities for the future sustainability and development of fisheries areas. More details on the [conference website](#)

### 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.

Contact: [info@farnet.eu](mailto:info@farnet.eu)

**Editor:** European Commission, Directorate-General for Maritime Affairs and Fisheries, Director-General.

**Disclaimer:** Whilst the Directorate-General for Maritime Affairs and Fisheries is responsible for the overall production of this newsletter, it is not responsible for the accuracy, content or views expressed within particular articles. The European Commission has not, save where otherwise stated, adopted or in any way approved any view appearing in this publication and statements should not be relied upon as statements of the Commission's or the Directorate-General for Maritime Affairs and Fisheries' views. The European Commission does not guarantee the accuracy of the data included in this publication, nor does the European Commission or any person acting on its behalf accept responsibility for any use made thereof.