



## Diversification – a must for fisheries areas



**Diversification is a must for fisheries areas, and should be based on local assets and involve all local stakeholders. These were some of the main conclusions of the FARNET conference, “FLAGS in business: promoting diversification in fisheries areas” which took place in Gdynia, Poland on the 5 – 7th July 2011.**

Over 160 people, including representatives of FLAGS, managing authorities and the European Commission, participated in the event, which was designed to provide ideas and support to those FLAGS looking at ways to diversify their local economies by fostering new types of activities for fishermen and their communities.

A series of thematic workshops and plenary sessions examined possible diversification activities and key considerations for FLAGS implementing diversification strategies. Project examples were also presented, covering sectors such as tourism (including pesca-tourism), environmental services, and social & cultural activities.

Closing the event, Isabelle Garzon from the European Commission drew four main conclusions from the discussions:

1. The fishing culture is an asset but it must evolve to meet the major challenges facing fishing and fisheries areas;
2. Diversification is a must, and this includes diversifying the revenue of fishermen (pluri-activity) and diversifying the entire local economy of fisheries areas;
3. Diversification requires the involvement of people from outside the fisheries sector in order to broaden the scope. Reciprocally, fishermen can put their knowledge at the service of a wide range of maritime activities;
4. There can be no “one strategy fits all” approach – diversification must be rooted in the unique context of each area.

Ms Garzon predicted that local development and diversification would be major strands in the next programming period (2013-2020) and she underlined the importance of FARNET’s November conference (see below) in promoting the Axis 4 approach. [More details...](#)

### FARNET Youtube Channel

Video clips of the Gdynia conference can also be found on the new [FARNET YouTube channel](#). This channel is now also available to host or link to videos from FLAGS or other relevant stakeholders.

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

## Towards a Mediterranean & Black Sea Network



During the FARNET conference in Gdynia, about 20 people, including representatives of FLAGs and managing authorities (MAs) from Bulgaria, France, Greece, Italy, Romania, Slovenia and Spain, took part in a parallel meeting on cooperation around the Mediterranean and Black Sea.

The meeting opened with a brief presentation of the conclusions of the meeting of Managing Authorities in May 2011, where Mediterranean and Black Sea representatives agreed that cooperation among their FLAGs should be

supported, and where seven possible themes for cooperation emerged: pesca-tourism; adding value through quality standards; protected areas; women; small scale fishing; sustainable aquaculture; and integrated coastal zone management.

During the Gdynia meeting, participants prioritised two of these themes and discussed proposals for two specific cooperation projects:

1. Linking quality environments (protected areas, national parks...) with quality practices and products, which was proposed by the Catalan FLAG, Spain; and
2. Pesca-tourism and related activities, proposed by Marco Polo from the Var, France.

These projects will be discussed further on 28-30 September, when the French authorities will host another meeting of the Mediterranean and Black Sea FLAGs during their national Axis 4 meeting.

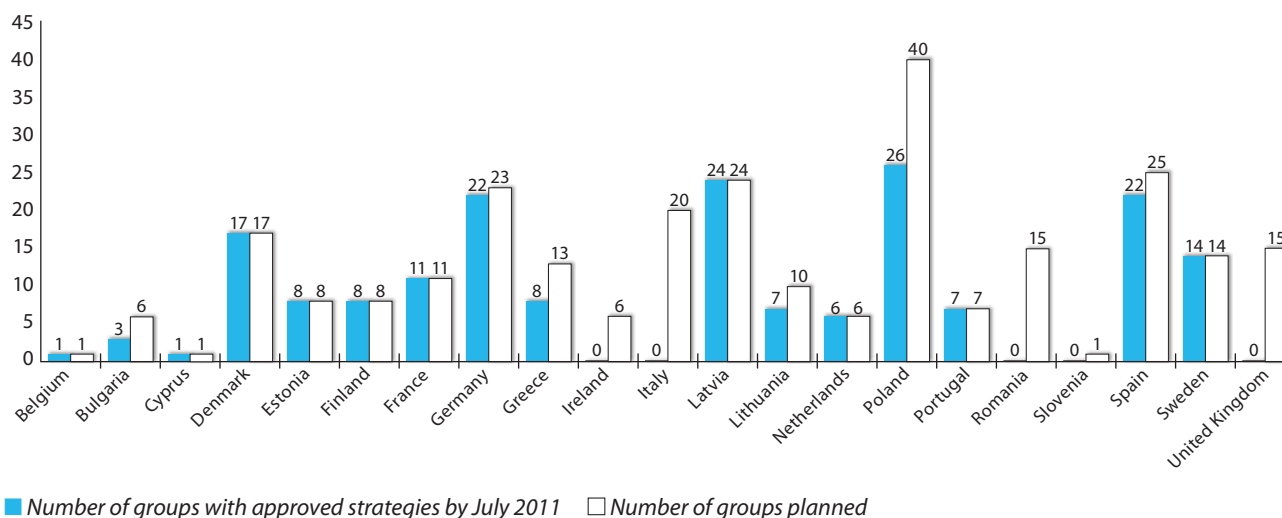
## New film on Axis 4 in France



"Regards croisés sur l'Axe 4" is a promotional film on Axis 4 in France. The film was recorded during the first national meeting on Axis 4, which took place in Arcachon on 28-29 October 2010. Produced by Imagiterre, in partnership with the French managing and paying authorities, the film aims to promote the work of FLAGs and the objectives of Axis 4 in France. It can be viewed [on-line](#).

## State of play: 185 FLAGS with approved strategies

At the end of July 2011, there were 185 FLAGS in 16 Member States with approved strategies. No new FLAGS have been approved since the last update.



## Forthcoming events and activities

3-4 November	FARNET conference on opportunities and first achievements of Axis 4 of the EFF	Brussels
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## Other news

### Improved monitoring of fisheries conservation



A recent study by German researchers suggests that a single integrated assessment of marine fisheries could be used to monitor the progress of several different marine environmental policies. The study used a relative ecological risk model to demonstrate how closing marine protected sites to trawlers and reducing trawling to maximum sustainable yield (MSY) levels allows fisheries to meet the ecological objectives of both the Marine Strategy Framework Directive and the Habitats Directive. [More details...](#)

## “Smart” tool for assessing regional assets



A new tool to assist regions in identifying their assets and potential was launched by the European Commission's regional policy directorate in June 2011. The Smart Specialisation (S3) Platform concept is intended to facilitate bottom-up development, implementation and review of regional innovation strategies. It supports a partnership approach, involving businesses, public entities and knowledge institutions, and provides methodological guidance on specialisation-related issues and techniques. [More details...](#)

## Hazardous substances threaten fresh and marine waters



Hazardous substances in fresh and marine water can harm aquatic life and pose a risk to human health, according to a new report published by the European Environment Agency. The report notes that while European legislation to address this issue is relatively strong, more effort is needed to understand new risks, including “emerging pollutants”, and ensure that chemicals are produced and used more sustainably. [More details...](#)

## 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)

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